

SUMMER READING 2020

The Clarence High School English Department recommended reading list has been created to present relevant and high-interest literature to foster reading for pleasure in young adults. Here you'll find a list of titles in a variety of genres to appeal to a wide audience at all levels. Some of these titles kept us up far past our bedtimes when we were teenagers ourselves, and others have become favorites more recently. Some titles for our older students may contain mature content, and we recommend using reviews to make informed decisions when selecting books.

It is our goal to provide parents and students with ample resources that can be used to sustain development of **skills** and a **life-long love for reading**. While students will not be assessed when we return to school, their reading will benefit them in countless ways. We all look forward to hearing about our students' reading journeys and hope that each of them will find something perfect among the titles listed here.

Some Books We Love:

Ms. Adams -

Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens
Lab Girl, by Hope Jahren
Eating Animals, by Jonathan Safran Foer

Mr. Aquilina -

The Syringa Tree, by Pamela Gien
Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life,
by Anne Lamott
The Pearl, by John Steinbeck

Mrs. Andriaccio -

Educated, by Tara Westover
Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson

Mrs. Boyle -

Ashfall, by Mike Mullen
Night Shift, by Stephen King
A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman

Mr. Chambers -

What Made Maddy Run, by Kate Fagan
Open, by Andre Agassi

Mr. Gardziella -

Quiet, by Susan Cain
Range, by David Epstein
No Country for Old Men, by Cormac McCarthy

Mrs. Hess -

The Overstory, by Richard Powers
A Friend of the Earth, by T.C. Boyle
Cold Mountain, by Charles Frazier

Mr. Johnston (CHS Library/Media Specialist) -

Dry, by Neal Shusterman
Dear Martin, by Nic Stone
The Martian Chronicles, by Ray Bradbury

Mr. Jowett -

Bird Dream: Adventures at the Extremes of Human Flight, by Matt Higgins

Ms. LaVigne -

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Adams
And Then There Were None, by Agatha Christie
Turtles All the Way Down, by John Green

Mrs. Leiser -

We Were Liars, by E. Lockhart
Eleanor & Park, by Rainbow Rowell
Hot Zone, by Richard Preston

Mrs. Martin -

Where'd You Go, Bernadette? By Maria Semple
Into the Water, by Paula Hawkins
The Girl on the Train, by Paula Hawkins

Ms. Nabozny -

The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison
The Sun and Her Flowers, by Rupi Kaur
Harry Potter series, by J.K. Rowling

Ms. Rohe -

The Nightingale, by Kristin Hannah
The Green Mile, by Stephen King
Interview with the Vampire, by Anne Rice

Mr. Runfolo -

1984, by George Orwell
The Mosquito Coast, by Paul Thoreaux
How to Win Friends & Influence People,
by Dale Carnegie

Mrs. Sorrels -

Rebecca, by Daphne DuMaurier
The Poisonwood Bible, by Barbara Kingsolver
The Firm, by John Grisham

1984, by George Orwell - Written more than 70 years ago, *1984* was George Orwell's chilling prophecy about the future. And while 1984 has come and gone, his dystopian vision of a government that will do anything to control the narrative is timelier than ever. This book is a timeless classic.

***And Then There Were None*, by Agatha Christie** - The world's best-selling mystery begins with eight guests lured to an isolated island mansion off the coast of England. The housekeeper and butler welcome them, but their hosts are suspiciously absent. The mystery grows as, one by one, people begin dying.

***Ashfall*, by Mike Mullen** - Did you know that the Yellowstone supervolcano is one of our planet's "restless giants"? Could it erupt in our lifetimes? Mike Mullen takes us into the apocalyptic aftermath of volcanic eruption and into the harrowing journey of two survivors.

***Bird by Bird*, by Anne Lamott** - Best selling novelist Anne Lamott shares what she knows about the process of writing through funny, relatable stories and memories. One might think that a book about this particular subject matter could be a snore, but Lamott doesn't disappoint. Many of my students through the years have praised Lamott's quick wit and will attest to this page-turner.

***Bird Dream: Adventures at the Extremes of Human Flight*, by Matt Higgins** - (He's a friend of mine. Great book, cheap plug.)

***The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison** - This book was the starting point in my obsession with Toni Morrison. *The Bluest Eye* is a beautiful work of fiction that speaks to issues of race, gender, and conformity.

***Cold Mountain*, by Charles Frazier** - One of my all-time favorite books. Historical fiction set during the Civil War with undertones of the Odyssey. Share the hero's journey!

