Summer Reading 2016
Noble and Greenough School

Every Nobles student is required to read the community book, *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.

Every Nobles student is required to read at least three additional books this summer.

Please Note: *The Wright Brothers*, and the required history/English books may be ordered through [http://www.classbook.com](http://www.classbook.com).

**Entering Class VI (7th grade):**
- You must read *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.
- You must read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak for English Via Latin (EVL).
- You must choose two other books from the Middle School Choice List below.

**Entering Class V (8th grade):**
- You must read *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.
- You must read *When We Wake* by Karen Healey for English V.
- You must choose two other books from the Middle School Choice List below.

**Entering Class IV (9th grade):**
- You must read *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.
- You must read *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse(HHC).
• This year there is no required book for English.
• You must choose two other books from the Upper School Choice List below.

Entering Class III (10th grade):
• You must read The Wright Brothers by David McCullough.
• You must read a collection of short stories for English. More information regarding the specifics of this will be sent to you directly in an email.
• You must read Ragged Dick: Or, Street Life in New York with the Boot Blacks by Horatio Alger, Jr. for U.S. History.
• You must choose one other book from the Upper School Choice List below.

Entering Class II (11th grade):
• You must read The Wright Brothers by David McCullough.
• You must read Purple Hibiscus: A Novel by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie for English.
• If you are taking AP Euro, you must read The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli and then one other book from the Upper School Choice List below.
• If you are taking a history elective or if you are not taking a history course, then you must choose two other books from the Upper School Choice List below.

Entering Class I (12th grade):
• You must read The Wright Brothers by David McCullough.
• You must read the book listed under the appropriate English elective in the chart below.
• If you are taking AP Euro, you must read The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli and then one other book from the Upper School Choice List below.
• If you are taking an history elective or if you are not taking a history course, then you must choose two other books from the Upper School Choice List below.
| ENGLISH ELECTIVES |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Creative Nonfiction | The Novel: from the Czar to Hitler |
| *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*  
  by Rebecca Skloot | *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*  
  by Michael Chabon |
| Epic Lit | Satire and Humor |
| *The Song of Achilles*  
  by Madeline Miller | *1984*  
  by George Orwell |
| Ethics and Literature | Shakespeare I |
| *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*  
  by Anthony Marra | *The Meaning of Shakespeare Vol. I*  
  by Harold C. Goddard  
  (Students should read chapter 2, The Integrity of Shakespeare  
  and chapter 16, Henry the IV Part One, Henry the IV Part Two) |
| Madness in Literature: Reading the Rebellious Mind | Intellectual History |
| *Jane Eyre*  
  by Charlotte Bronte | *Black Dogs*  
  By Ian McEwan |
| The Modernist Movement | Literature of the African Diaspora |
| *A Moveable Feast*  
  by Ernest Hemingway | *The Beautiful Struggle*  
  by Ta-Nehisi Coates |
Upper School Choice List
Recommended by Students and Faculty

Upper School Fiction

26A by Diana Evans
(Recommended by Shannon Clark)
A wonderful, haunting novel following the lives of Georgia and Bessi, twin daughters of an alcoholic English father and a Nigerian mother who talks to spirits. Their story weaves in and out of shared memories, African myth, pop culture and childhood fantasy as they try to maintain their uncanny bond, while adult realities and dark secrets from the past threaten their identities, separate and together.

Alif the Unseen by G. Willow Wilson
(Recommended by Emily Tragert)
This book tells the story of a young Arab-Indian hacker who goes by the codename of Alif. Alif helps protect his clients—mostly outlaws and dissidents in the unnamed Arab state where he lives—from surveillance. But when the woman Alif loves becomes engaged to the state’s head of security, Alif is driven underground and must seek out help from forces he previously believed were only myths. A great story that explores the interactions between technology, magic and politics.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
(Recommended by Dan Halperin)
Marie-Laure is a blind girl growing up in Paris on the eve of World War II. Werner is an orphan born in rural Germany whose talent with building and repairing radios earns him a place in the brutal Nazi regime. Their lives unfold in parallel and opposition—until they meet for one day in 1944 during the bombing of a town on the northern coast of France. Marie-Laure and Werner “are powerful examples of the way average people in trying times must decide daily between morality and survival.” (Amazon review)

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
(Recommended by Lisa Jacobson)
One of my favorite novels in a while. This story of love, race and nationality is told while the protagonist is getting her hair braided. So thoughtful and funny with endearing characters.

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker
(Recommended by Liz Benjamin)
Explores the mysterious family history and disappearance of a daughter's Burmese father. The daughter traces her disappeared father from NYC back to his homeland,
learning about his life and path that eventually led him to America. A story of true love, beauty, and the power of sight. I loved this book mainly because it intertwines insight on a fascinating and unfamiliar culture with a story of indestructible love.

**Burnt Shadows** by Kamila Shamsie
(Recommended by Vicky Seelen)
*From Amazon:* Nagasaki, August 9, 1945. Hiroko Tanaka watches her lover from the veranda as he leaves. Sunlight streams across Urakami Valley, and then the world goes white. In the devastating aftermath of the atomic bomb, Hiroko leaves Japan in search of new beginnings.

