

**HILLSIDE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST
2023**

- 1) Each student is responsible for reading one Required Book for his grade, listed below.
- 2) Each student is responsible for reading *at least* two additional books of his choice. There are suggested books listed here, but students are not limited to these books. The additional books are simply suggestions for that grade's reading level.

STUDENTS ENTERING NINTH GRADE

REQUIRED: You must read the following:

The Five People You Meet in Heaven Mitch Albom

After 83-year-old Eddie is tragically killed while trying to save a little girl from a falling cart, he awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It's a place where five people explain your life to you. One by one, Eddie's five people illuminate the mysteries of his meaningless life, and reveal the haunting secret behind the eternal question: Why was I here?

Suggestions for Additional Book Choices:

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

English literature's first and greatest superhero, Sherlock Holmes, still fascinates readers more than 100 years after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created the beloved detective. Though readers have good reason to believe Holmes will somehow triumph in all his baffling cases, they still delight in watching "the most perfect reasoning and observing machine the world has seen" - as Dr. Watson calls him - use his encyclopedic knowledge and preternatural powers of deduction to unearth the truth.

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation: Volume 1: The Pox Party

M.T. Anderson *

After escaping a death sentence in the summer of 1775, Octavian and his tutor find shelter but no safe harbor in British-occupied Boston and, persuaded by Lord Dunmore's proclamation offering freedom to slaves who join his counterrevolutionary Royal Ethiopian Regiment, Octavian and his friends soon find themselves engaged in naval raids on the Virginia coastline as the Revolutionary War breaks out in full force.

The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game Michael Lewis

Follows one young man from his impoverished childhood with a crack-addicted mother, through his discovery of the sport of football to his rise to become one the most successful, highly-paid players in the NFL.

Boys of Winter: The Untold Story of a Coach, a Dream, and the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team Wayne R. Coffey

The saga of how coach Herb Brooks motivated a roster of 20 amateur, mostly college-age young men to orchestrate victory over an established Soviet team of seasoned, professionally trained skaters

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime Mark Haddon

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Dean Duffy Randy Powell *

Eighteen-year-old Dean, a former high school baseball star whose future has been ruined by a batting slump and a bad arm, is offered a college baseball scholarship and finds himself uncertain of whether to take it.

Ender's Game Orson Scott Card *

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer-simulated war games at the Battle School; in fact, he is engaged in something far more desperate. Ender is the result of decades of genetic experimentation, Earth's attempt to make the military genius that the planet needs in its all-out war with an alien enemy. Ender Wiggin is six years old when his training begins. He will grow up fast. Ender's two older siblings, Peter and Valentine, are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world - if the world survives.

Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury *

Guy Montag, a "fireman" in a futuristic society where he and his co-workers start fires, rather than put them out. Books are banned and burned upon discovery. Montag has no qualms about his responsibility until he meets Clarisse McClellan, a seventeen-year-old Bohemian girl and he starts to wonder if perhaps books aren't so bad.

Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-year-old GI Ryan Smithson

Ryan Smithson experienced the events of 9/11 while in high school and responded by enlisting in the Army Reserve after graduation. While on deployment to Iraq, Smithson worked as an equipment operator in an equipment platoon, and while mortar fire was a regular occurrence, the missions he describes were all about bulldozing berms, filling craters created by IEDs, and convoying lumber. His unexpected warm welcome by the Iraqi children helped him understand the purpose of the war. Smithson's return home includes his escape from night terrors, and his work with children in his own hometown.

Hiroshima John Hersey

Hiroshima is the story of six human beings - a clerk, a widowed seamstress, a physician, a Methodist minister, a young person, and a German Catholic priest - who lived through the greatest single man-made disaster in history.

Hitch Jeanette Ingold

To help his family during the Depression and avoid becoming a drunk like his father, Moss Trawnley joins the Civilian Conservation Corps, helps build a new camp near Monroe, Montana, and leads the other men in making the camp a success.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow Susan Campbell Bartoletti (*Newbery Honor Book*)

The story of a generation of German young people who devoted all their energy to the Hitler Youth and the propaganda that brought Hitler his power, and the youths that resisted the Nazi movement.

The House of the Scorpion Nancy Farmer (*Printz Honor Book*) *

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

iBoy Kevin Brooks

Sixteen-year-old Tom Harvey was an ordinary Londoner until an attack that caused fragments of an iPhone to be embedded in his brain, giving him incredible knowledge and power, but using that power against the gang that attacked him and a friend could have deadly consequences.

I Am the Messenger Mark Zusak (*Michael L. Printz prize Honor Book*) *

After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

Jack: Secret Histories F. Paul Wilson *

Teenaged Jack, later to be known as Repairman Jack, begins to uncover some unsuspected talents in himself after he and his friends, the clever, imaginative Weezy and her brother Eddie, discover a corpse deep in the mysterious Pine Barrens near their New Jersey town.

Moneyball Michael Lewis

Billy Beane, the Oakland A's general manager, is leading a revolution. Reinventing his team on a budget, he needs to outsmart the richer teams. He signs undervalued players whom the scouts consider flawed but who have a knack for getting on base, scoring runs, and winning games.

Monster Walter Dean Myers (*Michael L. Printz prize winner*) *

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Night Elie Wiesel

Night offers a personal and unforgettable account of the appalling horrors of Hitler's reign of terror. Through the eyes of 14-year-old Eliezer, we behold the tragic fate of the Jews from the little town of Sighet. Even as they are stuffed into cattle cars bound for Auschwitz, the townspeople refuse to believe rumors of anti-Semitic atrocities. Not until they are marched toward the blazing crematory at the camp's "reception center" does the terrible truth sink in.

Red Badge of Courage Stephen Crane

In 1863, Henry Fleming is a young Union soldier waiting to see his first battle during America's bloodiest conflict.

The Schwa Was Here Neal Shusterman

A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone.

The Things a Brother Knows Dana Reinhardt

Although they have never gotten along well, seventeen-year-old Levi follows his older brother Boaz, an ex-Marine, on a walking trip from Boston to Washington, D.C. in hopes of learning why Boaz is completely withdrawn.

Through My Eyes Tim Tebow and Nathan Whitaker

One of the best quarterbacks in the history of college football traces his path to success, discussing his childhood as the son of Christian missionaries, and how his faith combined with his drive to succeed have made him the person he is today.

Trapped Michael Northrop

Seven high school students are stranded at their New England high school during a week-long blizzard that shuts down the power and heat, freezes the pipes, and leaves them wondering if they will survive.

Twisted Laurie Halse Anderson *

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attention of popular girls, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving into his destruction thoughts.

*You may enjoy other books by this author or other books in this series

note:

Michael L. Printz Award (American Library Association award given for "Excellence in Young Adult Literature")

Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction