

St. Thomas Aquinas High School

Summer Reading 2018

The goals of the Summer Reading program at STA are to enhance the reading life of our students, to expand the curriculum and to promote the belief that reading is one of life's great pleasures. To that end, the Summer Reading Program consists of two parts. One is required of all students, while the other is completely optional and open to any student who might enjoy reading some of our faculty's favorite books.

PART I – THE REQUIRED BOOK:

Each student is required to read **ONE** book designated by grade level. That is, all 9th grade students will read the same book, etc. The book for each grade level has been chosen by one of the academic departments and will be discussed at the beginning of the school year in a given class. This year, for instance, students in 12th Grade will be required to read a book for their English classes. (11th Grade-Social Studies; 10th Grade -Theology; 9th Grade-Science)

IMPORTANT: You will take a test on the required book during the first week of school next fall.

Grade 9: *The Hot Zone* by Richard Preston

The Hot Zone begins in central Africa, where a mysterious virus appeared and killed a large number of people in a fast acting epidemic – the first Ebola outbreak. Since the Ebola virus was identified, great care has been taken to isolate and prevent its spread. Preston's frightening account of the reappearance of Ebola in a laboratory near Washington, DC is a mesmerizing story of the power of nature and the need for scientists to be on guard against its dangers. The story, written in 1994, warned of future outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics as a result of global ecosystem imbalance. Preston's *The Hot Zone* presents a challenging backdrop, as 9th grade students study emerging disease and the relationship that climate change and ecosystem imbalance has on these outbreaks and potential epidemics.

Grade 10: *Same Kind of Different as Me: A Modern-Day Slave, an International Art Dealer, and the Unlikely Woman who Bound Them Together* by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, and Lynn Vincent

A homeless drifter beaten by a hard life, friendless and dangerous, meets a well-off, jet setting art dealer thanks to the efforts of his down to earth wife. Through her deep faith and a deeply felt conviction about serving the poor, the two men share an unusual journey that leads them both to develop a friendship, learn from each other and help each other in unexpected ways. Their relationship, faith and love transform all of them as they face life's trials.

Grade 11: *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

"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 Grimkes' 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. Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented, including Handful's cunning mother, Charlotte, who courts danger in her search for something better. This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved." --- Barnes and Noble

Grade 12: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

Based on his own experiences as a soldier in Vietnam, O'Brien writes of the life of a soldier – an ordinary American boy, a human being faced with the terrible truths of war. In doing so, he also writes about writing, claiming that works of fiction convey human truth more effectively than do reality or memory. This is an amazing novel, one which is clearly a blend of the real experiences and straightforward voice of a soldier of the 1960's, with the imagination of a writer looking back and trying to understand his life. This is truly one of those books we all should read.

PART II -- THE OPTIONAL PORTION:

The second component is optional. Any student may choose to read a book from the list of "Faculty and Staff Favorites." In September, you will complete an assessment on the book(s) you read, to be given by the teacher who nominated the book. At that time, you will choose to have your score count as **an extra credit grade in any subject you wish.** (For example, you might read Mr. Tinney's book, but have it count for your Physics class.) **NOTE:** **Students will be limited to **THREE** books for extra credit, but you can read as many books as you wish!

Faculty and Staff Favorites

Mr. Adams – *The Shack* by William Paul Young

FICTION

"Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back into the shack for the weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever.

"In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answer Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him. You'll want everyone you know to read this book!" -- from the cover description

Mr. Adams – *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life* by James Martin, SJ

NONFICTION / FAITH

"*The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* by the Reverend James Martin, SJ (*My Life with the Saints*) is a practical spiritual guidebook based on the life and teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus. Centered around the Ignatian goal of 'finding God in all things,' *The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything* shows us how to manage relationships, money, work, prayer, and decision-making, all while keeping a sense of humor. Filled with user-friendly examples, humorous stories, and anecdotes from the heroic and inspiring lives of Jesuit saints and average priests and brothers, *The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything* is sure to appeal to fans of Kathleen Norris, Richard Rohr, Anne Lamott, and other Christian Spiritual writers." --*Amazon.com*

Mr. Adams – *The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For* by David McCullough

NONFICTION

"A timely collection of speeches by David McCullough, the most honored historian in the United States—winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, two National Book Awards, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, among many others—that reminds us of fundamental American principles. . . . Over the course of his distinguished career, David McCullough has spoken before Congress, the White House, colleges and universities, historical societies, and other esteemed institutions. Now, at a time of self-reflection in America following a bitter election campaign that has left the country divided, McCullough has collected some of his most important speeches in a brief volume designed to identify important principles and characteristics that are particularly American. *The American Spirit* reminds us of core American values to which we all subscribe, regardless of which region we live in, which political party we identify with, or our ethnic background. This is a book about America for all Americans that reminds us who we are and helps to guide us as we find our way forward." --*Amazon.com*

Ms. Bartlett – *The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the*

***History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements* by Sam Kean**

NONFICTION / SCIENCE

Whether you love chemistry or find it rigid and dull, you will enjoy Sam Kean's stories of how the elements of the periodic table were discovered. His own fascination with science drives the book, and fills it with back stories, anecdotes and colorful details. This is where science becomes fun!

Mr. Bennett – *Never Give Up: My Stroke, My Recovery, and My Return to the NFL* by Tedy Bruschi

NONFICTION / SPORTS

"Tedy gives you something to believe in. Whether we're winning or losing, he holds his head high, and he knows himself and handles himself so well, others can't help but follow him. The way he practices and plays forces you to become a better teammate; the way he demands hustle and toughness forces you to become a better leader; and the way he carries himself inspires you to become a better person. This made his return to playing on October 30 against Buffalo all the more electrifying. The stadium was louder that night than the nights we had raised our Super Bowl banners. Our captain, our leader, our inspiration was back on the field doing what he loved to do. Tedy had spent months rehabbing, had countless doctor visits, and had undergone hundreds of tests trying to play again. Just eight months after our victory in Super Bowl XXXIX, here we were celebrating a much bigger victory on our home field. Sure it was great to win the game, but that night we were celebrating Tedy's return as he showed us teammates, fans, family, and friends what it takes to become victorious in life." -- *Amazon.com*

Mme. Chamberlain – *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah

FICTION

This novel is a coming of age experience for a young girl who has been forced to move to Alaska with tumultuous parents. The beauty of Alaska will always call her even though Alaska has caused her many hardships. This novel is full of twists and turns that make it impossible to put down. It is a must read.

Mrs. Collins – *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

FICTION

This is one of the most beautiful novels ever written, and certainly the most perfect of the works of Charles Dickens. Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, it tells of two men who look alike, but whose choices take them down very different roads. One is French and one is English, and both of them are in love with Lucy Manette, daughter of a man freed from the Bastille. The lives of the characters intertwine in ways they never could have imagined, with a grand finish that is both moving and profoundly meaningful.

Mrs. Collins – *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez

HISTORICAL FICTION

In the Dominican Republic of the 1950's, the dictator Trujillo ruled with an iron fist. The four Mirabal sisters grew up under his rule, gradually becoming aware of the oppression under which they lived. This story is told from four different perspectives, as we follow the story of the four women who became known as *Las Mariposas*, heroes of the revolution. I read this book several years ago and fell in love with it for its powerful story, the blend of history and fiction, and the amazing characters I met. I love a book that makes me look up history, maps, pictures and more. I hope you enjoy it too!

