

**Honors, UCONN and AP Courses Requiring Summer Reading/Assignments
(teachers and details listed on final pages of this document)**

<i>Art</i>	AP Studio Art: 2D/Drawing AP Studio Art: 3D
<i>English</i>	Freshman Honors English Sophomore Honors English AP Language and Composition Honors World Literature AP English Literature and Composition
<i>World Language</i>	AP/ECE/Honors Spanish V AP/ECE Latin IV/V
<i>Science</i>	Honors General Science Honors Biology AP Biology Honors Chemistry AP Chemistry AP Physics 1 and C AP Environmental Science
<i>Social Studies</i>	Global Studies Honors AP United States History AP Psychology AP European History

KEY

- * **easier reading**
- ** **moderate reading level**
- *** **more difficult reading level**
- + **may be borrowed through RHAM's English Department**
- MC **print edition available from the RHAM Media Center**
- MCK **available on a Kindle from the RHAM Media Center**
- ² **book is available as an audio file or CD.**
- K **available on Kindle**

INCOMING FRESHMAN ENGLISH STUDENTS

RECOMMENDED TITLES

FRESHMEN TAKING HONORS ENGLISH, SEE ALTERNATE REQUIREMENT.

* easier reading level ** moderate reading level *** more difficult reading level

TEACHER PICKS	
Mrs. Coffey	<i>A Monster Calls</i> by Patrick Ness* Hauntingly beautiful illustrations woven into an emotionally-intense story of a young boy whose mom is battling cancer.
Mrs. Beirn	<i>Unwind</i> by Neal Shusterman ** On the list!
Mrs. Dineen	<i>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</i> by Ishamel Beah ** On the list!!
Mrs. Erami	<i>Time Zero</i> by Carolyn Cohagan. ** Fifteen year old Mina Clark lives in a future Manhattan that is ruled by extremists. Girls aren't allowed to get an education, they need permission to speak to boys, and all marriages are arranged by contract. But Mina's grandmother has secretly been teaching her to read, leading Mina down a path of rebellion and danger.
	<i>The Selections Series</i> by Kierra Cass * and <i>The Legend Series</i> by Marie Lu*
STUDENT PICKS for FRESHMEN	
Isabelle Goode	<i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> by Stephen Chbosky **
Olivia Ortegon	<i>Since You've Been Gone</i> by Morgan Matson *
	<i>The Legend Series</i> by Marie Lu **
	<i>The Selection Series</i> by Kiera Cass **
Jordan Rivera (senior pick for freshman)	<i>Vampirates: Demons of the Ocean</i> by Justin Somper (series)*

The Alchemist by Paul Coelho * **MC K²**

Santiago dreams of seeing the world. A fateful encounter with an alchemist in Egypt brings him down a new life's path.

America by E.R. Frank ** **MC²**

The tale of America, a foster child who disappears until a doctor helps him revisit all the darkness in his past to move with a new vision into his *future*.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie** **MC**

Ten strangers are invited to an isolated island by U.N. Owen, and one by one, each of them is killed for a guilty secret he hides. Who is the killer? Who will survive? Who will get away with murder?

The Attack by Yasmina Khadra ** **MC K²**

An Arab-Israeli citizen working as a respected surgeon finds his life torn apart as he deals with the discovery that his wife was a suicide bomber.

Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez * **MC K²**

The story of a young girl's experience living under a Dominican dictatorship and an Anne Frank-style underground survival.

Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes * **MC K²**

Teens in the Bronx tell their stories which include overcoming disabilities, teen pregnancy, image problems, and physical abuse in poetry and music lyrics during Open Mics.

Born Confused by Tanuja Desai Hidier ** **MC K**

Dimple doesn't know what to think. Her parents are from India, and she's spent years rebelling against their customs. Now everything from India is suddenly hip --- even her best friend Gwyn has a bindi dot as an accessory. To make matters worse, Dimple's parents are trying to set her up with a "suitable boy." Their first meeting is a disaster --- the boy is way too soft-spoken. But then she bumps into the boy again at a club --- where he's the DJ.

Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac * **MC**

The first and only memoir by one of the original Navajo code talkers of WW II.

Fat Kid Rules the World by K.L. Going * **MC K**

Troy Billings, a 296-pound 17-year-old contemplates ending his life when he is interrupted by a legendary punk-rock guitarist and sometime-student.

First they Killed my Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers by Loung Ung ** **MC MCK K**

A Chinese-Cambodian family was in great danger when the Khmer Rouge took over the country and throughout Pol Pot's barbaric regime.

Freaky Green Eyes by Joyce Carol Oates * **MC²**

A gripping story of a fourteen-year-old girl whose mother suddenly disappears

A Girl Named Disaster by Nancy Farmer * **MC K²**

Nhamo, a young girl, is forced out of her Zimbabwe village after refusing an arranged marriage at 12 and fights for survival over the next year in the wilds of Africa.