**Christine Falls**, Benjamin Black
(Recommended by Bill Bussey)
"There was another version of him," Black says of his attractively flawed hero, “a personality within a personality, malcontent, vindictive, ever ready to provoke.” Great mystery involving a Dublin pathologist. “Crime fiction is a good way of examining evil,” says the author. This book fits the bill.

**City of Thieves** by David Benioff
(Recommended by Bill Bussey)
Impossible to put down. Set in Leningrad in 1945, the novel, based loosely on a true story, is told through the eyes of a young Russian man who is given one week to find a dozen eggs to be used for a wedding cake—or be executed.

**Cloud Atlas** by David Mitchell
(Recommended by Kim Libby)
Brilliant and layered rendering of interconnected worlds and stories. A master of style.

**Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?** by Philip K. Dick
(Recommended by George Blake)
This is science fiction with a philosophical bent. What happens in post-apocalypse San Francisco where it's hard to tell the difference between human and machine? Rick Deckard is a bounty hunter in such a world, trying to “retire” rogue androids and wrestling with his own humanity in the process. This is a gripping story that makes you think.

**Euphoria** by Lily King (former Nobles English teacher)
(Recommended by Vicky Seelen)
Her fourth novel (*from Amazon*): For years, English anthropologist Andrew Bankson has been alone in the field studying the Kiona tribe of Papua New Guinea. Haunted by the memory of his brother’s public suicide, and increasingly infuriated with and isolated by his research, Bankson is on the verge of killing himself when a chance meeting with
colleagues, the controversial and consummate Nell Stone and her wry Australian husband Fen, pulls him back from the brink. Nell and Fen have just finished their studies of the bloodthirsty Mumbanyo and, in spite of Nell’s ill health, the couple is ravenous for another new discovery.

**Everything I Never Told You** by Celeste Ng  
(Recommended by Erin Twohig)  
*Everything I Never Told You* begins eerily with the following, “Lydia is dead. But they don’t know this yet...” What actually happened to sixteen-year-old Lydia? A bit of a mystery, this is a gripping novel about love, loss, belonging and how life unravels for a Chinese-American family in small-town Ohio.

**Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe** by Fannie Flagg  
(Recommended by Michael Denning)  
Great coming-of-age story set in a small Southern town during the 20th Century. Flagg looks at issues of race and gender, bringing the civil rights movement(s) alive.

**A Friend of the Earth** by T.C. Boyle  
(Recommended by Thomas Forteith)  
A near-future, pseudo-dystopian novel about environmental disaster with a fool for a hero...very funny and very not at the same time. If you have never read T.C. Boyle, check him out.

**A Grain of Wheat** by Ngugi Wa Thiong’o  
(Recommended by Shannon Clark)  
Arguably Ngugi’s crowning achievement, this epic novel set in the wake of the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya, at the dawn of the country’s independence from Great Britain, follows the lives and hard choices of a group of villagers whose lives will never be the same after the Emergency. Full of tangled webs of stories and lies and terrible secrets, you won’t be able to put this one down. One of my favorite novels of ordinary people in extraordinary times, when the choices one believes should be black or white necessarily become blurred and gray.

**Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens  
(Recommended by George Blake)  
This is a classic bildungsroman, or coming of age story. Follow the fortunes of young, orphaned Pip as he becomes a “gentleman” and meets convicts, a creepy old woman and the spellbinding Estella.

**The Housekeeper and the Professor** by Yoko Ogawa  
(Recommended by Shannon Clark)
A heartwarming, mind-bending little novel about a brilliant mathematician who has lived with only 80 minutes of short-term memory since he suffered a traumatic head injury. Enter, a young housekeeper, who is hired to care for him, and her 10-year-old son, whom she brings to work with her. Although, they start from scratch, reintroducing themselves every morning, the housekeeper gradually builds unlikely common ground with the professor, who connects with Root (her son) through baseball and math. You will love this story!

*Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson
(Recommended by Kim Libby)
Raw, lyrical and memorable.

*The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
(Recommended by Vicky Seelen)
*From Amazon:* “Hetty ‘Handful’ Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke’s daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd’s sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah’s eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten-year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other’s destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.”

*Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson
(Recommended by George Blake)
Follow Ursula Todd as her multiple lives play out in war-torn 20th century England—that’s right, she keeps dying and being reborn. The concept may sound a little gimmicky, but it works really well: Atkinson’s narrative is tight, and her gifts as a writer and storyteller make this a quick and rewarding read.

*The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman
(Recommended by Vicky Seelen)
*From Amazon:* After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day’s journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season, Tom brings a young, bold and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby’s cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby.

*Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry
(Recommended by Bob Henderson)
A masterpiece and epic novel of the American frontier, this novel tells the story of a small town, Lonesome Dove, and all of its colorful inhabitants.

**Longbourn** by Jo Baker
(Recommended by Kate Blake)
A companion piece to *Pride and Prejudice*, *Longbourn* is told from the perspective of Sarah, the Bennet family’s housemaid. Austen’s original text surfaces but Sarah owns the tale, taking us to the very real world of the servant class. Her voice and story propel this work, providing a compelling version of Austen’s classic.

**The Martian** by Andy Weir
(Recommended by Ross Henderson)
Some of you may be familiar with the summer blockbuster movie based on this book starring Matt Damon. If you liked the movie, you will love the book. If you aren’t familiar with the story, it is about an astronaut who accidentally gets left on Mars and he has to “MacGyver” his way to survival until NASA can figure out if they can get him back. It is a fascinating story of ingenuity, grit and hope. If you love science, this book is for you. If you don’t, this book might change your mind.

**Nervous Conditions** by Tsitsi Dangarembga
(Recommended by Shannon Clark)
A beautifully understated first novel set in colonial Rhodesia. In this gripping coming-of-age tale, narrator Tambu tells the story of how she leaves her rural home to attend the missionary school run by her British-educated uncle. As she grows and her understanding of the world around her deepens, Tambu becomes a poignant, eloquent commentator on the complexities of a modern life in which grabbing opportunity can strain one’s sense of identity.

**Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro
(Recommended by Paulina Jones-Torregrosa)
Kathy H, Ruth, and Tommy are friends from boarding school, but why can't their school be found on a map? This dystopian novel takes the "coming of age" and "boarding school" genres and turns them both upside down. *Never Let Me Go* is a fast-paced read that will stimulate your imagination while engrossing you in the story of three friends.

**Novels by Chaim Potok**
(Recommended by Michael Denning)
I am not sure that I have learned more from any one author than I have learned from Potok.

- *The Chosen*
- *The Promise*
- *My Name is Asher Lev*
- *Davita's Harp*
**Novels by James Carroll**  
(Recommended by Michael Denning)  
One of my favorite authors, Carroll deals in his novels with culture, class, religion, politics, and intergenerational dialog.  
- Mortal Friends  
- Fault Lines  
- Family Trade  
- Prince of Peace  
- Supply of Heroes  
- Memorial Bridge

*Oranges are Not the Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winterson  
(Recommended by Shannon Clark)  
By turns hilarious and heart-rending, this novel tells the wonderful story of a zealous daughter of an oppressively evangelical mother who, in coming of age, discovers she not only loves God, but also loves women. My favorite “coming out” story, this somewhat autobiographical first novel won Jeanette Winterson the coveted Whitbread Prize in 1985.

*The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follet  
(Recommended by Anne Carberry)  
*The Pillars of the Earth* is a historical novel by Ken Follett published in 1989 about the building of a cathedral in the town of Kingsbridge, England. It is set in the middle of the 12th century, primarily during the Anarchy, between the time of the sinking of the *White Ship* and the murder of Thomas Becket. The book traces the development of Gothic architecture out of the preceding Romanesque architecture, and the fortunes of the Kingsbridge priory and village against the backdrop of historical events of the time.

*A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving  
(Recommended by Gia Batty)  
One of the best books I've *ever* read, this is really the story of two friends—the narrator and the small statured, good natured and very remarkable Owen Meany—growing up in small town New Hampshire, but, in classic Irving style, it's about so much more than that—it's the story of friendship, class, race, politics, religion and fate. Full of believable, memorable characters and so many beautifully written scenes that will stay with you forever, this is a great summer read for anyone who loves a good story.

*The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant  
(Recommended by Jenny Carlson-Pietraszek)
For upper schoolers—phenomenal tale. A fantastic, gripping story that brings you into a new world. Strong female characters. Excellent read.

**Rules of Civility** by Amor Towles  
(Recommended by Kate Blake)

Amor Towles, a Nobles graduate, takes his cues from F.S. Fitzgerald’s *Gatsby* with *Rules of Civility*, a novel that presents the story of a young woman whose life is on the brink of transformation. On the last night of 1937, 25-year-old Kate Kontent is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker, sits down at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a year-long journey into the upper echelons of New York society, where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own brand of cool nerve. With its sparkling depiction of New York’s social strata, its intricate imagery and themes and its immensely appealing characters, *Rules of Civility* is an entertaining, sophisticated read.

**The Silver Pigs and Poseidon’s Gold** by Lindsay Davis  
(Recommended by Dan Matlack)

I like two of the Lindsay Davis set of historical mysteries I read a while ago. Set in or around Rome they include *The Silver Pigs* and *Poseidon’s Gold*. I love historical fiction anyway and I enjoyed her protagonist Marcus Didius Falco’s tone and way of operating.

**Someone Knows My Name** by Lawrence Hill  
(Recommended by Vicky Seelen)

*From Amazon:* Kidnapped from Africa as a child, Aminata Diallo is enslaved in South Carolina but escapes during the chaos of the Revolutionary War. In Manhattan she becomes a scribe for the British, recording the names of blacks who have served the King and earned their freedom in Nova Scotia. But the hardship and prejudice of the new colony prompt her to follow her heart back to Africa, then on to London, where she bears witness to the injustices of slavery and its toll on her life and a whole people. It is a story that no listener, and no reader, will ever forget.

