

**KEY**

eBook: X = available; --- = not available

Print: if available, we have included the call number(s)

**Recommended Reading for College Bound Students**

Unlike your typical list of "recommended books for college bound students," this is an eclectic melange of classic, contemporary, nonfiction, fiction, advice, international and multicultural titles. The titles not currently available at MHS Library are on the "to purchase" list for next school year.

eBook	Print	Author / Title / Summary
X	FIC ACH, PB ACH	<b>ACHEBE, CHINUA. <i>THINGS FALL APART</i></b> Among the first African novels written in English, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> depicts the Igbo of southern Nigeria during the period of initial Western colonization. The protagonist is an ambitious young man in a traditional village who gains fame through a feat of wrestling and goes on to become a powerful leader, only to see his world collapse.
---	---	<b>AGEE, JAMES. <i>A DEATH IN THE FAMILY</i></b> A posthumous autobiographical novel, <i>A Death in the Family</i> is based on the death of his father in an automobile accident when Agee was only six. The novel richly depicts life in Knoxville, Tennessee around 1915 and stimulates thought about the fragility of family and community and one's own rootedness in the world.
X	PB ALV	<b>ALVAREZ, JULIA. <i>IN THE TIME OF BUTTERFLIES</i></b> Dede, the only survivor of the four Mirabel sisters, code named Mariposas, reveals their role in the liberation of the Dominican Republic from the dictator Trujillo.
X	PB AMI	<b>AMIS, KINGSLEY. <i>LUCKY JIM</i></b> Jim Dixon is a medieval history lecturer (and first-generation college student) who does not like academia, does not like academics, and is faced with the horrible prospect of spending the rest of his life in the pompous, affected world of the university. Regarded as one of the funniest novels of the twentieth century.
X	FIC ATW	<b>ATWOOD, MARGARET. <i>THE HANDMAID'S TALE</i></b> In Gilead, a Christian fundamentalist dystopia, fertile lower-class women serve as birth mothers for the upper class.
---	PB AUS	<b>AUSTEN, JANE. <i>PERSUASION</i></b> Anne Elliott prudently ended her engagement with Frederick Wentworth at the persuasion of her friend Lady Russell; years later, she meets Wentworth again and is given another opportunity to choose love.
X	842 BEC	<b>BECKETT, SAMUEL. <i>WAITING FOR GODOT</i></b> The story revolves around two seemingly homeless men waiting for someone—or something—named Godot. Vladimir and Estragon wait near a tree, inhabiting a drama spun of their own consciousness. The result is a comical wordplay of poetry, dreamscapes, and nonsense, which has been interpreted as mankind's inexhaustible search for meaning.
X	FIC BRA, PB BRA	<b>BRADBURY, RAY. <i>FAHRENHEIT 451</i></b> Set in a grim alternate-future setting ruled by a tyrannical government in which reading is a crime and where firemen don't douse fires, they ignite them. And they do this specifically in homes that house the most evil of evils: books.
X	FIC BRO	<b>BRONTE, EMILY. <i>WUTHERING HEIGHTS</i></b> Heathcliff and Cathy believe they're destined to love each other forever, but when cruelty and snobbery separate them, their untamed emotions expose a dark side of passion.

X	---	<b>BUTLER, OCTAVIA. <i>PARABLE OF THE SOWER</i></b> In this futuristic novel, the world that has been ravaged by war and there is a shortage of resources. Lauren, a girl who has the unusual ability to feel others' pain physically, is left alone after her family is killed and must journey north to a safer community.
---	FIC CAR, PB CAR	<b>CARD, ORSON SCOTT. <i>ENDER'S GAME</i></b> Six-year-old Ender Wiggin and his fellow students at Battle School are being trained with simulated war games to lead an invasion against an alien enemy who invaded Earth decades earlier.
---	FIC CON	<b>CONRAD, JOSEPH. <i>HEART OF DARKNESS</i></b> Marlow journeys up the Congo River on behalf of a Belgian trading company. Far upriver, he encounters the mysterious Kurtz, an ivory trader who exercises an almost godlike sway over the inhabitants of the region. Both repelled and fascinated by the man, Marlow is brought face to face with the corruption and despair at the heart of human existence
---	FIC COO	<b>JAMES FENIMORE COOPER. <i>THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS</i></b> Deep in the forests of upper New York State, Hawkeye and his Mohican friends become embroiled in the bloody battles of the French and Indian War. The novel presents a moving portrayal of life on the frontier and a vanishing race and the end of its way of life in the American wilderness.
---	574.9 D	<b>CHARLES DARWIN. <i>THE VOYAGE OF THE BEAGLE</i></b> Darwin's classic account of his expedition from 1831 to 1836 around coastal South America to the Galapagos Islands, Tahiti, Australia, across the Indian Ocean to Mauritius, and back to England, on which he made most of the observations that led eventually to his theory of evolution by natural selection. It is a dazzling display of young Darwin's curiosity and his powers of observation of people and places as well as the natural world.
X	FIC DOS	<b>FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY. <i>CRIME AND PUNISHMENT</i></b> A psychological masterpiece. Raskolnikov, an impoverished student who is convinced that humanitarian ends justify vile means, brutally murders an old woman — a pawnbroker whom he regards as "greedy...good for nothing." Overwhelmed afterwards by feelings of guilt and terror, he confesses to the crime and goes to prison. There he realizes that happiness and redemption can only be achieved through suffering.
X	PB ELL	<b>ELLISON, RALPH. <i>INVISIBLE MAN</i></b> This novel presents the memory of an unnamed African-American character who is currently living as a hermit in the basement of a New York City apartment building. As he struggles to make a life for himself, he encounters a succession of people—most of whom see him not as the individual that he is but only in relation to their particular take on race.
X	FIC FAU	<b>FAULKNER, WILLIAM. <i>AS I LAY DYING</i></b> A harrowing account of the Bundren family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Told in turns by each of the family members—including Addie herself—the novel ranges in mood from dark comedy to the deepest pathos.
X	FIC FIT, PB FIT	<b>FITZGERALD, F. SCOTT. <i>THE GREAT GATSBY</i></b> A young man corrupts himself and the American Dream to regain a lost love.
X	B FRANKLIN	<b>BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. <i>AUTOBIOGRAPHY</i></b> This unfinished autobiography, written as a letter to his son, opens a window into the life and mind of one of our nation's most beloved founding fathers.
X	FIC HAW	<b>HAWTHORNE, NATHANIEL. <i>THE SCARLET LETTER</i></b> An adulterous Puritan woman must wear a scarlet A to mark her indiscretion while guarding the secret the identity of the father of her illegitimate child.