Colors of the Mountain by Da Chen *** **MCK K²**

This memoir describes the life of Chen, as he and his family live through Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution in China where they are routinely beaten and sent to labor camps

Grayson by Lynne Cox * **MCK K²**

The true story of Lynne, a teenage girl, and her miraculous encounter with a baby whale off the coast of California.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick* **MC²**

An intricate mystery of a young orphan, clock-keeper, and thief, Hugo Cabret, who has been living undetected with his secrets in the walls of a Paris train station. However, an eccentric young girl, an old man, and a robot threaten to upset everything as Hugo awaits an important message from beyond the grave.
Told largely through beautiful illustrations.

Jellicoe Road by Melina Marchetta * **MC**

A territory war at a boarding school and a young protagonist searching for answers to her past leads her on a journey of unexpected twists and truths.

Krik? Krak! by Edwidge Danticat ** **MC K**

Danticat, born under Haitian dictatorship and moved to the U.S. 12 years ago, relates stories that reflect the misery she has observed from afar as well the trials as an immigrant.

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah ** **MC MCK K**

Beah recounts his experiences as a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s, during one of the most brutal and violent civil wars in recent history.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate*

Ivan, a once wild gorilla, lives an easygoing life as a shopping mall attraction until the arrival of a baby elephant makes him see his environment and purpose in a new light. A fictionalized account of a true story.

Odd Girl Speaks Out by Rachel Simmons* **MC**

A collection of confessions from young women about the cruelty and pain adolescent girls often inflict upon each other within their friendships. The bullied and the bully both speak out, and victims offer insight into how they endured the pain to emerge stronger..

A Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida by Victor Martinez * **MC K**

In this coming of age story, Manny Hernandez and his family struggle with problems of discrimination in his attempt to acclimate to the American culture.

Parvana's Journey by Deborah Ellis * **MC K²**

While fleeing war-torn Afghanistan disguised as a boy, Parvana must overcome a series of horrifying and unforgettable obstacles.

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Ji-li Jiang ** **MC K²**

This true narrative is the story of a young girl during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, the struggles her family and others face, and their beliefs about Chinese Communism.

Slam by Walter Dean Myers ** **MC²**

Greg Harris, the hot shot star of his Harlem high school team, has to learn to be a team player at his new school—one that's more academically challenging and mostly white.

The Surrender Tree by Margarita Engle ** **MC K²**

Poems about Cuba's struggle for freedom (1850-1899) told mainly by Rosa, a "freed" slave and natural healer destined to a life on the lam in the island's wild interior.

Under the Persimmon Tree by Suzanne Staples ** **MC K**

A young Afghan girl finds herself alone when her father and older brother are conscripted by the Taliban and her mother and newborn brother are killed in an air raid.

We Beat the Streets: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success by Sampson Davis * **MC K**

The true story of three boys who made a teenage pact to leave their impoverished New Jersey neighborhood, attend medical school, and become doctors.

Where Things Come Back by John Corey Whaley ** **MC K**

In the remarkable, bizarre, and heart-wrenching summer before Cullen Witter's senior year of high school, he is forced to examine everything he thinks he understands about his small and painfully dull Arkansas town

Divergent (Book 1) by Veronica Roth * **MC K 2**

In a dystopian Chicago, teens must select the "group" to which they will devote their lives. Beatrice's decision is between family and who she really is—she can't have both.

Unwind by Neal Shusterman * **MC K 2**

After the Second Civil War, the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life armies came to an agreement: human life may not be touched from the moment of conception until a child reaches the age of thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, a parent may choose to retroactively get rid of a child through a process called "unwinding."

INCOMING SOPHOMORE ENGLISH STUDENTS

RECOMMENDED READING

SOPHOMORES TAKING HONORS ENGLISH, SEE ALTERNATE REQUIREMENT

* easier reading level ** moderate reading level *** more difficult reading level

TEACHER PICKS	
Mrs. Coffey	<i>Everybody Sees the Ants</i> by AS King ** AMAZING; does have some mature content
Mrs. Anger	<i>The Good Braider</i> by Terry Farish * On this list!
Mrs. Beirn	<i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak **
Mrs. Dineen	<p><i>Finnikin of the Rock</i> (Book 1 of a series) by Melina Marchetta** A suspenseful adventure set in a medieval world that is frighteningly much like our own</p> <p><i>Fans of the Impossible Life</i> by Kate Scelsa.** At Saint Francis Prep school in Mountain View, New Jersey, Mira, Jeremy, and Sebby come together as they struggle with romance, bullying, foster home and family problems, and mental health issues. MC</p> <p><i>Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda</i> by Becky Albertalli. * Sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly-gay Simon Spier is blackmailed into playing wingman for his classmate or else his sexual identity--and that of his pen pal--will be revealed. MC</p>
STUDENT PICKS for SOPHOMORES	
Lauren Hentschel, Shilo Hollister Jen Hallbach Emily Wilsey Erin Stankiewicz Lauren Burton Lauren Hickey Bob Sudduth Emma Fuini Jacob Sanstrom Derek Lund	<p><i>Wild</i> by Cheryl Strayed</p> <p><i>We were Liars</i> by E Lockhart,</p> <p><i>Carrie</i> by Stephen King; <i>Will Greyson, Will Greyson</i> by John Green; <i>Looking for Alaska</i>, by John Green</p> <p><i>Eleanor and Park</i> by Rainbow Rowell ,</p> <p><i>Looking for Alaska</i>, by John Green</p> <p><i>The Summer I Turned Pretty</i> by Jenny Han, <i>The Five People you meet in Heaven</i> by Mitch Albom</p> <p><i>The Collectors</i> by David Baldacci</p> <p><i>More Than This</i> by Patrick Ness, <i>House Rules</i> by Jodi Picoult</p> <p><i>The Wolf of Wall Street</i> by Jordan Belford</p> <p><i>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</i> by Ransom Riggs. On this list!!</p>