**Snow Falling on Cedars** by David Guterson  
(Recommended by Kat Amano)

Set in 1954 on an island off the coast of Washington, this novel follows the investigation of a fisherman's murder and the ensuing trial of Kabuo Miyamoto, which is colored by post-WWII anti-Japanese sentiments. Flashbacks to the early 1940s offer glimpses into the secret relationship that Kabuo's wife and the newspaper reporter, who covers Kabuo's trial, shared as teens before the Japanese Internment.
**Station Eleven** by Emily St. John Mandel  
(Recommended by Emily Tragert)  
Almost twenty years after a deadly flu wiped out over 90% of the population, a troupe of actors and musicians travels the wasteland left behind, trying to carve out a life for themselves. This beautiful novel moves backwards and forwards in time, telling the stories of half a dozen people affected by the flu and asks profound questions about the nature of art and humanity. After such a devastating event, is survival sufficient, or should we still strive for more? This is a book that will stay with you for a long time after you read it.

**Summer Book** by Tove Jansson  
(Recommended by Dick Baker)  
Tove Jansson distills the essence of the summer—its sunlight and storms—into twenty-two crystalline vignettes. This brief novel tells the story of Sophia, a six-year-old girl awakening to existence, and Sophia’s grandmother, nearing the end of hers, as they spend the summer on a tiny unspoiled island in the Gulf of Finland.

**Train Dreams** by Denis Johnson  
(Recommended by Dick Baker)  
The story of Robert Grainier, a day laborer in the American West at the start of the twentieth century—an ordinary man in extraordinary times. Buffeted by the loss of his family, Grainer struggles to make sense of this strange new world. As his story unfolds, we witness both his shocking personal defeats and the radical changes that transform America in his lifetime. Suffused with the history and landscapes of the American West, this novella captures the disappearance of a distinctly American way of life.

**V for Vendetta** by Alan Moore  
(Recommended by Talya Sokoll)  
One of my favorite graphic novels, this tale tells the story of Evie, a woman living in a dystopian version of London and her relationship with a terrorist/revolutionary named “V.”

**A Visit From the Goon Squad** by Jennifer Egan  
(Recommended by Gia Batty)  
This is a great book of linked stories that address very current issues with our changing society and how technology is connected to the way we see the world. I loved how the stories and characters shift back and forth in time—from the late ’60s to the present and near future—all along focusing on the youth culture, the music industry and how we communicate with each other.
**Watchmen** by Alan Moore  
(Recommended by Emily Tragert)  
In this classic graphic novel, a group of superheroes are pursued by an unknown assassin. Part mystery novel, part horror story, this book deconstructs the idea of the superhero as its cast of characters fall prey to their own human failings and the killer who is after them. While it is not for the faint of heart, this meditation on heroes and villains is beautiful and compelling.

**The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle** by Haruki Murakami  
(Recommended by Kim Libby)  
The story begins with one man's search for a missing cat and launches into an intriguing, strange, page-turning world.

**The Yiddish Policemen's Union** by Michael Chabon  
(Recommended by Alden Mauck)  
Michael Chabon may be the preeminent Jewish writer of the last decade; here he creates a detective story in the Post World War II community to which European Jewry has relocated: Sitka, Alaska. Chabon's novel takes on the language and atmosphere of the film noir tradition to imagine a world of troubled detectives, bad guys and dolls. One of my favorite books to give to other people!

**Upper School Nonfiction**

**Andrew Wyeth: A Secret Life**, by Richard Meryman  
(Recommended by Alden Mauck)  
One of the best biographies that I have ever read and a must for any student interested in American Art during the 20th Century. This biography not only explores Andrew Wyeth's place in American Art, it also looks at his place in a family that for three generations influenced and confounded the American Art world. *N. C. Wyeth : A Biography* (Andrew Wyeth's father) by David Michaelis is fantastic companion read.

**Ballad of a Whiskey Robber** by Julian Rubinstein  
(Recommended by Bill Bussey)  
A tale so bizarre that Johnny Depp bought the movie rights to this story about Attila Ambrus, a horrific Hungarian goaltender (he once gave up 88 goals in six straight games), who found greater success when he decided to rob banks. Using poor disguises but still keeping his identity unknown, Ambrus often left roses after each robbery and
never hurt a soul. As a result, he became a cult hero to the people of Hungary. Very funny and all the more so because it is true.

**Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out** by Susan Kuklin  
(Recommended by Talya Sokoll)  
Author and photographer Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young people and here provides portraits, family photographs, and candid images that follow the emotional and physical journey each has taken. Each interview, whether joyful or heartbreaking, is completely different from the others because of family dynamics, living situations, gender, and the transition these teens make in recognition of their true selves. Fascinating and honest.

**Bomb: The Race to Make—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon** by Steve Sheinkin  
(Recommended by Emily Tragert)  
A vivid, compelling tale of science, war and espionage. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit and genius that created the world’s most formidable weapon, the atomic bomb.