---	FIC HEL, PB HEL	<b>HELLER, JOSEPH. <i>CATCH-22</i></b> A broad comedy about a WWII bombardier based in Italy and his efforts to avoid bombing missions.
X	FIC HUR	<b>HURSTON, ZORA NEALE. <i>THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD</i></b> Written by an African-American folklorist and anthropologist, this novel poignantly depicts the life of a thrice-married Florida woman who kills her last husband in self-defense.
X	FIC HUX	<b>HUXLEY, ALDOUS. <i>BRAVE NEW WORLD</i></b> Cloning, feel-good drugs, anti-aging programs, and total social control through politics, programming and media are ethical controversies in this compelling narrative set in the year 632 A.F. (After Ford, the deity). When Lenina and Bernard visit a savage reservation, we experience how Utopia can destroy humanity.
X	PB KAF	<b>KAFKA, FRANZ. <i>THE METAMORPHOSIS</i></b> A seemingly typical man wakes up one morning to discover that he has been transformed into a gigantic insect, and must deal with the depression over his new physical alteration, as well as the rejection of his family.
---	813.54 KIN	<b>KING, STEPHEN. <i>ON WRITING: A MEMOIR OF THE CRAFT</i></b> Whether you're a creative writing major or have a penchant for thrillers, Stephen King's book will be a great resource for any college-bound grad
---	FIC KIP, PB KIP	<b>KIPLING, RUDYARD. <i>KIM</i></b> Kim, the poor orphaned son of an Irish soldier stationed in India, searches for his identity and learns to move between the two cultures, becoming the disciple of a Tibetan monk while training as a spy for the British secret service. This book raises provocative questions about contemporary American views of personal identity, multiculturalism and colonialism.
---	---	<b>LINCOLN, ABRAHAM. <i>SELECTED SPEECHES AND WRITINGS</i></b> It was the Great Emancipator who held the United States together during the Civil War. His strength of character, sharp wit, and quest for peace made him one of our nation's greatest presidents. Of all Lincoln's speeches, our strongest recommendations are these three: the speech on the Kansas-Nebraska Act at Peoria (October 16, 1854); the address to the Washington Temperance Society of Springfield, Illinois (February 22, 1842); and the second inaugural address (March 4, 1865). Studying the Lincoln-Douglas debates on slavery is one of the best ways to learn the power of persuasive argument.
X	FIC LON, PB LON	<b>LONDON, JACK. <i>CALL OF THE WILD</i></b> Buck, a gentle and mindful dog, is stolen from his rightful master and plunged into the savage life of a sled dog. After being purchased as a lead dog for a sled team, Buck develops a tremendous love for his new master. Together, they face innumerable trials and tribulations, including Buck's basic instinct to answer "The Call of the Wild".....to run with the wolf pack back to the savage wilderness.
---	---	<b>MCGARVEY, BILL AND NORA BRADBURY-HAEHL. <i>THE FRESHMAN SURVIVAL GUIDE: SOULFUL ADVICE FOR STUDYING, SOCIALIZING, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN</i></b>
X	FIC MOR	<b>MORRISON, TONI. <i>BELLOVED</i></b> Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.
X	FIC ORW	<b>ORWELL, GEORGE. <i>ANIMAL FARM</i></b> A satire on totalitarianism in which <b>farm animals</b> overthrow their human owner and set up their own government. A basic statement of the evils of dictatorship in that it not only corrupts the leaders, but deadens the intelligence and awareness of those led so that tyranny is inevitable.