A Curious Incident of a Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon ** **MC K 2**

A murder mystery of sorts told by an autistic fifteen-year-old, Christopher John Francis Boone, who is mathematically gifted and socially hopeless. Raised in a working-class home by parents who can barely cope with their child's quirks, he takes everything that he sees at face value and is unable to sort out the strange behavior of his elders and peers.

The Good Braider by Terry Farish ** **MC K**

In spare free verse laced with unforgettable images, Viola's striking voice sings out the story of her family's journey from war-torn Sudan, to Cairo, to Portland, Maine.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak ** **MC MCK K 2**

A novel told by "Death" is about a young girl sent to live at a foster home in Germany during World War II, who struggles through the horrors of the war but still manages to treasure many small things like learning to read.

Tiger Force: A True Story of Men and War by Sallah and Weiss *** **MC K 2**

A compelling, chilling story drawn from firsthand accounts in interviews with victims' families and more than 40 former members of the Tiger Force, as well as a suppressed document that came out of an army investigation. The result is one of the most important books on the Vietnam War.

Sold by Patricia McCormick * **MC MCK K 2**

Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. When the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi is unknowingly sold into the cruel world of prostitution and must work to pay off her family's debts.

Eagle Blue by Mike D'Orso *** **MC MCK K**

This novel follows the Eagles, winners of six regional championships in a row, through the course of an entire 28-game season, from their first day of practice in late November to the Alaska State Championship Tournament in March.

Eldest by Christopher Paolini ** **MC MCK K 2**

The sequel to *Eragon*, in this novel he and his dragon, Saphira, travel to Ellesmera, land of the elves, for training in the skills of the Dragon Rider: magic and swordsmanship.

Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers ** **MC K 2**

"Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's going – Iraq.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien ** + **MC K**

Bilbo Baggins and the dwarves' goal is to return to their ancestral home in the Lonely Mountains and reclaim a stolen fortune from the dragon Smaug.

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment by James Patterson * **MC K 2**

In this adventurous novel, Wood is a 14-year-old leader of a band of talented kids who have escaped the lab where they were bred as 98% human and 2% bird.

My Heartbeat by Garret Freymann-Weyr ** **MC K 2**

This mature romance focuses on a girl's infatuation with her brother's best friend whom she thinks may be gay.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd ** **MC K 2**

When Lily's "stand-in mother" insults three of the town's most vicious racists, they both escape to a town that holds the secret to her mother's past.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs** **MC** (not recommended for Kindle)

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. 16 year-old Jacob finds a crumbling home...for children.

Annexed by Sharon Dogar ** **MC K 2**

Anne Frank's story of hiding in the annex is well known— but what about Peter who was also trapped there with her? His story takes readers into the horror of death camps.

Tender Morsels by Margo Lanagan * **MC K 2**

A traumatized teen mother magically escapes to her own personal heaven in this daring and deeply moving fantasy derived from "Snow-White and Rose-Red."

Kit's Wilderness by David Almond * **MC K 2**

When Kit meets John Askew, another boy whose family had both worked and died in the mines, Askew invites Kit to join him to play a game called Death.

Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer * **MC K**

Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of shoe stores to confront the owner's son; along the way Jenna finds the strength to face her alcoholic father.

The Buddha in the Attic ** **MC K 2**

A gorgeous novel by that tells the story of a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as "picture brides" nearly a century ago.

Matched by Ally Condie ** **MC K**

Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. But when it comes to matching her with someone who she will be with forever, she starts to doubt the society she has always known.

Bad Girls Don't Die by Katie Alender * **MC K**

When Alexis's little sister Kasey becomes obsessed with an antique doll, Alexis thinks she is just being her usual weird self. Things get weirder, though, when their house, and Kasey, start changing.

If I Stay by Gayle Forman ** **MC K**

One February morning, Mia goes for a drive with her family, and in an instant, everything changes. Suddenly, all the choices are gone, except one. And it's the only one that matters.

Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver ** **MC K**

For popular high school senior Samantha Kingston, February 12—"Cupid Day"—should be one big party, a day of valentines and roses and the privileges that come with being at the top of the social pyramid. And it is...until she dies in a terrible accident that night.

Funny and Farsi: A memoir of growing up Iranian in America by Firoozeh Dumas ** **MC K**

In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with little knowledge of this country. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since. The novel humorously depicts the family's struggles to understand American traditions and culture as they assimilate to the United States.

Thanks for the Trouble by Tommy Wallach ** MC K

Parker Santé hasn't spoken a word in five years. While his classmates plan for bright futures, he skips school to hang out in hotels, killing time by watching the guests. But when he meets a silver-haired girl named Zelda Toth, a girl who claims to be quite a bit older than she looks, he discovers that there may be a few things left that are worth living for.

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah ** MC K

Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. *The Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France.

INCOMING JUNIOR ENGLISH STUDENTS

RECOMMENDED READING

JUNIORS TAKING AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION, SEE ALTERNATE REQUIREMENTS.

* easier reading level ** moderate reading level *** more difficult reading level

TEACHER PICKS

Mrs. Coffey

Reality Boy by AS King ** FANTASTIC! Does have mature content
Ishmael by Daniel Quinn *** This book will change your life. On this list!!
The Help by Kathryn Stockett ** I hid from my children just to finish this book. On this list!!

Mrs. Dineen

Fans of the Impossible Life by Kate Scelsa.** At Saint Francis Prep school in Mountain View, New Jersey, Mira, Jeremy, and Sebby come together as they struggle with romance, bullying, foster home and family problems, and mental health issues. **MC**

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli. * Sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly-gay Simon Spier is blackmailed into playing wingman for his classmate or else his sexual identity--and that of his pen pal--will be revealed. **MC**

Mrs. Beirn

The Strange Case of "The Angels of Mons": Arthur Machen's World War I Story, the Insistent Believers, and His Refutations by Richard J. Bleiler. WWI began disastrously for the British when the Germans routed them at Mons, Belgium, in August 1914. Less than a week later, the Anglo-Welsh writer Arthur Machen fictionalized this encounter in a newspaper story, claiming that the English were saved by the appearance of angelic bowmen sent by St. George. This fiction became accepted as fact. Bleiler explores the controversy. **MC**

The Girl with All the Gifts by M. R. Carey** Not your typical zombie apocalypse thriller from the writer of X-Men, DC, and Marvel comics. A fast, addicting read!

Paper Towns by John Green* After a prank-filled night of revenge with Margo Roth Spiegelman, his secret love, Quentin wakes to find she has vanished, but not without leaving clues for Quentin. And so the quest begins...

Mrs. Vega-Boulay

Now is the Time for Running by Michael Williams* A riveting story of soccer and survival as Deo and his brother Innocent flee war-torn Zimbabwe for the safety of South Africa.

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel** What would the world look like after a flu pandemic? This eerie setting reinvents civilization as we know it.

Contemporary List:

The Unfinished Life of Addison Stone by Adele Griffin * **MC K**

Sensationally popular 18-year-old artist Addison Stone has died and this faux biography recounts her story in the form of interviews, photographs, and examples of her art.

Ishmael by Daniel Quinn *** **MC** ²

This book will blow your mind. The unnamed narrator meets a wise, learned gorilla named Ishmael that can communicate telepathically. Through Ishmael, Quinn examines the history of our civilization, illuminating the assumptions and philosophies at the heart of many global problems.

Glory O'Brien's History of the Future by A. S. King ** **MC**

Beware of drinking liquefied bats! Glory O'Brien does and suddenly finds she can see the past and future of everyone she encounters. Everyone except herself. What does her future hold?

Wildlife by Fiona Wood * **MC K**

Classmates and new friends Sibylla and Lou spend a semester in the wilderness and see their lives changed.

13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher * **MC K** ²

When Clay Jenson plays the cassette tapes he received in a mysterious package, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker.

Kerplunk! Stories by Patrick McManus * **MC K** ²

In these tall tales, McManus and his buddies learn how not to net a fish, why you should never get your hair cut by someone who's mad at you, what to do when a deer wanders into camp but your sleeping bag has frozen shut, and how to avoid bird-dog flatulence.

Handling Sin by Michael Malone ** **MC K**

Left with a mysterious list of seven outrageous tasks that Raleigh must perform in order to rescue his father and his inheritance, he and fat Mingo Sheffield (his irrepressibly loyal friend) set off on an uproarious contemporary treasure hunt through a landscape of unforgettable characters, falling into adventures worthy of Tom Jones and Huck Finn.

Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister by Gregory Maguire *** **MC MCK K** ²

Do fairy tales REALLY end with "happily ever after"? We've all heard the story of Cinderella, the beautiful child cast out to slave among the ashes. But what of her stepsisters, the homely pair exiled by the fame of their lovely sibling? What fate befell those untouched by beauty and what curses accompanied Cinderella's exquisite looks?

Ghost Soldiers: The Epic Account of World War II's Greatest Rescue Mission by Hampton Sides * **MC K** ²

On January 28, 1945, 121 hand-selected U.S. troops slipped behind enemy lines in the Philippines. Their mission: March thirty rugged miles to rescue 513 POWs languishing in a hellish camp, among them the last survivors of the infamous Bataan Death March. Sides vividly re-creates this daring raid alongside intimate portraits of the prisoners.

A Gracious Plenty by Sherri Reynolds * **MC K** ²

In this poignant story, Finch Nobles, a young girl, ostracized because of burn scars, is able to commune with spirits of the dead.

If I Die in a Combat Zone: Box me up and Ship me Home by Tim O'Brien ** **MC MCK K** ²

In this memoir, O'Brien recalls his days as a Vietnam War infantryman, and calls into question the definitions of "heroism" and "cowardice".

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline ** MC K 2

It's the year 2044, and the real world is an ugly place. Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes his grim surroundings by spending his waking hours jacked into the OASIS, a virtual utopia that lets you be anything you want to be, a place where you can live and play and fall in love on any of ten thousand planets.

No Excuses!: The True Story of a Congenital Amputee Who Became a Champion in Wrestling and in Life by Kyle Maynard * MC K 2

This inspirational account details the life of a young man who defied all odds in his quest for success.

Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo ** MC

In this detailed look at World War I, Thomas Peaceful, who lies about his age to fight alongside his brother, details his experiences on the battlefield.

Scorpion Tongues: Gossip, Celebrity and American Politics by Gail Collins ** MC K

Think today's politics get nasty? This timely history of political gossip begins with George Washington's administration and traces the relationship between gossip and government to the blurring of lines between politicians and celebrities.

Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam by Bernard Edelman * MC

Letters written by American soldiers during the Vietnam War reveal the impact of war on the men and women who served.

An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting... by Laura Schroff ** MC K

Stopping was never part of the plan . . . She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back.

War by Sebastian Junger ** MC MCK K 2

Junger narrates his 14 months time in 2007–2008 embedded with a platoon of the 173rd Airborne brigade in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, one of the bloodiest corners of the conflict.

Coming of Age in Mississippi by Anne Moody * MC K 2

Born to a poor couple who were tenant farmers on a plantation in Mississippi, Anne Moody lived through some of the most dangerous days of the pre-civil rights era in the South. The week before she began high school came the news of Emmett Till's lynching.

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki ** MC 2

The true story of Wakatsuki who was seven years old when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp--with 10,000 other Japanese Americans. Along with searchlight towers and armed guards, Manzanar held within it a little known tragedy of American history.

Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green ** MC MCK K 2

When Will Grayson, an awkward teen who is unsure of how to connect with others without getting hurt, and Will Grayson (same name, different kid), an angry, gay teen, both living in the suburbs of Chicago, meet by chance, their lives are forever changed...and connected.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett ** MC MCK K 2

On the bestseller list since 2009, a young white woman in the early 1960s in Mississippi becomes interested in the plight of the black maids that every family has working for them. She writes their stories about mistreatment, abuse and heartbreaks of working in white families' homes-- but it is so much more than just stories.

Yoko Ono: Collector of Skies. By Nell Beram and Boriss-Krimsky ** MC

Many people know Yoko Ono's name, but they don't know her story. A musician, an artist, a performer, a writer, an activist, a mother, a wife, but most importantly—a collector of skies.

Gay America: Struggle for Equality by Linas Alsenas ** MC K

This work provides a chronological overview of public attitudes toward homosexuality throughout American history, as well as the experience of gay people during these prescriptive, restrictive, and even dangerous periods.

Humans of New York: Stories by Brandon Stanton * MC

In pictures and interviews that captivate, puzzle and reveal, photojournalist Brandon Stanton collects an immeasurable range of human emotions and perspectives. The photos draw us in and their subjects' words leave us wondering and cheering at the variety of humanity.

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates ** MC K

National Book award Winner. Coates writes to his 15-year-old son about the inborn hazards of being black in America and his own intellectual, political and emotional confrontation with the need to live fully, even in the face of racist culture.

Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War by Steve Sheinkin *** MC K

Award for Best Non-Fiction. A thrilling journalistic account of government insider who leaked the Pentagon Papers and exposed the questionable decisions that led to the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War. A timely exploration of American history that crackles with tension and excitement.

The Carnival at Bray by Jessie Ann Foley * MC K

Prince Award Winner. In 1993, Maggie is dismayed to leave Chicago and her beloved Uncle behind when she moves to a small Irish town. Yet it is within this evocative setting that Foley unwinds Maggie's exceptional coming-of-age tale, where Maggie discovers music and forgiveness as antidotes for grief.

Library of Souls The Third Novel of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs * MC

The adventure that began with *Miss Peregrine's Home* and continued into *Hollow City* comes to a thrilling conclusion. Sixteen-year-old Jacob discovers a powerful new ability, and soon he's diving through history to rescue his peculiar companions from a heavily guarded fortress. Thrilling fantasy blended with vintage photography.

Classics List:

A Night to Remember by Walter Lord ** + MC K²

This nonfiction story is the tragic account of the night the Titanic sank.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin ** + MC K²

Edna Pontellier, a wife and mother, yearns to change her stagnant life in pursuit of romance and art.

Black Boy by Richard Wright *** MC MCK K 2

This powerful, stark memoir details the author's harsh experiences as a young black person growing up rural Mississippi, amidst widespread racial and economic prejudice.

Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux by John Neihardt ** MC K 2

This inspirational and powerful story reveals the life and visions of the Lakota healer Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950) and the tragic history of his Sioux people during the final decades of the Old West.

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway ** + MC K 2

Set during WWI in Italy, a wounded American soldier named Frederick Henry falls in love with nurse Catherine Barkley.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith* + MC K 2

Francie, the protagonist, grows up in the slums of Brooklyn during the early part of the twentieth century.

East of Eden by John Steinbeck ** + MC MCK K 2

Steinbeck narrates a story of guilt and betrayal intertwined into sibling rivalry. Spanning the period between the American Civil War and the end of World War I, the novel highlights the conflicts of two generations of brothers; the first being the kind, gentle Adam Trask and his wild brother Charles.

Cannery Row ** MC K 2

Focusing on the acceptance of life as it is and unburdened by the material necessities of the more fortunate, the denizens of Cannery Row discover rewards unknown in more traditional society.

Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury ** + MC K 2

This collection of short stories presents Bradbury's Mars--a place of hope, dreams and fossil seas where a fine dust settles on the great, empty cities of a silently destroyed civilization. It is here the invaders have come to despoil and commercialize, to grow and to learn from a world with no future toward a promise of tomorrow.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told by Alex Haley by Attallah Shabazz, et al. *** MC K

This autobiography addresses one of the most misunderstood figures in American History, Malcolm X, erroneously viewed as an evil racist hate-monger to the champion of modern day militant pro-Black radicals

Slaughter-House Five by Kurt Vonnegut *** + MC K 2

Billy Pilgrim, a former WWII POW, travels backward and forward in time as he attempts to come to grips with the horrors of war and his readjustment to civilian life.

A River Runs Through It by Norman MacLean ** MC MCK K

A semi-autobiographical collection of stories about a western Montana town populated with drunks, loggers, card sharks, and a bit of promiscuity. Surrounded by small towns, trout streams and mountains of western Montana, MacLean's stories concern themselves with the complexities of fly fishing, logging, fighting forest fires, playing cribbage, and being a husband, a son, and a father.

INCOMING SENIOR ENGLISH STUDENTS

RECOMMENDED READING

SENIORS TAKING AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION OR HONORS WORLD LITERATURE SEE ALTERNATE REQUIREMENTS

* easier reading level ** moderate reading level *** more difficult reading level

TEACHER PICKS	
Mrs. Coffey	<i>I Crawl Through It</i> by A.S. King** On the list (you have to like extended metaphors)
Mrs. Beirn	<i>The Night Circus</i> by Erin Morgenstern** A circus that arrives and leaves without warning and which is only open at night masks a severe competition between two young magicians who do not realize they are pawns in a game with dire consequences. This reads like a Tim Burton (<i>A Nightmare Before Christmas</i>) film.
Mrs. Vega-Boulay	<i>Those Who Save Us</i> by Jenna Blum** Trudy has one photograph from her life in Germany during WWII when she was 3; it includes her mother and an unknown Nazi soldier. Researching the past reveals a heartbreaking truth about her mother's life. A beautiful story of the mother-daughter bond and the great and terrible sacrifices we make for those we love. Mature content.
Mrs. Dineen	<i>The Ocean at the End of the Lane</i> by Neil Gaiman ** This fantastical story looks at a seven year old's journey from the dark side of what lies at the end of the lane.
	<i>The Silent Sister: a novel**</i> , by Diane Chamberlain. This <i>New York Times</i> best seller asks: What if everything you believed was a lie? Riley MacPherson discovers her life is based on secrets when they start to unravel. Riley must decide what the past means for her present, and what she will do with her newfound reality. MC
	<i>Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption</i> , by Bryan Stevenson.** The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice. MC
STUDENT PICKS for SENIORS	
Austin Peterson Anonymous	<i>It</i> by Stephen King <i>Ask the Passengers</i> by A.S. King; <i>Impulse</i> by Ellen Hopkins <i>The Pact</i> by Jodi Picoult

Contemporary List

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant ** **MC K 2**

In the Bible, Dinah's life is only hinted at alongside Jacob and his twelve sons. Told in Dinah's voice, Diamant imagines the traditions and turmoil of ancient womanhood--the world of the red tent reaches out from a remarkable period of early history and creates an intimate connection with the past.

The Bookseller of Kabul by Asne Seierstad *** + **MC** ²

An intimate and brutally honest portrayal of the lives of Afghani citizens living under fundamentalist Islam. Seierstad uncovers shocking stories and her visceral account is equally seductive and repulsive. An international bestseller, it will likely stand as one of the best books of reportage of Afghan life after the fall of the Taliban.

Eating the Sun: How Plants Power the Planet by Oliver Morton *** **MC**

A quest to understand how plants may have kick-started the complex life cycle on Earth and how photosynthesis might be harnessed to regain balance in the earth's temperature. Morton includes technical discussions and elegant synthesis of biology, physics and environmental science that can inform our discussions of urgent issues

Armageddon in Retrospect by Kurt Vonnegut ** **MC MCK K** ²

Vonnegut presents a vivid portrait of his harrowing escape from the fire-bombing of Dresden. The story then moves into fiction full of humor, the impossibility of peace in the world, and exposes truths through jokes and an Apocalypse.

Going Postal by Terry Pratchett * **MC MCK K** ²

Moist encounters ghosts, the voices of unsent letters, and a ruthless corporate conspiracy in an attempt to save the postal industry. Fortunately Moist has friends: the determined Miss Dearheart, a golem with more than feet of clay, and a secret society of unemployed and very unusual postal workers as well as a vampire named Oscar.

Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001 by Steve Coll *** **MC K** ²

Includes revealing details of the CIA's involvement in the evolution of the Taliban and Al Qaeda in the years before the September 11 attacks. A complex study of intelligence operations and an invaluable resource for those seeking a nuanced understanding of how a small band of extremists rose to inflict incalculable damage on American soil.

Looking for Alaska by John Green * **MC K** ²

Sixteen-year-old Miles Halter's adolescence has been one long nonevent - no challenge, no girls, no mischief, and no real friends. He leaves Florida for a boarding school in Birmingham, AL. His roommate's best friend is Alaska whom Miles and every other male falls instantly in love. She is literate, beautiful, and reckless. And now she's missing.

The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town by John Grisham ** **MCK K**

The true story of a baseball hero from a small town in Oklahoma who winds up a mentally unstable Major League washout railroaded onto death row for a hometown rape and murder he did not commit.

Feed by M.T. Anderson ** **MC K** ²

It started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play at the Ricochet Lounge. Unfortunately this was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. A dystopian novel unnervingly close to the here and now.

A People's History of the United States 1492-Present by Howard Zinn *** **MC**

A comprehensive history of the United States, from the impact of Columbus's and others' arrival in the New World through modern times. This is the history that is usually not told, about America's misuses of African Americans, Native Americans, and other traditionally disenfranchised groups.

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch** MC K 2

A computer science professor delivers his last lecture, having recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave--"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"--wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment

Pretty Shield by Frank B Lindermann **

Pretty-shield, the legendary medicine woman of the Crows, remembered what life was like on the Plains when the buffalo were still plentiful. A powerful healer who was forceful, astute, and compassionate, Pretty-shield experienced many changes as her formerly mobile people were forced to come to terms with reservation life.

The Long Run: A Novel by Leo Furey ** MC

By day the boys are obedient students, but when the sun goes down the Dare Klub rules the night: raiding the bakery; stealing sacramental wine; and talking endlessly about girls and sex. They help each other through waves of loneliness and sadness, but when the Brothers discover the wine is missing, they go on a manhunt.

Low Boy by John Wray * MC K 2

Will Heller, a 16-year old paranoid schizophrenic off his meds, sets out on an odyssey to single handedly rescue the world from destruction as a result of global warming.

Missing Mom by Joyce Carol Oates * MC K 2

This compassionate and compelling story describes a young woman's life after the unexpected loss of her mother.

My Ishamel by Daniel Quinn ** MC

The sequel to Daniel Quinn's novel *Ishmael*. The agricultural revolution gave rise over time to the modern-day Taker culture. With this rise the Taker's put forth the attitude that they were in control of their own destiny and chose to live in a seemingly unnatural way. They decided for themselves to conquer the world without care of the consequences to all other life.

My Losing Season: A Memoir by Pat Conroy ** MC K 2

The true story of Conroy's pivotal senior year as captain of the Citadel Bulldogs. He chronicles the highs and lows of that fateful 1966-67 season, his tough disciplinarian coach, the joys of winning, and the hard-won lessons of losing. Most of all, he recounts playing a sport that would become a metaphor for a man whose spirit could never be defeated.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini ** MC K 2

A heart-wrenching story about two Afghani women's power of love, the bonds of friendship, the love of country, and the struggle to survive. The book covers the issues of class, religion, work, education, sexuality, and raising children. All are highlighted by the tumult of Afghanistan's history.

Fire and Forget: Short Stories of the Long War by Ed. Roy Scranton and Matt Gallagher ** MC K

Searing and true stories from the war zones of Afghanistan, Iraq, written by those who were there and those waiting at home --a necessary collection to write and to read. Contains graphic language and content.

The True Story of Hansel and Gretel: A Novel of War and Survival by Louise Murphy ** MC MCK K
The author transforms the classic fairy tale into a haunting story of two children surviving in WWII Poland.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel * MC K +

The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel is an expert at animal behavior. During his travels to North America, Pi's ship sinks and he is forced to survive on a life raft which he shares with a 450lb Bengal tiger.

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich ** MC K

Can you really survive on minimum wage? To find out, Ehrenreich left her middle-class life for a year to see what life is really like for America's working poor.

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand ** MC K ²

A troubled child discovers his athletic ability and makes his way to the Olympics in Berlin Germany. Unfortunately with the outbreak of WWII, Louis finds himself in the air force where he is shot down and forced to survive in both the open ocean as well as a prisoner of war.

Rainbow Six by Tom Clancy ** MC

Rainbow is a top secret counterterrorist organization made up of the world's elite soldiers. The team is called in when they discover that a bioweapon has made its way into the hands of the wrong people.

Clear and Present Danger by Tom Clancy ** MC

Jack Ryan, who just become the director of the CIA, is asked by the President to investigate a murder of a businessman. When Jack discovers that there are connections to the Cartel, he heads down to Columbia to oversee the operation of a covert military force and discovers the truth of the murder.