**Born to Run** by Christopher McDougall  
(Recommended by George Blake)  
You don't have to be a runner to appreciate this true story about running really long distances. McDougall takes you into Mexico's forbidden, isolated, and deadly Copper Canyons in search of the secrets of the Tarahumara tribe. These amazing “super-athletes” can run hundreds of miles at a time and never feel pain. Along the way, you meet a cast of unforgettable characters and enter a fascinating subculture.

**Coming of Age in Mississippi**, by Anne Moody  
(Recommended by Michael Denning)  
This book is a must-read for anyone interested in race, gender, civil rights and the experience of those on the forefront of the civil rights movement in this country in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Cooked** by Michael Pollan  
(Recommended by Lisa Jacobson)  
A look at the cultural history of cooking foods—through water, air and fire. I couldn't put this nonfiction book down. I never thought I’d be so fascinated by yeast and mold!
The Daily Reader for Contemplative Living—Excerpts from the Works of Father Thomas Keating
by Thomas Keating
(Recommended by Chris Burr)
If you're curious about the transforming disciplines of meditation and prayer, this volume will guide you every day of the year.

Dead Wake: the Last Crossing of the Lusitania
by Erik Larson
(Recommended by Brian Day)
If you like early 20th century history, you will enjoy this book that chronicles the last voyage of the Lusitania. Including others, the book is written from the perspectives of the ship's captain, crew and passengers, the German U boat's commander, President Wilson, and British Naval Intelligence. Even though the reader knows how the story ends, tension still builds throughout this very well-written and researched book.

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America
by Erik Larson
(Recommended by Emily Tragert)
This engrossing book tells two intertwined stories. First is the story of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, an amazing feat of planning, architecture and ambition, driven by some of the most fascinating personalities of the age. The other half of the book tells the story of H.H. Holmes, later known as “America’s first serial killer,” who killed somewhere between 27–200 people at the fair. This book shows the glory and the horror of turn-of-the-century America and is a supremely entertaining read.

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans
by Don Brown
(Recommended by Emily Tragert)
This graphic novel tells the story of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath in the city of New Orleans. The tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage—and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. This book tells both sides of the story with compelling images and text.

Expecting Adam
by Martha Beck
(Recommended by Chris Burr)
The true story of an Ivy League professor who discovers she is pregnant with a Down’s Syndrome child. A story about her choice, a choice that describes the collision between her head and heart.

The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century
by David Laskin
Spanning multiple generations, David Laskin's *The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century* chronicles his family's triumphant and tragic history. Beginning with his great-great grandfather Shimon Dov HaKohen, a Torah scribe in 19th century Russia, Laskin traces three branches of the family, including the stories of Ida Rosenthal, the founder of the Maidenform Company, Sonia and Chaim, two Zionists who immigrated to Israel/Palestine, and much of the rest of his family who stayed in Europe and perished in the Holocaust. Deeply personal, Laskin's narrative is beautifully written and quite moving, offering a window into some of the twentieth century's most amazing and horrific moments. *The Family* is one of those books I could not put down.

**The Glass Castle** by Jeannette Walls
(Recommended by Kate Blake)
Jeannette Walls' memoir is honest and heartbreaking, but somehow never hopeless. Walls' family is alive on every page: her parents live a life of non-conformity, carrying their children to the depths of poverty and the heights of creativity. It is a startling, moving, and thankfully fast-paced text; at times, it would have been difficult to dwell.

**H is For Hawk** by Helen MacDonalld
(Recommended by Vicky Seelen)
From Amazon: When Helen Macdonald's father died suddenly on a London street, she was devastated. An experienced falconer—Helen had been captivated by hawks since childhood—she'd never before been tempted to train one of the most vicious predators, the goshawk. But in her grief, she saw that the goshawk's fierce and feral temperament mirrored her own. Resolving to purchase and raise the deadly creature as a means to cope with her loss, she adopted Mabel, and turned to the guidance of T.H. White's chronicle *The Goshawk* to begin her challenging endeavor. Projecting herself “in the hawk's wild mind to tame her” tested the limits of Macdonald's humanity and changed her life.

**Hammer Head** by Nina MacLaughlin (Nobles graduate)
(Recommended by Vicky Seelen)
From Amazon: Nina MacLaughlin N’97 spent her twenties working at a Boston newspaper, sitting behind a desk and staring at a screen. Yearning for more tangible work, she applied for a job she saw on Craigslist—*Carpenter's Assistant: Women strongly encouraged to apply*—despite being a Classics major who couldn't tell a Phillips from a flathead screwdriver.

**The Murder of the Century: The Gilded Age Crime That Scandalized a City & Sparked the Tabloid Wars** by Paul Collins
(Recommended by Laura Yamartino)
Part journalism, part history, part mystery. This story tracks a murder investigation at the turn of the 20th century through the eyes of the police detectives while also revealing the developing role of tabloid and newspaper reporters in solving the crime.

*My Promised Land* by Ari Shavit  
(Recommended by Jenny Carlson-Pietraszek)  
A fascinating read that illuminates the rich texture in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict using both historical facts and personal narratives. This is the latest “must read” for those interested in the region, and it's well worth the time.

