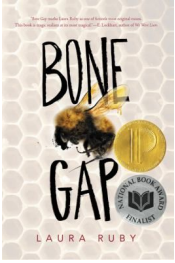


## Recommended Summer Reading List - 2020

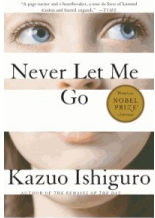
The recommended summer reading list is a compilation of titles, chosen annually by Solebury's English Department, intended to represent a variety of styles, eras, reading levels, and genres. The hope is that students will find something engaging and relevant. Some of the books deal with mature content, and we suggest that students choose their books with help and discussion from parents.

### Fiction



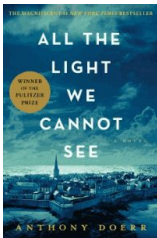
#### ***Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby**

Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza, but his inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation, and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying.



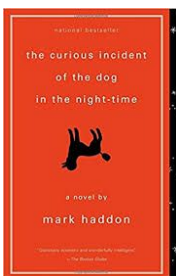
#### ***Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro**

Thirty-one-year-old Kathy, along with old friends from Hailsham, a private school in England, are forced to face the unsettling truth about their childhood when they all come together again.



#### ***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr**

A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France try to survive the devastation of World War II. An unputdownable book.



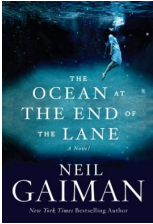
#### ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon**

Narrated by a 15-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling novel weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story, and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions



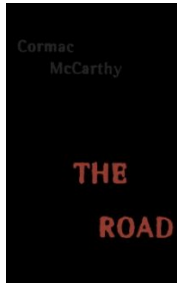
#### ***Ask the Passengers* by A.S. King**

Astrid Jones, who realizes that she is a lesbian, deals with the gossip and rejection she faces by sending love up to the people on airplanes as they pass over her.



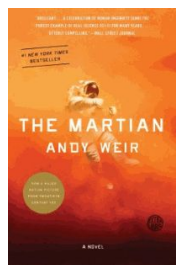
### ***The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman**

It began for our narrator forty years ago when the family lodger stole their car and committed suicide in it, stirring up ancient powers best left undisturbed. Dark creatures from beyond the world are on the loose, and it will take everything our narrator has just to stay alive: there is primal horror here, and menace unleashed - within his family and from the forces that have gathered to destroy it.



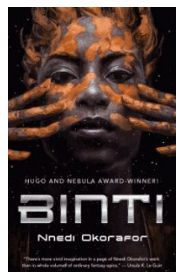
### ***The Road* by Cormac McCarthy**

Traces the journey of a father and his son as they walk alone after a great fire has consumed the nation and left everything in ashes.



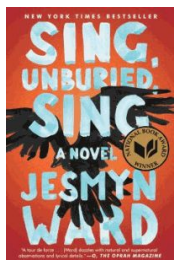
### ***The Martian* by Andy Weir**

Astronaut Mark Watney is stranded and completely alone on Mars, with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive, but Mark isn't ready to give up and drawing on his engineering skills and determination, he faces each obstacle with resourcefulness, but will it be enough for him to survive?



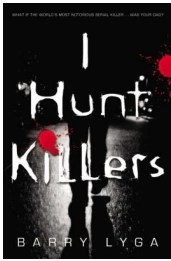
### ***Binti* by Okorafor Nnedi**

Her name is Binti, and she is the first of the Himba people ever to be offered a place at Oomza University, the finest institution of higher learning in the galaxy. But to accept the offer will mean giving up her place in her family to travel between the stars among strangers who do not share her ways or respect her customs. Knowledge comes at a cost, one that Binti is willing to pay, but her journey will not be easy.



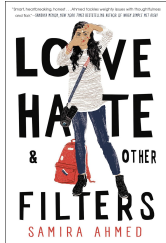
### ***Sing Unburied Sing* by Jesmyn Ward**

Living with his grandparents and sister on a Gulf Coast farm, Jojo navigates the challenges of his mother's addictions and his grandmother's cancer before the release of his father from prison prompts a road trip of danger and hope.



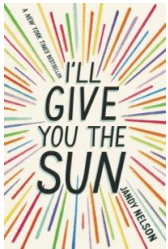
### ***I Hunt Killers* by Barry Lyga**

It was a beautiful day. It was a beautiful field. Except for the body. Jazz is a likable teenager. A charmer, some might say. But he's also the son of the world's most infamous serial killer, and for Dear Old Dad, "Take Your Son to Work Day" was year-round. Jazz has witnessed crime scenes the way cops wish they could--from the criminals' point of view.



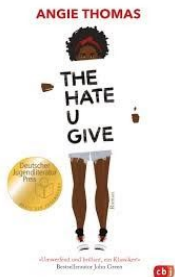
### ***Love, Hate & Other Filters* by Samira Ahmed**

An Indian-American Muslim teen, and aspiring filmmaker, copes with Islamophobia, cultural divides among peers and parents, and a reality she can neither explain nor escape.



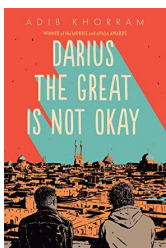
### ***I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson**

A story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal told from different points in time, and in separate voices, by artists Jude and her twin brother Noah.



### ***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas**

tarr has learned to adapt her personality to fit two worlds. "Garden Heights Starr" helps her ex-gangbanger father in his neighborhood grocery. "Williamson Starr" has a white boyfriend, and is one of the few black students at a tony prep school in an exclusive part of town. When gunshots ring out at a Garden Heights party, Starr and her friend Khalil leave. Soon after, Khalil makes an innocent but unanticipated move at a traffic stop, and Starr witnesses his death by a white officer. In the ensuing weeks and months, Starr deals with reactions: her own, her family's, and those of her inner-city neighbors and upscale private school friends.



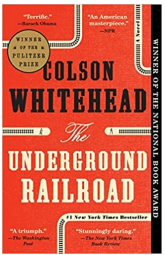
### ***Darius the Great Is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram**

Darius has never really fit in at home, and he's sure things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn't exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and everything changes. Soon, they're spending their days together, playing soccer, eating faludeh, and talking for hours on a secret rooftop overlooking the city's skyline.



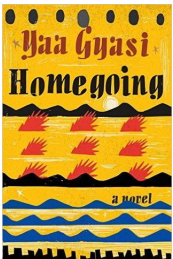
### ***Black Girl Unlimited* by Echo Brown**

Echo Brown is a wizard from the East Side, where apartments are small and parents suffer addictions to the white rocks. Yet there is magic . . . everywhere.



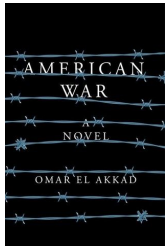
### ***The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead**

A work of speculative fiction that follows a runaway slave, Cora, on a grisly tour through the American South. Conveyed by the underground railroad, which the author has rendered as a literal mode of transportation.



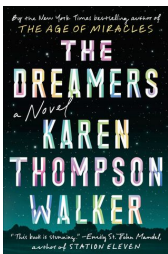
### ***Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi**

One thread of *Homegoing* follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, as the Fante and Asante nations wrestle with the slave trade and British colonization. The other thread follows Esi and her children into America.



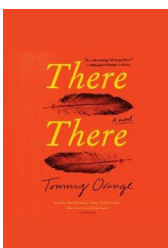
### ***American War* by Omar El Akkad**

Sarat Chestnut, born in Louisiana, is only six when the Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074.



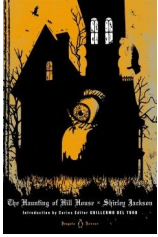
### ***The Dreamers* by Karen Thompson Walker**

One night in an isolated college town in the hills of Southern California, a first-year student stumbles into her dorm room, falls asleep--and doesn't wake up. She sleeps through the morning, into the evening. Her roommate, Mei, cannot rouse her. Neither can the paramedics, nor the perplexed doctors at the hospital. When a second girl falls asleep, and then a third, Mei finds herself thrust together with an eccentric classmate as panic takes hold of the college and spreads to the town.



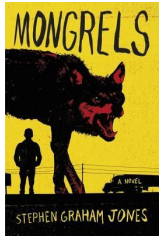
### ***There There* by Tommy Orange**

Tells the story of twelve characters, each of whom have private reasons for traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow. There will be glorious communion, and a spectacle of sacred tradition and pageantry. And there will be sacrifice, and heroism, and unspeakable loss.



### ***Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson**

The Haunting of Hill House has been hailed as a perfect work of unnerving terror. It is the story of four seekers who arrive at a notoriously unfriendly pile called Hill House. At first, their stay seems destined to be merely a spooky encounter with inexplicable phenomena. But Hill House is gathering its powers - and soon it will choose one of them to make its own.



