

CHS Summer Reading Recommendations 2017-2018

*Sweet is the lore which Nature brings;
Our meddling intellect
Mis-shapes the beauteous forms of things:--
We murder to dissect.
-William Wordsworth*

As the quote from British Romantic poet William Wordsworth suggests, sometimes we dampen the joy of beautiful things by overanalyzing them. English students spend the school year learning to think critically by dissecting texts for subtext, voice, literary devices, and so on, but we at the CHS English Department believe summer is a time for students to appreciate the “beauteous form” of reading for pleasure by individually seeking out texts that will personally engage them and hopefully make them life-long readers.

To this end, rather than prescribing specific summer reading texts for school year 2017-2018, the CHS English Department has assembled a list of recommended readings, ranging from a memoir of a disaster atop Mt. Everest to a novel regarding a futuristic dystopia dominated by class conflict and nearly everything else in between. None of these recommended readings are mandatory. We’ve tried, first and foremost, to assemble a diverse list of books that will engage all types of readers.

While summer should be a time for seeking out new reading opportunities, we recognize that honors and AP courses, due to the breadth and rigor of their curricula, require students to tackle some of the course material over the summer. Links to the required summer readings for honors and AP courses can be found in the SUMMER ASSIGNMENT section of the CHS website. We also encourage incoming honors and AP students to consider some of the texts on our recommended list as well.

For parents and guardians interested in academic research on summer reading, check out the following articles:

“If we stop telling kids what to read, they might start reading again” from The Washington Post

<http://goo.gl/zfkjT1>

“Why we should let kids choose their own summer reading” from The Washington Post

<http://goo.gl/YbJ90y>

Assorted blog posts on summer reading
from Nerdy Book Club

<https://goo.gl/qX0vOD>

<https://goo.gl/MxIt65>

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

English teachers aren't the only folks who read! Here are some recommendations from faculty at Central High School:

Mr. Grimaldi recommends...	E.T.A. Hoffmann "The Sand Man"	Thomas Mann, "Mario and the Magician"	Hermann Hesse, <i>Steppenwolf</i>
Ms. McGrath recommends...	<i>H is for Hawk</i> , by Helen Macdonald	<i>Men Explain Things To Me</i> by Rebecca Solnit	<i>The Abundance: Narrative Essays Old and New</i> by Annie Dillard
Mr. Johnson recommends...	<i>Childhoods End</i> by Arthur C. Clark	<i>A Short History of Nearly Everything</i> by Bill Bryson	
Mr. Zalot recommends...	<i>The Dome</i> by Stephen King		
Ms. Mercurio recommends...	<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> by Anthony Doerr	<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> by Rebecca Skloot	<i>The Glass Castle</i> by Jeannette Walls
Ms. Barzilai recommends...	<i>Midnight's Children</i> by Salman Rushdie	<i>What If?</i> by Randall Munroe	<i>Gods Go Begging</i> by Alfredo Vea
Ms. Maloney recommends...	<i>The Divergent Series (Divergent, Insurgent, & Allegiant)</i> by Veronica Roth	<i>Unbroken</i> by Laura Hillenbrand	

...and here are some recommendations from the English Department at CHS:

Ms. Solomon recommends the following titles...

Commonwealth by Ann Patchett

Upstream by Mary Oliver

The Nix by Nathan Hill

Mr. Paull recommends the following titles...

Brooklyn by Colm Toibin

How I Became a Famous Novelist by Steve Hely

Ms. Dykty recommends the following titles...

Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

The Arcana Chronicles by Kresley Cole

Mr. Sherwin recommends the following titles...

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Ms. Siris recommends the following titles...

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Mudbound by Hillary Jordan

Ms. Claps recommends the following titles...

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole

Ms. Shields recommends the following titles...

The Tenderness of Wolves by Stef Penney

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson

Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin

Mr. O'Brien recommends the following titles...

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce

Gettysburg by Stephen Sears

U2 The Stories Behind Every U2 Song by Niall Stokes

Mr. Roebuck recommends the following titles...

A Game of Thrones (Song of Ice and Fire) by George R.R. Martin

Watchmen by Alan Moore

Ms. Lewark recommends the following titles...

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

Ms. Henderson recommends the following titles...

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Walking the Himalayas by Levison Wood

Mr. Holland recommends the following titles...

A Heartbreaking Work Of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers

House Of Leaves by Mark Z. Danielewski

Blankets by Craig Thompson

Ms. Dodge recommends the following titles. . .

The Mysterious Affair at Styles by Agatha Christie (a Hercule Poirot mystery)

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See