- Mrs. Collins – *Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman** **FICTION / MYTHOLOGY**
 Don't be fooled by the dull title! Gaiman is a masterful storyteller, and his newest novel retells the stories of Loki, Thor and other heroes you may already know from the Marvel Universe (but whose stories actually date back to the middle ages!) with a combination of fabulous detail and humor. The myths of ancient times speak to our most fundamental hopes and dreams, and offer both wild adventure and food for thought. I am so excited to read this book this summer! Join me and we can talk about it in the fall ...
- Ms. Cook – *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead* by Sheryl Sandberg** **NONFICTION / BUSINESS**
 "If Facebook COO (and first-time author) Sandberg succeeds, it will be because she's made us mad—and more than willing to act. With no small amount of self-deprecating humor, a massive quantity of facts and research, plus a liberal dose of very personal anecdotes, Sandberg forces each one of us—woman and man—to reexamine ourselves at work and in life, using a unique filter. Are we more concerned about being liked than succeeding? Do we think of our career as a series of upward ladders rather than a jungle gym? Do our authentic selves—and honesty—show up in business? In short, every single undoing of a woman's career is examined thoughtfully and with twenty-first-century gentleness and exposed with recommended remedies. Her colleagues act as advocates for her theme: lean in, or take a risk and drive change for us all. And though there are no solutions offered, except in the formation of communities around the country and (we hope!) around the world, there's tremendous re-energy in feeling that, thanks to Sandberg, the world just might be a different place." --Barbara Jacobs, *Booklist*
- Mr. Cullen – *Shoe Dog* by Phil Knight** **AUTOBIOGRAPHY / SPORTS**
 This is the autobiography of the founder of Nike, who grew a passion for sports into a company and a personal fortune of \$32 billion. Did you know Nike's first US factory was located in the mills in Exeter, NH? A good read for anyone interested in sports and entrepreneurship.
- Mr. Cullen – *Freakonomics* by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner** **NONFICTION / ECONOMICS**
 Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? Why do so many drug dealers live with their moms? A counter-intuitive look at how economics and incentives affect behavior using entertaining examples.
- Mr. Cullen – *Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas Stanley** **NONFICTION / SOCIOLOGY**
 People who accumulate significant wealth may not fit the image you have in mind. They are less likely to come from inherited wealth or prestige professions, and more likely to be self-made, self-employed people who worked in dull-ordinary industries and live frugally. Examples: How the decision about whether, when, and whom to marry impacts one's finances (short answer: More than any other single decision a person makes in their entire life); how buying quality used cars instead of new ones compounds to hundreds of thousands of dollars over a lifetime.
- Mr. Cullity – *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* – Philip K. Dick** **SCIENCE FICTION**
 Since his untimely death at age 53, there has been an extraordinary growth of interest in Philip K. Dick's writings, which during his lifetime were largely ignored by serious mainstream critics and readers. Such is no longer the case, and the novels of Philip K. Dick frequently appear on university curricula devoted to modern American literature. Many of his novels and short stories have also been adapted as films and TV series, the most recent being the Amazon series, *The Man in the High Castle*, adapted from Dick's novel of the same name. This novel, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* inspired the classic sci-fi film, *Blade Runner*. Here's a brief excerpt from Amazon's description of the book: "Driven into hiding, unauthorized androids live among human beings, undetected. Rick Deckard, an officially sanctioned bounty hunter, is commissioned to find rogue androids and "retire" them. But when cornered, androids fight back—with lethal force."
- Mr. Cullity – *Dracula* by Bram Stoker** **FICTION**
 Irish writer Abraham "Bram" Stoker awoke from an eerie dream with the idea for a novel wholly different from anything he had written before. *Dracula* (1897) chronicles the experiences of several ordinary members of Victorian society as they come into dangerously close contact with the utterly mysterious and morbidly sinister Count Dracula. Stoker presents the story in a series of highly detailed letters from one character to another, a technique which offers a wide range of perspectives. Horror abounds as the devilish Count infiltrates English society, greedily searching for potential victims. If you have a thirst for a truly blood-curdling tale this summer, look no further than one of the original (and definitely the most famous) vampire stories, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.
- Mr. Cullity – *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut** **FICTION**
 Short chapters, a fast pace, unforgettable characters, and a truly wild plot are just some of the pluses of this classic, sort-of-sci-fi novel. It's all strung together (pun intended!) by Kurt Vonnegut's trademark ironic wit and blackly humorous vision. Here's what Amazon.com has to say: "*Cat's Cradle* is Kurt Vonnegut's satirical commentary on modern man and his madness. An apocalyptic tale of this planet's ultimate fate, it features a midget as a main character, a complete, original theology created by a calypso singer, and a vision of the future that is at once darkly fatalistic and hilariously funny. A book that left an indelible mark on an entire generation of readers, *Cat's Cradle* is one of the twentieth century's most important works—and Vonnegut at his very best."
- Ms. Cummings – *Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage & Triumph* by Travis Roy and E.M. Swift** **NONFICTION / SPORTS**
 "Within the 11 seconds that inspired this memoir, Travis Roy realized his dream, then smashed into his nightmare. On an October night in 1995, Roy, a talented young hockey player, skated onto the ice for his varsity debut with Boston University. Eleven fateful seconds later, he was paralyzed from the neck down. Aided by the sure touch of *Sports Illustrated* hockey writer E.M. Swift, Roy's moving account of his accident and his rehabilitation--confined to a wheelchair, he's gotten some use of his right arm back--avoids the maudlin. Instead, *Eleven Seconds* is filled with grit, hope, humor, and a thoughtful young man's introspection on the meaning of sports and the adjustments that follow when the ability to play them is taken away." --*Amazon.com*
- Ms. Cummings – *The Magnolia Story* by Chip Gaines, Joanna Gaines, with Mark Dagostino** **NONFICTION**
 " 'Are you ready to see your fixer upper?' These famous words are now synonymous with the dynamic husband-and-wife team Chip and Joanna Gaines, stars of HGTV's Fixer Upper... *The Magnolia Story* is the first book from Chip and Joanna, offering their fans a detailed look at their life together. From the very first renovation project they ever tackled together, to the project that nearly cost them everything; from the childhood memories that shaped them, to the twists and turns that led them to the life they share on the farm today." - *barnesandnoble.com*

