Every Nobles student is required to read the community book: *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.

Every Nobles Middle School student is also required to read the middle school community book: *Port Chicago 50* by Steve Sheinkin.

Every Nobles Middle School student is required to read at least two additional books this summer.

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

Please Note: *A Walk in the Woods* and the required history/English book may be ordered through [http://www.classbook.com](http://www.classbook.com).

**Entering Class VI (7th grade):**
- You must read *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.
- You must read *Port Chicago 50* by Steve Sheinkin.
- You must read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak for English Via Latin (EVL).
- You must choose one other book from the Middle School Choice List below.

**Entering Class V (8th grade):**
- You must read *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.
- You must read *Port Chicago 50* by Steve Sheinkin.
• You must read *The Other Side of Dark* by Sarah Smith for English. (Two books with the same title exist, please note author.)
• You must choose one other book from the **Middle School Choice List** below.

**Entering Class IV (9th grade):**
• You must read *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.
• You must read *Iran Awakening: One Woman's Journey to Reclaim Her Life and Country* by Shirin Ebadi and Azadeh Moaveni for History of the Human Community (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 *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.
• 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 *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.
• You must read *Purple Hibiscus: A Novel* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie for English.
• If you are taking an elective history course, you must read the book listed under the appropriate course in the chart below and then one other book from the **Upper School Choice List** below.
• 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 *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.
• You must read the book listed under the appropriate English elective in the chart below.
• If you are taking an elective history course, you must read the book listed under the appropriate course in the chart below and then one other book from the **Upper School Choice List** below.
• If you are not taking a history course, then you must choose two other books from the **Upper School Choice List** below.
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<tr>
<th>East Meets West</th>
<th>Politics &amp; Ethics</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Orientalist: Solving the Mystery of a Strange and Dangerous Life</em> by Tom Reiss</td>
<td><em>The Road to Character</em> by David Brooks</td>
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<th>(AP) European History</th>
<th>Race and Ethnicity in American Culture and History</th>
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<td><em>In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin</em> by Erik Larson</td>
<td><em>Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years</em> by Sarah L. Delany and A. Elizabeth Delany</td>
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<th>History of Ancient Greece</th>
<th>The Twentieth-Century World</th>
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<td><em>The Hemlock Cup: Socrates, Athens and the Search for the Good Life</em> by Bettany Hughes</td>
<td><em>All Quiet on the Western Front</em> by Erich Maria Remarque</td>
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<th>Macroeconomics</th>
<th>World Religions</th>
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<td><em>Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science</em> by Charles Wheelan and Burton G. Malkiel</td>
<td><em>The Golem and the Jinni: A Novel</em> by Helene Wecker</td>
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<th>Modern America at War: America, Vietnam, Afghanistan &amp; Iraq</th>
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<td>Choose one:</td>
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<td><em>Redeployment</em> by Phil Klay</td>
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<td><em>Green on Blue: A Novel</em> by Elliot Ackerman</td>
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<td>ENGLISH ELECTIVES</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creative Nonfiction</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</em>&lt;br&gt; by Rebecca Skloot</td>
<td><strong>The Novel: from the Czar to Hitler</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay</em>&lt;br&gt; by Michael Chabon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Epic Lit</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>The Song of Achilles</em>&lt;br&gt; by Madeline Miller</td>
<td><strong>Satire and Humor</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>1984</em>&lt;br&gt; by George Orwell</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ethics and Literature</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>A Constellation of Vital Phenomena</em>&lt;br&gt; by Anthony Marra</td>
<td><strong>Shakespeare I</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>The Meaning of Shakespeare Vol. I</em>&lt;br&gt; by Harold C. Goddard&lt;br&gt; (students must read the introduction and the chapters on Henry IV part 1 and Henry IV part 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Madness in Literature: Reading the Rebellious Mind</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>Jane Eyre</em>&lt;br&gt; by Charlotte Bronte</td>
<td><strong>The Short Story: Reading and Writing</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft</em>&lt;br&gt; by Stephen King</td>
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<td><strong>The Modernist Movement</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>A Moveable Feast</em>&lt;br&gt; by Ernest Hemingway</td>
<td><strong>Twentieth Century Literature of the American South</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>Provinces of Night</em>&lt;br&gt; by William Gay</td>
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Upper School Choice List
Recommended by 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, nationality as told while the protagonist is getting her hair braided. So thoughtful, funny, 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.

*A Bell for Adano* by John Hersey
(Recommended by Peter Raymond)
Love and sweet humor amid the wreckage of Allied occupation of Italy, WWII.

*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.

*The Circle* by Dave Eggers
(Recommended by Michelle Huber)
Compelling, just slightly futuristic, a bit of a warning about all of this technology, but not in a beat you over the head kind of way, more of a makes you think kind of way. I loved it!

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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 Fortieth)  
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.”

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.

*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.

**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.

Red Sky at Morning by Richard Bradford
(Recommended by Peter Raymond)
Coming-of-age set in WWII; problematic but true to the protagonist's perspective.

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.

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
(Recommend 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.

**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 dystopic 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 sixties to the present and near future—all
along focusing on the youth culture, the music industry and how we communicate with each other.

*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 Twentieth 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.

*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 60s.
**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.

**The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair the 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 and 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.

**The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century** by David Laskin
(Recommended by Michael Denning)
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 MacDonald.
(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 *The Once and Future King* author 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)
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.
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.

Middle School Choice List
Recommended by Students and Faculty

Pick only ONE book from the following lists:

**Student Recommendations:**
Recommended by the Middle School Summer reading committee (Noah, Jake M., Olly, Sakura, Saffiyah, Patrick D. Nattalie, Eleni, and Alex B.)

*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, the 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
From www.bn.com: 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
From Amazon: 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
From Amazon: "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:**

*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 Da Vinci Code this book can best be described as historical science fiction. It's well written, fast paced and an enjoyable read that has me eagerly awaiting the publishing of the second book next year.

*The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer  
(Recommended by Liz Benjamin)  
I read this book with 7th 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.

*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, sixteen 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.

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