

Summer Reading Book List

For the summer of 2018, Northside High School is requiring all students who will be returning next fall to read at least one book from the summer reading list. This includes rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.

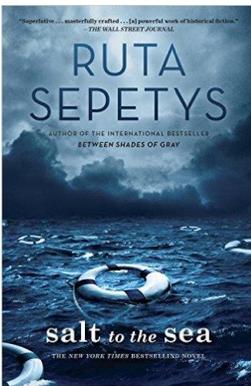
INCOMING FRESHMAN ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT.

Our goal is to encourage our students to enjoy reading by providing them with a curated list of interesting and well-written books.

The list for this year comes from an article entitled "16 Books That Aren't on High School Reading Lists—But Should Be." On this list, you will find a wide variety of books with a vast range of topics, some of which may deal with controversial yet timely issues. ***Some of these books may be better suited for upper-level students.***

Please select a book with which YOU and YOUR PARENTS are comfortable.

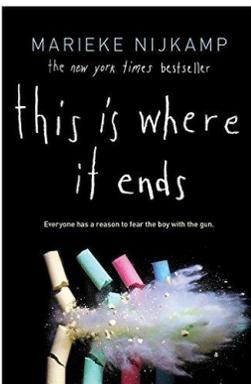
We encourage you to go to www.common sense media.org to find out if your selection would be an appropriate and interesting book for you. You can also visit the school website or goodreads.com to find out more about each book.



Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the Wilhelm Gustloff. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other...

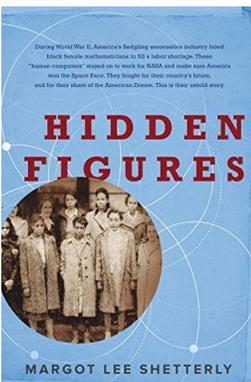
Why students should read it: Ruta Sepetys provides an unflinching look at an often overlooked moment in World War II, and her novel would make a great addition to both history and English classes.



This Is Where It Ends by Marieke Nijkamp

10:00 a.m. The principal of Opportunity High School finishes her speech, welcoming the entire student body to a new semester and encouraging them to excel and achieve. 10:02 a.m. The students get up to leave the auditorium for their next class. 10:03 a.m. The auditorium doors won't open. 10:05 a.m. Someone starts shooting.

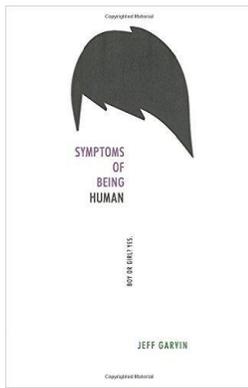
Why students should read it: This is a brutally real portrayal of a high school shooting, a topic that is all too timely.



Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

Now in a special new edition perfect for young listeners, this is the amazing true story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.

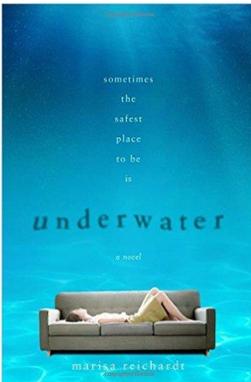
Why students should read it: Hidden Figures is the fascinating true story of four black female mathematicians that jump-started NASA's Space Age achievements in the face of major adversity. It's an empowering reminder for today's generation of young women — whether they're interested in STEM or not.



Symptoms of Being Human by Jeff Garvin

Riley Cavanaugh is many things: Punk rock. Snarky. Rebellious. And gender fluid. Some days Riley identifies as a boy, and others as a girl. The thing is...Riley isn't exactly out yet. And between starting a new school and having a congressman father running for reelection in uber-conservative Orange County, the pressure—media and otherwise—is building up in Riley's so-called "normal" life.

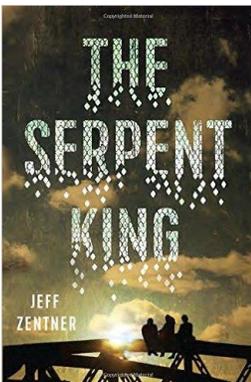
Why students should read it: *Symptoms of Being Human* is thoughtful, engaging, and — at times — incredibly funny. It will be sure to spark classroom discussions about gender fluidity.



Underwater by Marissa Reichardt

Morgan didn't mean to do anything wrong that day. Actually, she meant to do something right. But her kind act inadvertently played a role in a deadly tragedy. In order to move on, Morgan must learn to forgive—first someone who did something that might be unforgivable, and then herself.

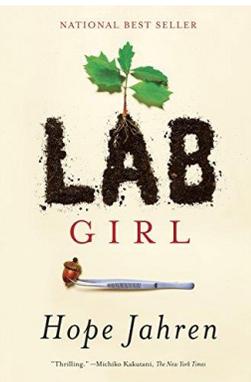
Why students should read it: This moving exploration of PTSD will teach students about finding their inner strength and resilience no matter what life throws their way.



The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner

Dill has had to wrestle with vipers his whole life—at home, as the only son of a Pentecostal minister who urges him to handle poisonous rattlesnakes, and at school, where he faces down bullies who target him for his father's extreme faith and very public fall from grace. The only antidote to all this venom is his friendship with fellow outcasts Travis and Lydia. But as they are starting their senior year, Dill feels the coils of his future tightening around him.

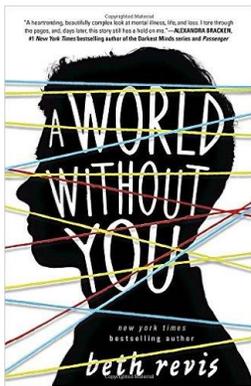
Why students should read it: Full of symbolism that's ripe for analysis, *The Serpent King* is also perfect for discussions about narratives of place.



Lab Girl by Hope Jahren

Lab Girl is a book about work, love, and the mountains that can be moved when those two things come together. It is told through Jahren's stories: about her childhood in rural Minnesota with an uncompromising mother and a father who encouraged hours of play in his classroom's labs; about how she found a sanctuary in science, and learned to perform lab work done "with both the heart and the hands"; and about the inevitable disappointments, but also the triumphs and exhilarating discoveries, of scientific work.

Why students should read it: An engaging heroine in the world of science — what could be a better choice for your science class's summer reading?



A World Without You by Beth Revis

Seventeen-year-old Bo has always had delusions that he can travel through time. When he was ten, Bo claimed to have witnessed the Titanic hit an iceberg, and at fifteen, he found himself on a Civil War battlefield, horrified by the bodies surrounding him. So when his worried parents send him to a school for troubled youth, Bo assumes he knows the truth: that he's actually attending Berkshire Academy, a school for kids who, like Bo, have "superpowers."

Why students should read it: This new page-turner adeptly explores mental illness in a way that will be intriguing for teens.

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. One thread of *Homegoing* follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, as the Fante and Asante nations wrestle with the slave trade and British colonization. The other thread follows Esi and her children into America. From the plantations of the South to the Civil War and the Great Migration, from the coal mines of Pratt City, Alabama, to the jazz clubs and dope houses of twentieth-century Harlem, right up through the present day, *Homegoing* makes history visceral, and captures, with singular and stunning immediacy, how the memory of captivity came to be inscribed in the soul of a nation.

Why students should read it: This powerful bestseller examines the lasting effects of slavery for not just one generation, but the many that follow.

Exit, Pursued by a Bear by E.K. Johnston

Hermione Winters is captain of her cheerleading team, and in tiny Palermo Heights, this doesn't mean what you think it means. At PHHS, the cheerleaders don't cheer for the sports teams; they are the sports team—the pride and joy of a tiny town. The team's summer training camp is Hermione's last and marks the beginning of the end of... she's not sure what. She does know this season could make her a legend. But during a camp party, someone slips something in her drink. And it all goes black.

Why students should read it: This poignant story of rape focuses on Hermione's fortitude and her triumph of character when faced with adversity.

Holding Up the Universe by Jennifer Niven

Everyone thinks they know Libby Strout, the girl once dubbed "America's Fattest Teen." But no one's taken the time to look past her weight to get to know who she really is. Following her mom's death, she's been picking up the pieces in the privacy of her home, dealing with her heartbroken father and her own grief. Now, Libby's ready: for high school, for new friends, for love, and for every possibility life has to offer. In that moment, I know the part I want to play here at MVB High. I want to be the girl who can do anything. Everyone thinks they know Jack Masselin, too. Yes, he's got swagger, but he's also mastered the impossible art of giving people what they want, of fitting in. What no one knows is that Jack has a newly acquired secret: he can't recognize faces. Even his own brothers are strangers to him. He's the guy who can re-engineer and rebuild anything, but he can't understand what's going on with the inner workings of his brain. So he tells himself to play it cool: Be charming. Be hilarious. Don't get too close to anyone. Until he meets Libby. When the two