- Mr. Dinan – *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann** **NONFICTION / CRIME**
 Widely acknowledged as one of the best books of 2017, *Killers of the Flower Moon* tells the tragic story of a shameful episode in American history. In 1870 the Osage Nation, a tribe of Native Americans were relocated to a dry, barren, wind-swept area of north central Oklahoma. In the 1920s, when oil was discovered on their reservation, members of the Osage Nation became the richest people per capita in the world. Then things went terribly wrong, from mysterious deaths to violent execution style murders. The recently formed FBI was called in and with the help of a Texas Ranger and an undercover Native American agent, cracked the case and brought the guilty to justice. It's non-fiction that reads like a fast paced thriller!
- Dr. DiPietro – *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly** **NONFICTION / SCIENCE**
 "The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space. ... Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space." *Amazon.com*
- Dr. DiPietro – *The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars* by Dava Sobel** **NONFICTION / SCIENCE**
 "In the mid-nineteenth century, the Harvard College Observatory began employing women as calculators, or "human computers," to interpret the observations their male counterparts made via telescope each night. At the outset this group included the wives, sisters, and daughters of the resident astronomers, but soon the female corps included graduates of the new women's colleges—Vassar, Wellesley, and Smith. As photography transformed the practice of astronomy, the ladies turned from computation to studying the stars captured nightly on glass photographic plates." *Amazon.com*
- Mr. Holtz – *Prey* by Michael Crichton** **FICTION**
Prey tells the story of a mechanical plague and the desperate attempts of several scientists to destroy it. "A cloud of nanoparticles - microrobots - has escaped from the laboratory. This cloud is self-sustaining and self-reproducing. It is intelligent and it learns from experience. For all practical purposes, it is alive. It has been programmed as a predator. It is evolving swiftly, becoming more deadly with each passing hour. Every attempt to destroy it has failed. And we are prey." -- from the book cover
- Mr. Holtz – *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot** **NONFICTION / SCIENCE**
 "From a single, abbreviated life grew a seemingly immortal line of cells that made some of the most crucial innovations in modern science possible. And from that same life, and those cells, Rebecca Skloot has fashioned in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* a fascinating and moving story of medicine and family, of how life is sustained in laboratories and in memory. Henrietta Lacks was a mother of five in Baltimore, a poor African American migrant from the tobacco farms of Virginia, who died from a cruelly aggressive cancer at the age of 30 in 1951. A sample of her cancerous tissue, taken without her knowledge or consent, as was the custom then, turned out to provide one of the holy grails of mid-century biology: human cells that could survive--even thrive--in the lab. Known as HeLa cells, their stunning potency gave scientists a building block for countless breakthroughs, beginning with the cure for polio. Meanwhile, Henrietta's family continued to live in poverty and frequently poor health, and their discovery decades later of her unknowing contribution--and her cells' strange survival--left them full of pride, anger, and suspicion. For a decade, Skloot doggedly but compassionately gathered the threads of these stories, slowly gaining the trust of the family while helping them learn the truth about Henrietta, and with their aid she tells a rich and haunting story that asks the questions, Who owns our bodies? And who carries our memories?" -- *Tom Nissley (Amazon review)*
- Mrs. Kirsch – *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward** **FICTION**
 Expect to be blown away by the pain and beauty of *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward. The story follows Jojo, as he navigates growing up in the rural south as a mixed-race teenager in an impoverished town, with a nearly-absent mother, doting but aging grandparents and a toddler sister. Readers get to hear equally from Leonie, Jojo's mom, as she struggles with addiction and the absence of her husband, who is in jail. Another reviewer put it best: "This is a story of poverty, love, grief, loss, abuse, brutality, race, injustice, family, addiction, and ghosts" (*Goodreads.com*). Jojo and Leonie's narratives are poetically written; we get to hear their struggles on the page. Ghosts of the family's past arrive on scene as well—but in a way that seems so natural that they function as characters themselves. If you are curious how Jojo and his mother endure through their desperate situations, or if you're just curious to read a novel that bends and breaks the rules of any genre you've read before, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* is the book for you.
- Mrs. Kodzis – *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver** **FICTION**
 "The *Poisonwood Bible* is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it -- from garden seeds to Scripture -- is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa." -Publisher
- Ms. Manfro – *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story* by Diane Ackerman** **NONFICTION / HISTORY**
 Based on a true story, a Christian couple chooses to use their Polish zoo to save the lives of those fleeing from Nazis during WWII. This account tells the story of true heroism, the Resistance and the harrowing tale of the human and animal lives that were being hunted by the Nazis. More than just a couple and a zoo, "The Zookeeper's Wife" covers the events of WWII in a depth of detail.
- Mrs. Mann – *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt** **AUTOBIOGRAPHY**
 Frank McCourt was born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Ireland. Frank's mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank's father rarely works, and when he does he drinks his wages. However, Frank lives for his father's tales of Cuchullain, who saved Ireland, and of the angel who brings his mother babies. He endures poverty and the cruelty of relatives, neighbors and the world. It is an amazing story about survival and the pursuit of the American dream.
- Mrs. Mann – *House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende** **FICTION**
 "In one of the most important and beloved Latin American works of the twentieth century, Isabel Allende weaves a luminous tapestry of three generations of the Trueba family, revealing both triumphs and tragedies. Here is patriarch Esteban, whose wild desires and political machinations are tempered only by his love for his ethereal wife, Clara, a woman touched by an otherworldly hand. Their daughter, Blanca, whose forbidden love for a man Esteban has deemed unworthy infuriates her father, yet will produce his greatest joy: his granddaughter Alba, a beautiful, ambitious girl who will lead the family and their country into a revolutionary future. *The House of the Spirits* is an enthralling saga that spans decades and lives, twining the personal and the political into an epic novel of love, magic, and fate." – *New York Times*