X	B PAUSCH	<b>PAUSCH, RANDY. <i>THE LAST LECTURE.</i></b> The transcription of former computer science professor Randy Pausch's final lecture at Carnegie Mellon. Diagnosed with terminal cancer when he gave the lecture, this book offers a great perspective on life and following your dreams.
---	FIC PLA	<b>PLATH, SYLVIA. <i>THE BELL JAR</i></b> Sylvia Plath's shocking, realistic, and intensely emotional novel about a woman falling into the grip of insanity. Originally published under the pseudonym "Victoria Lucas" in 1963, one month before the author's suicide.
---	FIC POT, PB POT	<b>POTOK, CHAIM. <i>THE CHOSEN</i></b> Friendship between two Jewish boys, one Hasidic and the other Orthodox, begins at a baseball game and flourishes despite their different backgrounds and beliefs.
---	---	<b>GARY ROSE, ED. <i>SHAPING A NATION: 25 SUPREME COURT CASES</i></b> We are a nation of laws—and of Supreme Court opinions. It is a good idea for students to start college having read some of the most important ones.
---	FIC SAL, PB SAL	<b>SALINGER, J.D. <i>CATHER IN THE RYE</i></b> A prep school dropout rejects the "phoniness" he sees all about him.
X	822.33 T1 S	<b>WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE. <i>JULIUS CAESAR</i></b> This play once was and should still be a standard part of the high school English curriculum, but it is not. We picked it to restore a vital literary reference point, to invite students to think about demagoguery and the willingness of people to sacrifice freedom to follow a charismatic leader, and to urge students to reflect on conflicts between personal loyalty and public duty.
---	FIC SOL, PB SOL	<b>ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN. <i>ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH</i></b> A great novel about the Soviet Gulag. Students should know what Communism inflicted upon the Russian people, and remember that the children of the Gulag guards still rule in Putin's Russia. The novel, beyond that, tells of the survival of some human decency and compassion within one of the most brutal prisons ever devised by man. We picked this book to allow students to consider that man's inhumanity to man is very great—but not the entire story.
X	FIC STE, PB STE	<b>STEINBECK, JOHN. <i>THE GRAPES OF WRATH</i></b> During the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s, the Joad family is driven from their Oklahoma farm and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Through their trials and repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots, this novel starkly portrays the conflict between the powerful and the powerless and probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America
X	PB TAN	<b>TAN, AMY. <i>THE JOY LUCK CLUB</i></b> This poignant novel explores the tender and tenacious bond between four Asian American daughters and their mothers. The daughters know one side of their mothers, but they don't know about their earlier never-spoken of lives in China.
X	818 T	<b>THOREAU, HENRY DAVID. <i>WALDEN</i></b> Thoreau's best-known work, WALDEN, is a collection of essays on living a simple life in harmony with nature.
X	FIC TWA	<b>TWAIN, MARK. <i>THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN</i></b> Huck and Jim, a runaway slave, travel down the Mississippi in search of freedom. This journey turns into a metaphoric voyage for Huck, as he learns about love, responsibility, and morality.
---	---	<b>VONNEGUT, KURT. <i>IF THIS ISN'T NICE, WHAT IS?: ADVICE FOR THE YOUNG</i></b> A collection of amusing and poignant short essays, mostly taken from graduation speeches, by the late Vonnegut.

X	FIC VON	<p><b>VONNEGUT, KURT. <i>SLAUGHTERHOUSE 5</i></b>  Probably the most famous of Vonnegut's novels, <i>Slaughterhouse 5</i> centers on the Allied bombing of Dresden at the end of the Second World War. This act, which destroyed what Vonnegut believed was the most beautiful city in the world, encapsulates the inane and heartless violence of war, and crushes any illusions of romance about the Allied victory.</p>
X	FIC WAL, PB WAL	<p><b>WALKER, ALICE. <i>THE COLOR PURPLE</i></b>  Celie grows up in rural Georgia, navigating a childhood of ceaseless abuse. As a teenager she begins writing letters directly to God in an attempt to transcend a life that often seems too much to bear. Her letters record a journey of self-discovery and empowerment through the guidance of a few strong women and her own will to find harmony with herself.</p>
X	811 W	<p><b>WHITMAN, WALT. <i>LEAVES OF GRASS</i></b>  Showing the influence of Transcendentalism, this collection of poems is distinguished by an innovative free verse style and previously unmentionable subject matter in the 1850s. Exalting nature, celebrating the human body, and praising the senses and sexual love, this work was condemned as "immoral" in its time.</p>
X	812 W	<p><b>WILLIAMS TENNESSEE. <i>THE GLASS MENAGERIE</i></b>  A memory play, <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> draws its action from the memories of the narrator, Tom Wingfield. Tom recounts his unfulfilling life as the son of an overbearing mother and brother of a crippling shy introvert, and his ultimate decision to leave his family.</p>
X	FIC WRI	<p><b>WRIGHT, RICHARD. <i>NATIVE SON</i></b>  This thought provoking novel tells the story of a young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Wright presents an unsparing reflection on the poverty and hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and on what it means to be black in America.</p>