*Redefining Realness* by Janet Mock  
(Recommended by Talya Sokoll)  
A former editor for *People* magazine’s website, Janet Mock is one of the leading advocates today for transgender rights. In this memoir she describes her experiences growing up in Hawaii and her transition as a teenager.

*A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson  
(Recommended by Bob Henderson)  
A humorous and entertaining read about Bryson’s quest to discover the answers to many of life’s unanswerable questions.

*Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History* by Joel Christian Gill  
(Recommended by Talya Sokoll)  
This graphic novel is a collection of stories from African American history that celebrate success in the face of great adversity. The art beautifully captures the spirit of each remarkable story and opens a window into an important part of American history.

*A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again* by David Foster Wallace  
(Recommended by George Blake)  
Cruise ships, tennis, state fairs, and more—this is a collection of essays by the late David Foster Wallace whose wit, humor and prose can't be beat.

**Upper School Student Recommendations**  
Recommended by the upper school summer reading committee

*All-American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely  
After Rashad is beaten by a local policeman who (wrongly) suspects him of shoplifting, his classmate Quinn, who saw the beating, wrestles with what he's seen. As Rashad
recuperates in the hospital, he's appalled to find himself the center of attention, in a spotlight he doesn't want. Quinn’s reaction is complicated by the fact that the cop who beat Rashad is a close family friend. Quinn can't believe the man he knows would beat anyone if the person on the receiving end didn't deserve it. He's always seen police as protectors. Ultimately Quinn and Rashad each have to make a decision, and those decisions are at the heart of this powerful book.

_The Marvels_ by Brian Selznick
Two seemingly unrelated stories—one in words, the other in pictures—come together in this book. The illustrated story begins in 1766 with Billy Marvel, the lone survivor of a shipwreck, and charts the adventures of his family of actors over five generations. The prose story opens in 1990 and follows Joseph, who has run away from school to an estranged uncle's puzzling house in London, where he, along with the reader, must piece together many mysteries.

_Partners of the Heart_ by Vivien Thomas
This is the autobiography of Vivien Thomas, the first black man to hold a professional position at one of America's premier medical institutions. Thomas's dreams of attending medical school were dashed when the Depression hit. After spending some time as a carpenter's apprentice, Thomas took what he expected to be a temporary job as a technician in Alfred Blalock's lab at Johns Hopkins University. The two men soon became partners and together invented the field of cardiac surgery. This book traces the beginnings of modern cardiac surgery as well as the great partnership between Thomas and Blalock, which persisted over the rest of their careers.

_Between Shades of Gray_ by Ruta Sepetys
Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life in 1939—until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive?

_The Porcupine of Truth_ by Bill Konigsberg
Carson Smith is resigned to spending his summer in Billings, Montana, helping his mom take care of his father, a dying alcoholic he doesn't really know. Then he meets Aisha Stinson, a beautiful girl who has run away from her difficult family, and Pastor
John Logan, who has long held a secret regarding Carson's grandfather, who disappeared without warning or explanation thirty years before. Together, Carson and Aisha embark on an epic road trip to find the answers that might save Carson's dad, restore his fragmented family, and discover the “Porcupine of Truth” in all of their lives.

*Killer of Enemies* by Joseph Bruchac
Lozen and her family lived in a world where the Ones (people augmented with technology and genetic enhancements) ruled over everyone else. Then the Cloud came, tech stopped working and the world plunged back into a new steam age. The Ones' pets — genetically engineered monsters — turned on them and are now loose on the world. Lozen was not one of the lucky ones pre-C, but fate has given her a unique set of survival skills and magical abilities. She hunts monsters for the Ones who survived the apocalyptic events of the Cloud. But with every monster she takes down, Lozen's powers grow, and she connects those powers to an ancient legend of her people. It soon becomes clear to Lozen that she is not just a hired gun... Lozen is meant to be a hero.

*It’s Kind of a Funny Story* by Ned Vizzini
Ambitious New York City teenager Craig Gilner is determined to succeed at life—which means getting into the right high school to get into the right job. But once Craig aces his way into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School, the pressure becomes unbearable. He stops eating and sleeping until, one night, he nearly kills himself. Craig's suicidal episode gets him checked into a mental hospital. There, Craig is finally able to confront the sources of his anxiety in this remarkably moving tale about the sometimes unexpected road to happiness.

*The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood
After a staged terrorist attack kills the President and most of Congress, the government is deposed and taken over by the oppressive and all controlling Republic of Gilead. Offred, now a Handmaid serving in the household of the enigmatic Commander and his bitter wife, can remember a time when she lived with her husband and daughter and had a job, before she lost even her own name. Despite the dangers of being a woman under this new regime, Offred learns to navigate the intimate secrets of those who control her every move, risking her life in breaking the rules in hopes of ending this oppression.
Pick TWO books from the following lists:

**Student Recommendations:**

*The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi* by Neal Bascomb
The amazing true story of a group of men tasked with hunting down Adolf Eichmann, architect of the Holocaust

*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson
The thrilling and true story of the twelve-day chase to capture John Wilkes Booth after the assassination of President Lincoln

*Gone* by Michael Grant
What would you do if one day all the people over the age of fourteen disappeared? Find out how a group of regular kids cope when they are faced with suddenly being the only ones left after all the adults disappear.