***Dear Martin*, by Nic Stone** - A raw and emotional novel. The main character confronts the realities of being an educated young African-American male confronting issues of police brutality, social injustice, and inequality. He navigates these issues by writing letters to Dr. Martin Luther King.

***Dry*, by Neal Shusterman** - Set in the near future, this is a fast-paced survival story, about what happens when the fresh water supply dries up in California. Neighbors and friends turn on each other, while the main characters race to save themselves. A real-page turner.

***Eating Animals*, by Jonathan Safran Foer** - Part thought-provoking memoir, part investigative reporting, on the many reasons behind the author's decision to become vegan.

***Educated*, by Tara Westover** - The author, Tara Westover, comes from a fundamentalist family who believes that any day the government might shoot them dead. What she experiences and triumphs over in this book is both horrific and yet deeply compelling and inspiring. I absolutely could not put this book down.

***Eleanor & Park*, by Rainbow Rowell** - Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits-smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try. When Eleanor meets Park, you'll remember your own first love-and just how hard it pulled you under.

***The Firm*, by John Grisham**

***A Friend of the Earth*, by TC Boyle** - Fictional account of environmental activism.

***The Girl on the Train*, by Paula Hawkins** - Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed.

***The Green Mile*, by Stephen King** - It tells the story of death row supervisor Paul Edgecombe's encounter with John Coffey, an unusual inmate who displays inexplicable healing and empathic abilities.

***Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, by Douglas Adams** - Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who is actually an alien disguised as an out-of-work actor. This book will keep you laughing as you journey across the galaxy with the main characters.

***Hot Zone*, by Richard Preston** - The dramatic and chilling story of an Ebola virus outbreak in a suburban Washington, D.C. laboratory, with descriptions of frightening historical epidemics of rare and lethal viruses. More hair-raising than anything Hollywood could think of, because it's all true.

***How to Win Friends & Influence People*, by Dale Carnegie** - Dale Carnegie's rock-solid, time-tested advice has carried countless people up the ladder of success in their business and personal lives. One of the most groundbreaking and timeless bestsellers of all time, *How to Win Friends & Influence People* will teach you: Six ways to make people like you; Twelve ways to win people to your way of thinking; Nine ways to change people without arousing resentment...and much more! Achieve your maximum potential—a must-read for the twenty-first century.

***Into the Water*, by Paula Hawkins** - A single mother turns up dead at the bottom of the river that runs through town. Earlier in the summer, a vulnerable teenage girl met the same fate. They are not the first women lost to these dark waters, but their deaths disturb the river and its history, dredging up secrets long submerged.

***Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson** - For anyone interested in criminal justice, this is a must read. Be prepared to be infuriated at the gross injustices detailed in this book – at the countless lives that have been destroyed through wrongful convictions and sentences. But this book is also about humanity and the power of a brilliant and compassionate man who has dedicated his life to fighting for the disenfranchised.

***Lab Girl*, by Hope Jahren** - Contemporary memoir of a passionate scientist. Beautifully written, and made me see the whole world differently: trees, seeds, discovery. Inspiring on many levels

***A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman** - (Pronounced oo-vuh) As his story unfolds, we discover there is so much more to this grumpy old man than meets the eye. This book is beautifully written and is all at once poignant and heart-warming and funny and triumphant.

***The Martian Chronicles*, by Ray Bradbury** - This is my all-time favorite book. From the sci-fi master, this is told in chronological vignettes about the exodus from Earth to Mars. The original stories began in 1999, they have been updated to start in 2030. My favorite tale from this book is ‘Usher II’ which is actually the influence for *Fahrenheit 451*, where Earthlings burned books and would’ve escaped Usher II if only they’d read Poe.

***The Mosquito Coast*, by Paul Theroux** - The paranoid and brilliant inventor Allie Fox takes his family to live in the Honduran jungle, determined to build a civilization better than the one they've left. Fleeing from an America he sees as mired in materialism and conformity, he hopes to rediscover a purer life. But his utopian experiment takes a dark turn when his obsessions lead the family toward unimaginable danger.

***The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah** - Tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.

***Night Shift*, by Stephen King** - As a teen, I devoured King’s books, including this first collection of his short stories. These tales of the strange, unusual and downright creepy will keep you reading late into the night!

***No Country for Old Men*, by Cormac McCarthy** - Llewellyn Moss is hunting in the desert when he comes across the bloody scene of a gang deal gone wrong. Among the bodies, Moss finds two million dollars. He takes the money and instantly becomes a man on the run from the police, the vengeful gangs, and a mercenary who is one of the most terrifying characters in literature. This story is a violent exploration of man’s agency and the nature of evil.

