

## Incoming 12<sup>th</sup> graders: Suggested Summer Reading Titles

“My education was the liberty I had **to read** indiscriminately and all the time, with my **eyes hanging out.**” -- Dylan Thomas, poet (writer of “Do Not Go Gentle”)

### Magazines and Newspapers

*The New Yorker*

*The Atlantic*

*The New York Times*

*The Guardian*

*Al-Jazeera (English-Language)*

*Harper's*

*Sun*

*Mother Jones*

### LISTS:

[30 great books by women of color](#)

[50 books by women of color](#)

[16 LGBT books “that will change your life”](#)

[68 LGBT books](#)

### *Fiction*

*Americanah*, by Chimamanda Adichie

*The Last Report of the Miracles at Little No Horse*, by Louise Erdrich

*Round House*, by Louise Erdrich

*A Lesson Before Dying*, by Ernest Gaines

*The English Patient*, by Michael Ondaatje

*Written on the Body*, by Jeanette Winterson

*The Powerbook*, by Jeanette Winterson

*Cold Mountain*, by Charles Frazier

*The Invisible Mountain*, by Carolina de Robertis

*Little Bee*, by Chris Cleave

*The Shipping News*, by E. Annie Proulx (and all of her short story collections)

*Breath, Eyes, Memory*, by Edwidge Danticat

*A Lesson Before Dying*, by Ernest J. Haines

*Cold Sassy Tree*, by Olive Ann Burns

*A Man in Full*, by Thomas Wolfe

*Bonfire of the Vanities*, by Thomas Wolfe

*Watership Down*, Richard Adams

*Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett  
*Exodus*, by Leon Uris  
*Great House*, by Nicole Krauss  
*Lonesome Dove*, by Larry McMurtry  
*Jitterbug Perfume*, by Tom Robbins  
*Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel  
*Orlando*, by Virginia Woolf  
*Beloved*, by Toni Morrison  
*Ceremony*, by Leslie Silko  
*Almanac of the Dead*, by Leslie Silko  
*The Bell Jar*, by Sylvia Plath  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, by Ken Kesey  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston  
*Stones from the River*, by Ursula Heggi  
*The Mists of Avalon*, by Marion Zimmer Bradley  
*The Signature of All Things*, by Elizabeth Gilbert  
*Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese  
*Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck  
*100 Years of Solitude*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
*Sophie's Choice*, by William Styron  
*The Brothers Karamazov*, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist-fight in Heaven*, by Sherman Alexie  
*The Stand*, by Stephen King  
*Middlesex*, by Jeffrey Eugenides  
*The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood  
*Alias Grace*, by Margaret Atwood  
*The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien  
*Interpreter of Maladies* (short stories), Jhumpa Lahiri  
*My Antonia*, by Willa Cather  
*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, by Carson McCullers  
*Like Water for Chocolate*, by Laura Esquivel  
*This House of Sky*, by Ivan Doig  
*Anna Karenina*, by Leo Tolstoy  
*A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving

Essay/Non-Fiction/Memoir

*Sister Outsider*, by Audre Lorde  
*Woman Warrior*, by Maxine Hong Kingston  
*American Romances*, by Rebecca Brown

Any of the *Best American Essays* collections  
*The Next American Essay*, by John D'Agata  
Any of the essay anthologies by John D'Agata  
*A Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, by Annie Dillard  
*The Writing Life*, by Annie Dillard  
*Bird by Bird*, by Anne Lamott  
*On Writing*, by Stephen King  
Collected essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*Women of the Beat Generation* (an anthology)  
*Minor Characters*, by Joyce Johnson  
*On the Road*, by Jack Kerouac  
*Letters to a Young Poet*, by Rainer Marie Rilke  
*Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer  
*There is No Me Without You*, by Melissa Faye Greene  
*In Cold Blood*, by Truman Capote  
*Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson  
*When Women Were Birds*, by Terry Tempest Williams  
*Refuge*, by Terry Tempest Williams  
*Arctic Dreams*, by Barry Lopez  
*Desert Solitaire*, by Edward Abbey  
*Coming into the Country*, by John McPhee  
*The Courage to Teach*, by Parker Palmer  
"This is Water," David Foster Wallace  
*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot  
*Seabiscuit: An American Legend*, by Laura Hillenbrand  
*Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, by David Eggers  
*Me Talk Pretty One Day*, by David Sedaris  
*Dead Wake*, by Erik Larson  
*Under the Banner of Heaven*, by Jon Krakauer  
*On Writing*, by Stephen King  
*Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen*, by Julie Powell  
*Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq's Green Zone*, by Rajiv Chandrasekaran  
*Life is So Good*, by George Lawson  
*The Emerald Mile*, by Kevin Fedarko  
*Zoo Keeper's Wife*, by Diane Ackerman  
*Dreams From My Father*, by Barack Obama  
*Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*, by Susan Cain  
*The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, by Elizabeth Kolbert  
*The Omnivore's Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan

*Freakonomics*, by Stephen B. Dubner and Steven Levitt

Hybrid/Poetry

*Bluets*, by Maggie Nelson

*Jane: a Murder*, by Maggie Nelson

*Autonauts of the Cosmoroute*, by Julio Cortozar

*You Animal Machine*, by Eleni Sikelianos

*Annie Oakley's Girl*, by Rebecca Brown

*Zong!*, by M. Nourbese Phillips

*Nox*, by Anne Carson

*Leaves of Grass*, by Walt Whitman

Poetry by Audre Lorde

Poetry by Adrienne Rich

Poetry by Denise Levertov

Poetry by Allen Ginsberg

Poetry by e.e. cummings

Poetry by Sylvia Plath

[Poetry selected by South High English teachers in April 2018](#)