I Crawl Through It by A.S. King **

Four accomplished teenagers are on the verge of explosion. The anxieties they face at every turn have nearly pushed them to the point of surrender: senseless high-stakes testing, the lingering damage of trauma, the buried grief of guilt and of tragic loss. They are desperate to cope—but no one is listening.

Classics List

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley ** + MC K ²

Originally written in 1932, this novel predicts the future which includes people who are genetically designed to be passive and therefore consistently useful to the ruling class.

Catch 22 by Joseph Heller *** + MC ²

The novel is a satire that describes the murderous insanity of war as nothing less than a rite of passage.

Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo ** + MC ²

Victor Hugo writes the story of Quasimodo, a deformed man, who is believed to be evil. Yet beyond the deformities, he is a good person.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte *** **MC K 2**

A Gothic romance, *Jane Eyre* is the story of an orphaned girl who, after securing a position as governess at Thornhill Manor, falls in love with Rochester, its owner.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe ** + **MC K 2**

Son of a middle-class Englishman, Crusoe takes to the sea to find adventure and finds it when on one of his voyages he is shipwrecked on a deserted South American island for thirty-five years. After scavenging his broken ship, he had only his skills and ingenuity to keep him alive.

Siddhartha by Herman Hesse *** + **MC K 2**

Siddhartha, who is a Brahmin, is a young man searching for the truth in life. Although he is torn between the spiritual and the materialistic, the ascetic and the indulgent lifestyles, he has an epiphany by the end of the novel that will never leave its reader.

Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas ** + **MC K 2**

This story about a young nobleman who travels to Paris in hopes of joining the Musketeers, and a group of adventurers who serve King Louis XIII is filled with swordplay and treachery.

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne ** + **MC K 2**

This classic novel chronicles the exploits of explorers Captain Nemo and Professor Aronnax aboard the Nautilus as they explore the vast regions below the sea.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte *** + **MC K 2**

Set on the moors of England, Bronte writes a foreboding story of obsessive love.

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath ** + **MC K 2**

Plath brilliantly draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that her insanity becomes palpably real, even rational—as accessible an experience as going to the movies. A deep penetration into the darkest and most harrowing corners of the human psyche, *The Bell Jar* is a haunting American classic.

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas ** **MC**

Thrown into a prison for a crime he did not commit, Edmond Dantes plans an elaborate escape to retrieve the treasures hidden on the island and use it to seek revenge on those who framed him in the first place.

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison** mature content **MC K**

A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity, Toni Morrison's virtuosic first novel asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender with the subtlety and grace that have always characterized her writing.

HONORS, UCONN and AP COURSES REQUIRED SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, please locate the required summer assignment on the respective teacher's website via the RHAM Home Page

ART

AP Studio Art 3D, Mrs. Dinunzio

AP Studio Art 2D/Drawing, Ms. Fisher

Sketchbooks and summer projects will be provided by Ms. Fisher and Mrs. Dinunzio in June before school is over for the summer.

ENGLISH

Freshman Honors English, Mrs. Erami

Sophomore Honors English, Mr. Brooks

AP Language and Composition (grade 11), Ms. Anger

Honors World Literature, Ms. Anger

AP Literature and Composition (grade 12), Ms. Anger

SCIENCE

Honors General Science, Mrs. Spinelli: See RHAM High School Library website for book list and required assignments.

Honors Biology, Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Coppolino

AP Biology, Ms. Mitchell

Honors Chemistry and AP Chemistry, Mrs. Bjorbekk

AP Physics 1 and C, Ms. Salemi - summer assignment can be found at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/site/salemisphysics/home>

AP Environmental Science, Ms. Salemi - summer assignment can be found at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/site/salemisphysics/home>

SOCIAL STUDIES

Global Studies Honors, Mr. Burgess - Assignment can be found (beginning on 6/1/ 2016) at the following link: (<https://sites.google.com/site/burgessrham/>)

AP United States History, Mr. Joseph

AP European History, Mr. Paluso

WORLD LANGUAGE

AP/ECE/Honors Spanish V, Ms. Nocton

Read *Las aventuras del ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha*

Complete exercises from *Una vez más*

Both books (and the writing assignment) will be provided by Ms. Nocton in June before school is over for the summer.

AP/ECE Latin IV/V, Mrs. Brower / Mr. Pingree

Read *The Aeneid of Vergil* translated by Allen Mandelbaum (Bantam Dell 2004)

Complete comprehension questions from *The Aeneid of Vergil*

Read handout on *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad*; Writing assignment comparing *The Aeneid* to *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad*

The book, comprehension questions, handout and writing assignment will be provided by Mrs. Brower or Mr. Pingree in June before school is over for the summer.

Michael Rambone, Social Studies teacher
Geri Dineen, Library Media Specialist

Erin Cote, English teacher
Meg Coffey, English teacher

Meg Biern, Special Education teacher

Thanks to Amazon.com , *Publisher's Weekly*, The American Library Association's YALSA