Mrs. Mann – *Three Sisters, Three Queens* by Philippa Gregory

HISTORICAL FICTION

Following the story of Henry VIII's elder sister, Margaret, the book pulls together the lives of Margaret, her younger sister Mary, and Katherine of Aragon, sisters and queens of different nations (Scotland, France, and England, respectively). This allows her to look at Henry VIII's life and age from a different vantage point, as well as exploring an interesting historical figure in her own right

Ms. Mercier – *Sirens of Titan* by Kurt Vonnegut

FICTION

While *Amazon* calls this novel "an outrageous romp through outer space," it is clearly more than that, especially if you know anything about Kurt Vonnegut. Through engaging storytelling and working outside of the rules of physics and realism, he weaves a tale that appears to be science fiction, but that raises questions about relationships, human nature and the meaning of life. His humor and original drawings add a layer of satire that adds to the fun.

Ms. Pate and Dr. Pike -- *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

A focus on science presented through some beautiful language, this narrative invites all readers (science-oriented, English-oriented, and everyone in between). *Lab Girl* is a national bestseller and winner of multiple awards. It is an autobiography of geobiologist Hope Jahren. She describes "her life studying trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. . . but it is also a celebration of the lifelong curiosity, humility, and passion that drive every scientist. In these pages, Hope takes us back to her Minnesota childhood, where she spent hours in unfettered play in her father's college laboratory. She tells us how she found a sanctuary in science, learning to perform lab work 'with both the heart and the hands.' She introduces us to Bill, her brilliant, eccentric lab manager. And she extends the mantle of *scientist* to each one of her readers." –*Amazon.com* Take on the role of scientist this summer by reading this book!

