

# *Edward R. Murrow High School*

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

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## Summer Reading 2018

**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. **Your English teacher is September will give you a specific writing task aligned to the summer reading that will count in your first marking period average.**

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>.

### **10<sup>th</sup> 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*.

**Mosquitoland** by David Arnold

After the sudden collapse of her family, Mim Malone is dragged from her home in northern Ohio to the "wastelands" of Mississippi, where she lives in a medicated milieu with her dad and new stepmom. Before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back in Cleveland. So she ditches her new life and hops aboard a northbound Greyhound bus to her real home and her real mother, meeting a quirky cast of fellow travelers along the way. But when her thousand-mile journey takes a few turns she could never see coming, Mim must confront her own demons, redefining her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane. ... *Amazon Reviews*

### **11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Behold the Dreamers** by Imbolo Mbue

Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the United States to provide a better life for himself, his wife, Neni, and their six-year-old son. In the fall of 2007, Jende can hardly believe his luck when he lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. Clark demands punctuality, discretion, and loyalty—and Jende is eager to please. Clark's wife, Cindy, even offers Neni temporary work at the Edwardses' summer home in the Hamptons. With these opportunities, Jende and Neni can at last gain a foothold in America and imagine a brighter future. However, the world of great power and privilege conceals troubling secrets, and soon Jende and Neni notice cracks in their employers' façades. When the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende's job—even as their marriage threatens to fall apart. As all four lives are dramatically upended, Jende and Neni are forced to make an impossible choice. ... *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*

**Turtles All the Way Down** by John Green

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis. Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts. ... *Amazon Reviews*

**12<sup>th</sup> 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*

**In the Dark Room** by Susan Faludi (**Suggested reading for Women in Fiction course**) **\*\*MATURE CONTENT**

When feminist writer Susan Faludi learned that her seventy-six-year-old father—long estranged and living in Hungary—had undergone sex reassignment surgery, the revelation would launch her on an extraordinary inquiry into the meaning of identity in the modern world and in her own haunted family saga...Faludi chases that mystery into the recesses of her suburban childhood and her father's many previous incarnations: American dad, Alpine mountaineer, swashbuckling adventurer in the Amazon outback, Jewish fugitive in Holocaust Budapest....Faludi's struggle to come to grips with her father's metamorphosis takes her across borders—historical, political, religious, sexual—to bring her face to face with the question of the age: Is identity something you “choose,” or is it the very thing you can't escape? ...*Amazon Reviews*