***Open*, by Andre Agassi** - (nonfiction) This is the story of how one of the greatest tennis players of all time became a superstar who hated the sport that made him wealthy and famous. Agassi grew up in the spotlight and overcame personal demons and physical pain to become one of the most beloved figures in professional tennis. It’s a sports book (sort of) that is also very real and--at times--critical of sports.

***The Overstory*, by Richard Powers** - Fictional account of environmental activism

The Pearl, by John Steinbeck- Set in Baja California, the Pearl tells the story of Kino, a pearl diver, who stumbles upon “The pearl of the world” while trying to save the life of his infant son, Coyotito. Soon this simple, impoverished man goes from rags to riches because of his treasure, and is forced to choose between right and wrong, family and fame, and peace of mind over riches.

The Poisonwood Bible, by Barbara Kingsolver

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking, by Susan Cain - Americans seem to prioritize working in groups, being loud and boisterous, and preferring socializing above all else. However, for at least a third of us who are introverts, our gifts and skills may be being discounted by this obsession with extroversion. Check out Susan Cain's TED talk for an overview of the ideas in her book!

Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World, by David Epstein - In an increasingly competitive world, people are encouraged to specialize early: put in thousands of hours playing one instrument, sign kids up for one sport as soon as they can walk, choose a major in increasingly specific fields. What if this approach is wrong? What if success is actually tied to a broad pursuit of interests and late specialization?

Rebecca, by Daphne DuMaurier

The Sun and Her Flowers, by Rupi Kaur - I bet you've seen Rupi Kaur's poetry and illustrations on Instagram! This is her second collection of poems. They're beautiful, short, and profound. An easy collection to devour this summer!

The Syringa Tree, by Pamela Gien - Set in apartheid South Africa, *The Syringa Tree* tells the stories of two families “separated by racism, but connected by love.” The original form of the story was a one-woman show off Broadway and won the 2001 OBIE for best play. Gien expanded the true memoir into a best-selling novel the following year.

Turtles All the Way Down, by John Green - On the surface, this book focuses on an intriguing mystery and a tender teenage romance. Underneath, there is a dark tale of compulsive anxiety and its challenging effects. Aza, the main character, cannot escape her insistent spiraling thoughts.

We Were Liars, by E. Lockhart - a modern, sophisticated suspense novel. Read it. And if anyone asks you how it ends, just LIE.

What Made Maddy Run, by Kate Fagan - (nonfiction) Madison Holleran is a star soccer player and runner at her high school in New Jersey. Also a star in the classroom, Maddy is recruited to run track at an Ivy League school, the University of Pennsylvania. This book explores Maddy's transition from high school to college, the role of social media in all of our lives (but especially those of high school and college kids), the pressures of high level athletics, issues surrounding mental health, and, ultimately, the tragic lessons we can all learn from Maddy's death. I've taught this book in Sports and Literature (elective), and I think every high school student should read it before going off to college. It's powerful and important.

***Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* by Maria Semple** - Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her Microsoft-guru husband, she's a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect, and to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, simply, Mom. Then Bernadette disappears.

***Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens** - Murder-mystery, coming-of-age narrative, and celebration of nature, art, loyalty, and strength all wrapped in to one book I could not put down.

Additional Suggested Authors:

- Alexie, Sherman
- Anderson, Laurie Halse
- Atwood, Margaret
- Austen, Jane
- Bruchac, Joseph
- Byatt, A. S.
- Cabot, Meg
- Crutcher, Chris
- Dessen, Sarah
- Forman, Gayle
- Gladwell, Malcolm
- Green, John
- Gould, Stephen Jay
- Hannah, Kristin
- King, A. S.
- King, Stephen
- Krakauer, Jon
- Levithan, David
- Moyes, Jojo
- Myers, Walter Dean
- Patchett, Ann
- Picoult, Jodi
- Reynolds, Jason
- Rowell, Rainbow
- Sacks, Oliver
- Semple, Maria
- Sepetys, Ruta
- Shusterman, Neal
- Strasser, Todd
- Thomas, Angie
- Tolkien, J.R.R.
- Trueman, Terry
- Westerfeld, Scott
- Vowell, Sarah
- Zusak, Markus

LINK TO CLARENCE LIBRARY
MEDIA CENTER RESOURCES:
<https://www.clarenceschools.org/domain/160>