Ms. Pate -- *Revolution (The Sixties Trilogy #2)* by Deborah Wiles

HISTORICAL FICTION

Were you inspired by Jim Kates' discussion about Freedom Summer? Then you will want to read this book. It is a multi-genre book with images and news reports woven into a story about Sunny, who lives in Greenwood, Mississippi in 1964. Freedom Summer is beginning as ". . . people from up north are coming to help people register to vote. . . . Meanwhile, Sunny can't help but feel like her house is being invaded, too. She has a new stepmother, a new brother, and a new sister crowding her life, giving her little room to breathe. And things get even trickier when Sunny and her brother are caught sneaking into the local swimming pool -- where they bump into a mystery boy whose life is going to become tangled up in theirs" (*amazon.com*). I am excited to read this book for the first time this summer. This is part of a 1960s trilogy, but each novel focuses on a different portion of the 1960s and different characters. After you read this, you might even be interested in reading the rest of the series!

Ms. Pate -- *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon

FICTION

Did you enjoy reading *Everything, Everything*? This is another YA novel from the same author, and in my opinion, it is even better! The story follows three characters – Natasha, Daniel, and the Universe – over the course of one day. Natasha's family is being deported to Jamaica, and she is spending her final day in America meeting with a lawyer trying to stop this from happening. While on this mission, she meets Daniel who is preparing to attend a college interview his family is forcing him to attend. And the third character? "The Universe: Every moment in our lives has brought us to this single moment. A million futures lie before us. Which one will come true?" (*amazon.com*). What will be the fate of Natasha and Daniel? The third character will play a part in this fate.

Dr. Pike – *Not Without Peril: 150 Years of Misadventure on the Presidential Range of New Hampshire* by Nicholas Howe

NONFICTION / OUTDOORS

Anyone who likes to hike, especially in the White Mountains, should read this book. Among the most dangerous mountains in the world, Mount Washington has challenged adventurers for centuries with its severe weather. From the days when gentlemen ascended the heights in hoop skirts and wool suits to today's high-tech assaults on wintry summits, this book offers extensive and intimate profiles of people who found trouble on New Hampshire's Presidential Range, from the nineteenth century through present day.

Dr. Pike – *A Primate's Memoir: A Neuroscientist's Unconventional Life Among the Baboons* by Robert M. Sapolsky

NONFICTION / SCIENCE

In the tradition of Jane Goodall and Diane Fossey, Robert Sapolsky tells the mesmerizing story of his twenty-one years in remote Kenya with a troop of Savannah baboons. "I had never planned to become a savanna baboon when I grew up; instead, I had always assumed I would become a mountain gorilla," writes Robert Sapolsky in this witty and riveting chronicle of a scientist's coming-of-age in remote Africa. *A Primate's Memoir* interweaves serious scientific observations with wry commentary about the challenges and pleasures of living in the wilds of the Serengeti—for man and beast alike. Over two decades, Sapolsky survives culinary atrocities, gunpoint encounters, and a surreal kidnapping, while witnessing the encroachment of the tourist mentality on the farthest vestiges of unspoiled Africa. As he conducts unprecedented physiological research on wild primates, he becomes evermore enamored of his subjects—unique and compelling characters in their own right—and he returns to them summer after summer, until tragedy finally prevents him.

Mr. Prince – *The True Story of Fatima* by Fr. John de Marchi

NONFICTION / FAITH

Surprisingly few people know about the story of Fatima, when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. It is very important to read about what happened to the children at Fatima. It is very intimate and beautiful. It takes you straight to the heart of God in Fatima, so I think it's important that it be one of your first experiences of Fatima. So much of the material you find on the internet about Fatima is either difficult, or challenging, or controversial, that it's always good to come back, in a sense, to the source. The story of the children is easy to take as sticky-sweet, sentimental, and old-fashioned, but in reality those children are models for us as we consider our own reception of Our Lady's actual and decisive intervention at Fatima into our "modern" world.

I have only one copy of this book that I can loan for the summer. I used to have many, but now I am having difficulty getting more. The book can be read online at and/or downloaded from <http://fatima.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/The-True-Story-of-Fatima.pdf>. It can also be bought from Amazon for \$12. I am told that you can also purchase the book for \$3 by phone by dialing 1-800-263-8160. Another option would be to bring me a thumb drive and I can copy the pdf file from my computer.

