

Edward R. Murrow High School

DESIGNATED A SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ALLEN BARGE, PRINCIPAL

GAYLE ZEITLIN, AP COMMUNICATION ARTS

Summer Reading 2017

Directions for Students: Your assignment is to read at least one book over the summer. The goal is for you to come prepared to discuss the book you read with your classmates in September.

Below is a list of suggested titles of excellent books to read. We believe you will enjoy them. However, if you have a favorite author or topic you are interested in pursuing, feel free to choose your own book. You can also access a more comprehensive recommended reading list from NYC Department of Education at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/NYCReads365>.

9th Grade

The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman by Meg Wolitzer

Duncan Dorfman, April Blunt, and Nate Saviano don't seem to have much in common. Duncan is trying to manage his newfound ability to "read" with his fingers. April is striving to be accepted by her family of jocks. And Nate is struggling to meet his father's high expectations. But when a Scrabble Tournament brings them together, their stories intertwine. Driven by competition, drama, and just a touch of magic, the story will have readers flying through the pages, anxious to discover who will be the real winners . . . *Amazon Reviews*

I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson

At first, Jude and her twin brother are Noah and Jude; inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red-red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them. Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways . . . but then Jude meets an intriguing, irresistible boy and a mysterious new mentor. The early years are Noah's to tell; the later years are Jude's. But they each have only half the story, and if they can only find their way back to one another, they'll have a chance to remake their world. . . *Amazon Reviews*

I Was Here by Gail Forman

"*I Was Here* is a pitch-perfect blend of mystery, tragedy, and romance. Gail Forman has given us an unflinchingly honest portrait of the bravery that it takes to live after devastating loss."

—Stephen Chbosky, author of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Flight by Sherman Alexie

Sherman Alexie's *Flight* winds themes of alienation, revenge, and forgiveness through its narrator's time-traveling adventures. . . *Amazon Reviews*

Belzhar by Meg Wolitzer

Devastated by the death of her first love, 15-year-old Jam Gallahue is having difficulty moving on with her life. After nearly a year of being mired in grief, her parents send her to a boarding school in rural Vermont that specializes in "emotionally fragile" teens. . . *Amazon Reviews*

10th Grade

Every Last Word by Tamara Stone Ireland

If you could read my mind, you wouldn't be smiling. Samantha McAllister looks just like the rest of the popular girls in her junior class. But hidden beneath the straightened hair and expertly applied makeup is a secret that her friends would never understand: Sam has Purely-Obsessional OCD and is consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off. . . *Amazon Reviews*

Changers Book One: Drew by T Cooper

Drew opens on the eve of Ethan Miller's freshman year of high school in a brand-new town. He's finally sporting a haircut he doesn't hate, has grown two inches since middle school, and can't wait to try out for the soccer team. At last, everything is looking up in life. Until the next morning. When Ethan awakens as a girl. Ethan is a Changer, a little-known, ancient race of humans who live out each of their four years of high school as a different person. After graduation, Changers choose which version of themselves they will be forever--and no, they cannot go back to who they were before the changes began. . . *Amazon Reviews*

In the Time of Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

This tale of courage and sisterhood set in the Dominican Republic during the rise of the Trujillo dictatorship. A skillful blend of fact and fiction, *In the Time of the Butterflies* is inspired by the true story of the three Mirabal sisters who, in 1960, were murdered for their part in an underground plot to overthrow the government. . . *Amazon Reviews*

Hero by Perry Moore

At the same time that he's coming to terms with his sexual orientation, basketball star Thom Creed is trying to figure out exactly what his untrained superpowers can do. In an attempt to break away from his seemingly non-understanding father (an ex-hero with something to hide) and homophobic community, . . . —Dylan Thomarie, Johnstown High School, NY

The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman

Neil Gaiman's intent was simple: to write a short story. What he ended up with instead was *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*--his first adult novel since *Anansi Boys* came out in 2005, and a narrative so thoughtful and thrilling that it's as difficult to stop reading as it was for Gaiman to stop writing. . . *Amazon Reviews*.

11th Grade

Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman

A captivating novel about mental illness that lingers long beyond the last page, *Challenger Deep* is a heartfelt tour de force by New York Times bestselling author Neal Shusterman. Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior. Caden Bosch is designated the ship's artist in residence to document the journey with images. Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head. Caden Bosch is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny. Caden Bosch is torn. . . . *Amazon Reviews*

Every Day by David Levithan

Every day a different body. Every day a different life. Every day in love with the same girl. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere. It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day. . . . *Amazon Reviews*

Bliss by O.Z. Livaneli

The paths of three characters converge to illustrate, perhaps too patly, the conflicts of contemporary Turkey. Raped by her uncle, the sheikh, 15-year-old villager Meryem has shamed her family. To save the family name, Cemal, the sheikh's son, a soldier home from his tour fighting Kurds in the Gabar Mountains, is ordered by his father to take Meryem to Istanbul and to murder her.....*Amazon Reviews*

The Round House by Louise Erdrich

The Round House is an exquisitely told story of a boy on the cusp of manhood who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever transforms his family.....*Amazon Reviews*

After Dark by Haruki Murakami

Other than an unexpected cheerfulness, *After Dark* is classic Haruki Murakami, featuring themes of loneliness and alienation, carefully crafted characters, Western references (such as an all-night Denny's where Hall & Oates plays in the background), and distinctive magical-realist twists of fate.....*Bookmarks Magazine*

12th Grade

Rebel, Bully, Geek, Pariah by Erin Jade Lange

The Rebel: Once popular, Andi is now a dreadlocked and tattooed wild child. The Bully: Sick of being the less favorite son, York bullies everyone, especially his brother. The Geek: Boston, York's brother, and obsessed with getting into an Ivy League school. The Pariah: Sam, now that her mom is sober, she just wants to get through one day at a time. . . . *Amazon Reviews*

Roomies by Sara Zarr and Tara Altebrando

The countdown to college has begun. With humor and heart, Sara Zarr, National Book Award finalist for *Story of a Girl*, and Tara Altebrando, acclaimed author of *The Pursuit of Happiness*, join forces for a novel about that time after high school when everything feels like it's ending just as it's beginning. . . . *Amazon Reviews*

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

From the first sentence of Celeste Ng's stunning debut, we know that the oldest daughter of the Chinese-American Lee family has died. What follows is a novel that explores alienation, achievement, race, gender, family, and identity--as the police must unravel what has happened to Lydia, the Lee family must uncover the sister and daughter that they hardly knew....*Amazon Reviews*

The Underground Girls of Kabul by Jenny Nordberg

The Underground Girls of Kabul is anchored by vivid characters who bring this remarkable story to life: Azita, a female parliamentarian who sees no other choice but to turn her fourth daughter Mehran into a boy; Zahra, the tomboy teenager who struggles with puberty and refuses her parents' attempts to turn her back into a girl.....*Amazon Reviews*

The Chosen Place, the Timeless People by Paule Marshall

The chosen place is Bourneville, a remote, devastated part of a Caribbean island; the timeless people are its inhabitants- black, poor, inextricably linked to their past enslavement.....*Amazon Reviews*