*Maze Runner* by James Dashner
When Thomas wakes up all he can remember is his name, the rest of his memories are gone. How will he survive in the glade, where the only means of freedom is a deadly maze that no one has ever made it through?

*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

*If I Stay* by Gayle Forman
Mia doesn't remember the accident that killed her parents. All she knows is that she is currently lying in a hospital, somewhere between life and death. Will she have the strength to hold on?
Firestorm! by Joan Hiatt Harlow
Poppy is an orphan living in Chicago. When her friend makes a mistake that she is blamed for, she runs away, straight into the great Chicago fire.

Triangle: The Fire that Changed America by David von Drehle
A detailed account of the tragic 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory that claimed the lives of 146 immigrants, mostly women.

Behind Enemy Lines (True Stories of Amazing Courage) by Bill H. Doyle
Amazing true stories of soldiers and their bravery and courage

The Raven Boys by Maggie Stiefvater
Every year, Blue Sargent stands next to her clairvoyant mother as the soon-to-be dead walk past. Blue never sees them—until this year, when a boy emerges from the dark and speaks to her. His name is Gansey, a rich student at Aglionby, the local private school. Blue has a policy of staying away from Aglionby boys. Known as Raven Boys, they can only mean trouble. But Blue is drawn to Gansey, in a way she can't entirely explain.

Graceling by Kristin Cashore
In Katsa’s world, selected people are given a special gift; hers is killing. She is forced to use her skill for evil until she decides she wants to use it for good.

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith
Ida Mae wants nothing more than to fly planes in the Air Force, and now that women are being allowed to join the WWII effort she might get her chance. But Ida Mae knows the only way she will be accepted is if she uses her light skin to “pass.” Will she hide her true self or be honest about her identity?

The Lion's Game (A John Corey Novel) by Nelson DeMille
"The Lion" will be landing. And at New York’s JFK Airport, an elite American task force waits as the notorious Libyan terrorist prepares to defect to the West. Then, aboard Flight 175, something goes eerily, horribly wrong—a mere prelude to the terror that is to come. Ex-NYPD cop, now Federal Task Force agent John Corey— together with his formidable and beautiful new partner, Kate Mayfield—will follow a trail of smoke and blood across the country. His quarry: a foe with the cunning of a lion and all the bloodlust of a man. To win a desperate game with no rules at all, Corey must invent a strategy that leaves no room for mistakes.
Teacher Recommendations:

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone
(Recommended by Emily Tragert)
What does it take to be an astronaut? Excellence at flying, courage, intelligence, resistance to stress, top physical shape — any checklist would include these. But when America created NASA in 1958, there was another unspoken rule: you had to be a man. Here is the tale of thirteen women who proved that they were not only as tough as the toughest man but also brave enough to challenge the government. They were blocked by prejudice and jealousy. But even though the Mercury 13 women did not make it into space, they did not lose, for their example empowered young women to take their place in the sky, piloting jets and commanding space capsules.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose
(Recommended by Talya Sokoll)
On March 2, 1955, an impassioned teenager, fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders. Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge segregation again as a key plaintiff in Browder v. Gayle, the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of Montgomery and swept away the legal underpinnings of the Jim Crow South. This story of an important yet largely unknown civil rights figure is fascinating and inspiring.

The Fire Seekers by Richard Farr
(Recommended by Chris Averill)
This is the story of Daniel, a teenager with dyslexia who has brilliant parents. His mom is one of the world's most brilliant mathematicians and his dad speaks over 20 languages making him not only an expert in ancient history but also a Babbler. When personal tragedy strikes, Daniel is caught in a web of intrigue involving a religious group known as the Seraphins and Series of mysterious disappearances across the globe. Along the lines of The Davinci Code this book can best be described as historical science fiction. It's well written, fast paced and an enjoyable read that leaves me eagerly awaiting the second book next year.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
(Recommended by Liz Benjamin)
I read this book with seventh graders when I taught English at my previous school, and none of us could put it down! It is the story of a futuristic post-drug war North America, where the powerful drug lord, El Patrón, rules a new country, Opium. Through morally wrong scientific advancements, such as cloning, genetic engineering, and computer brain implants, El Patrón's family, the Alacranes (Spanish for scorpion), live much longer than the average human being. The story revolves around El Patron's clone, Mateo Alacrán, and his struggle to survive his fate. I loved this book because of its Mexican cultural allusions, it tells the story of a lovable young boy, and because it appeals to one's humanity, making one question their morality. It's a page-turner, and takes you in many unexpected directions.

*I am the Messenger* by Markus Zusak  
(Recommended by Chris Averill)  
A brilliantly written story with an interesting plot twist. It is about an underaged cab driver named Ed Kennedy who doesn't have much of a future. To make things worse, he is horrible at playing cards and he is hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey. The book starts as he continues with the routine of his life, until he unintentionally stops a bank robbery. That's the day when the first ace arrives in the mail and Ed becomes the messenger.  
If you enjoyed *The Book Thief*, you will love this one!