Mrs. Richburg – *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

NONFICTION / SPORTS

Coming into the 2016 Olympics in Brazil, it had been eighty years since the boys from Washington State paddled out of Puget Sound and into Hitler's 1936 Berlin Games, representing the USA alongside Jesse Owens (of the 2016 film, *Race*) and Louis Zamperini (of Laura Hildebrand's *Unbroken*). Brown's story tells of their challenges and successes as athletes and Americans. Athlete or not, one can learn from the story about teamwork, loyalty, dedication, perseverance and commitment. Whether leading or just joining a team, many secrets to success lie in and between the lines. This is a highly recommended read for STA.

Mrs. Richburg – *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom

MEMOIR

The story begins at Brandeis University in 1975, where Professor Morrie Schwartz and his students began a relationship that extended from the classroom to the Shapiro Dining Hall and beyond. The author, Mitch Albom, graduated from Brandeis in 1979, and became a popular Chicago sports writer before penning his story of ongoing friendship with Morrie. On the *NY Times* Best Seller List for four years, it is now considered the most widely read memoir ever.

Mrs. Richburg – *The First Phone Call from Heaven* by Mitch Albom

FICTION

What you believe and whether you believe it all the time comes to question in this title by Mitch Albom, who pushes on the veil between heaven and earth and spins a fine wire from one to the other.

Mr. Schoff – *Mind Gym: An Athlete's Guide to Inner Excellence* by Gary Mack, with David Casstevens **NONFICTION / SPORTS**

Excerpt: "When Yogi Berra became manager of the Yankees, a reporter asked if he had enough experience to handle the job. 'Sure,' Berra said. 'I've been playing 18 years, and you can observe a lot just by watching.' Closing his notebook, the writer walked away wearing the same look of faint bewilderment that the waitress had after she asked Yogi if he wanted his pizza cut into four slices or eight. 'Better make it four,' Yogi decided. 'I dunno if I can eat eight.' "

Gary Mack explores mental training as a means of not only enhancing performance and increasing productivity, but also as a way of adding to the enjoyment of the game you are playing. "Achieving inner excellence is a process. Building mental muscle, like building physical muscle, requires time and effort."

Mr. Tinney – *1984* by George Orwell

FICTION

This novel was written in 1948 and has never been scarier than it is today. Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth. His job is to rewrite newspaper articles to reflect what the government wants people to believe about the past. Big Brother is watching you, indeed!

Mrs. Wade -- *The Four Gospels: The Contemporary English Version* (Tarcher Cornerstone Editions) **NONFICTION / FAITH
by American Bible Society (Author), Phyllis Tickle (Foreword)**

"Discover and understand the beauty and richness of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as never before. Here are the life and teachings of Jesus, as found in the four Gospels of the New Testament—now available in this important new collection with a foreword by best-selling author Phyllis Tickle. These Gospels are the foundation of Christianity, the bedrock of our culture. In them are found the birth of Jesus, his extraordinary life, and the story of his death and triumphant resurrection." —*Amazon.com*

Mrs. Wade -- *Seek the Fair Land* by Walter Macken

FICTION

This is a vivid and memorable novel set in Dublin, 1916, during the Easter Rebellion and the bitter years which followed. Through the diverging lives of two young brothers the agony of Ireland during these harrowing times is witnessed. It is the time of the Sinn Fein, of the dreaded Tans, of terrible deeds and of loyalties strained to breaking-point and beyond.

Mrs. Wade -- *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* by Immaculee Ilibagiza **NONFICTION**

"Immaculee Ilibagiza grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family she cherished. But in 1994 her idyllic world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide. Immaculee's family was brutally murdered during a killing spree that lasted three months and claimed the lives of nearly a million Rwandans. Incredibly, Immaculee survived the slaughter. For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them. It was during those endless hours of unspeakable terror that Immaculee discovered the power of prayer, eventually shedding her fear of death and forging a profound and lasting relationship with God. She emerged from her bathroom hideout having discovered the meaning of truly unconditional love - a love so strong she was able to seek out and forgive her family's killers. The triumphant story of this remarkable young woman's journey through the darkness of genocide will inspire anyone whose life has been touched by fear, suffering, and loss." —*Amazon.com*