*Jellicoe Road* by Melina Marchetta  
(Recommended by Kate Blake)  
Taylor Markham is not a popular choice to be leader of the boarders at Jellicoe School. She is erratic, has no people skills, and never turns up to meetings—not to mention the time when she ran off to search for her mother and got only halfway there. But she’s lived at Jellicoe School most of her life, and that is her greatest asset, especially now that the cadets, led by the infamous Jonah Griggs, have arrived. The territory wars between the boarders, townies and cadets are about to recommence. But Taylor has other things on her mind: she wants to understand the mystery of her own past just as Hannah, the woman who found her, disappears, leaving nothing but an unfinished manuscript about five kids whose lives entwined twenty years ago on the Jellicoe Road. If Taylor can put together the pieces of her past, she might be able to change her future.

*The Light of the Fireflies* by Paul Pen  
(Recommended by Chris Averill)  
A boy has spent his whole life living in an underground basement with his family, who were disfigured by a fire before he was born. One day, fireflies come into the basement and their intriguing light makes him yearn to escape and see the outside world. The trouble is all the doors are locked and he doesn't know how to get out. Mysteries
abound: why are they in the basement? Why can't he get out, or can he? Who is the father of his sister's new baby?

**Lumberjanes vol. 1, 2 and 3**  
(Recommended by E.B. Bartels)  
File this under books that I wish had been around when I was a teenager. A thoroughly fun read, *Lumberjanes* follows a group of friends at Miss Quinzel Thiskwin Penniquiqul Thistle Crumplet’s Camp for Hardcore Lady Types. I loved that the graphic novel is all about friendship between girls and that it puts queer girls, girls of color, and not traditionally feminine girls at the center. The diversity of the characters shows the many ways there are to be a girl in the world, and each girl brings her own personality, style, background, talents and flair to the group. Every adventure they have is only possible because of the power of their differences and their unity. I think this series perfectly executes the Audre Lorde mantra of how, in a group, our differences shouldn’t be divisive, but they should make us stronger.

**Monster** by Walter Dean Myers  
(Recommended by Paulina Jones-Torregrosa)  
“Steve (Voice-Over): Sometimes I feel like I have walked into the middle of a movie. Maybe I can make my own movie. The film will be the story of my life. No, not my life, but of this experience. I'll call it what the lady prosecutor called me ... Monster.”  
Steve Harmon is in jail for murder. Is he innocent? Was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? This book tells Steven’s story through a screenplay so that it's a combination book-and-movie.

**Moonbird: a Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95** by Phillip Hoose  
(Recommended by Emily Tragert)  
B95 is a robin-sized shorebird, a red knot of the subspecies *rufa.* Each February he joins a flock that lifts off from Tierra del Fuego, headed for breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic, nine thousand miles away. Late in the summer, he begins the return journey. B95 can fly for days without eating or sleeping, but eventually he must descend to refuel and rest. However, recent changes at ancient refueling stations along his migratory circuit—changes caused mostly by human activity—have reduced the food available and made it harder for the birds to reach. And so, since 1995, when B95 was first captured and banded, the worldwide *rufa* population has collapsed by nearly 80 percent. Most perish somewhere along the great hemispheric circuit, B95 wings on. He has been seen as recently as November 2011, which makes him nearly twenty years old. Shaking their heads, scientists ask themselves: How can this one bird make it year after year when so many others fall?
**The Only Thing to Fear** by Caroline Tung Richmond  
(Recommended by Talya Sokoll)  
What would the world be like if Hitler and the Nazis had won World War Two? In this dystopian novel, Richmond imagines a world where the Third Reich was victorious because of genetically engineered super soldiers. Eighty years later, 16-year-old Zara, living in the Eastern American Territories, must find a way to survive under the harsh regime and deal with her superpowers that she has to keep a secret.

**Rethinking Normal: A Memoir in Transition** by Katie Rain Hill  
(Recommended by Talya Sokoll)  
Katie never felt comfortable in her own skin. She realized very young that a serious mistake had been made; she was a girl who had been assigned male at birth. In this memoir, Katie reflects on her pain-filled childhood and the events leading up to the life-changing decision to undergo gender reassignment as a teenager. She reveals the unique challenges she faced while unlearning how to be a boy and shares what it was like to navigate the dating world and experience heartbreak for the first time in a body that matched her gender identity. A great, compelling read.

**Turning 15 On the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March** by Linda Blackmon Lowery  
(Recommended by Emily Tragert)  
As the youngest marcher in the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Lynda Blackmon Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed nine times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. In this memoir, she vividly shows what it means to fight nonviolently (even when the police are using violence, as in the Bloody Sunday protest) and how it felt to be part of changing American history.

**A Wizard of Earthsea** by Ursula K. LeGuin  
(Recommended by Thomas Forteith)  
If you like Harry Potter, this is similar but better. The first in the Earthsea Trilogy.