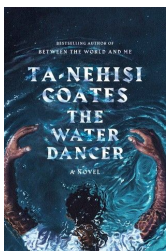
### ***Mongrels* by Stephen Graham Jones**

A spellbinding and darkly humorous coming-of-age story about an unusual boy whose family lives on the fringes of society and struggles to survive in a hostile world that shuns and fears them.



### ***Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie**

This novel focuses on members of two British families of Pakistani heritage and their life-changing decisions and entanglements. Isma Pasha had essentially raised her orphaned younger siblings, twins Aneeka and Parvaiz, although their closeness ended after Parvaiz left for Syria to follow in his absentee father's footsteps as a jihadi.



### ***The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

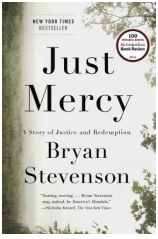
Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her — but was gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he's ever known.



### ***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sánchez**

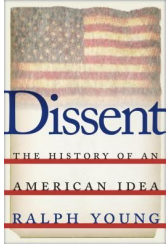
Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed.

## Non-Fiction



### ***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson**

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time.



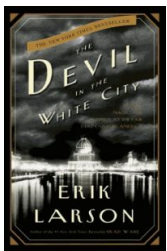
### ***Dissent: The History of an American Idea* by Ralph Young**

examines the key role dissent has played in shaping the United States. It focuses on those who, from colonial days to the present, dissented against the ruling paradigm of their time:



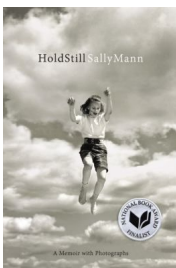
### ***A Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger**

Uses interviews, memoirs, radio conversations, and technical research to recreate the last days of the crew of the "Andrea Gail," a fishing boat that was lost in a storm off the coast of Nova Scotia in October 1991.



### ***Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson**

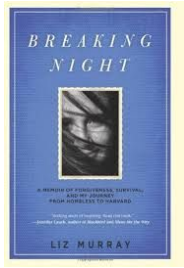
Tells the parallel stories of Daniel Burnham, the main architect of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and serial killer Henry H. Holmes, discussing the challenges Burnham faced in creating the hugely successful White City, and looking at how Holmes used the opportunities afforded by the fair to lure victims to their deaths.



### ***Hold Still* by Sally Mann**

A revealing and beautifully written memoir and family history from acclaimed photographer Sally Mann.





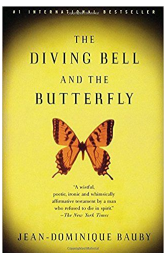
### ***Breaking Night* by Liz Murray**

The stunning memoir of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard.



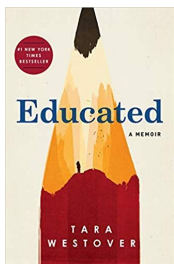
### ***Just Kids* by Patti Smith**

American singer-songwriter Patti Smith describes her relationship with photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, reflecting on how they first met, their pact to support one another, the challenges they faced, the people with whom they socialized and worked, and other related topics.



### ***The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* by Jean-Dominique Bauby**

In 1995, Jean-Dominique Bauby was the editor-in-chief of French **Elle**, the father of two young children, a 44-year-old man known and loved for his wit, his style, and his impassioned approach to life. By the end of the year he was also the victim of a rare kind of stroke to the brainstem. After 20 days in a coma, Bauby awoke into a body which had all but stopped working: only his left eye functioned, allowing him to see and, by blinking it, to make clear that his mind was unimpaired.



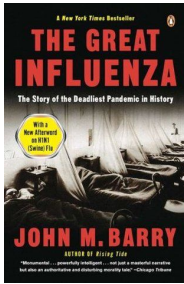
### ***Educated* by Tara Westover**

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. Eventually, her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.



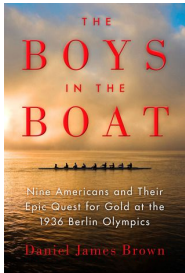
### ***Becoming* by Michelle Obama**

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era.



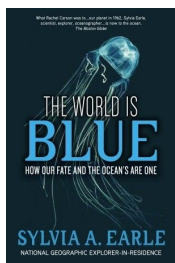
### ***The Great Influenza* by John M. Barry**

Chronicles the 1918 influenza epidemic, discussing why it was so lethal, how it spread throughout the American Midwest, what steps were taken to stop it, and how the country responded to the crisis.



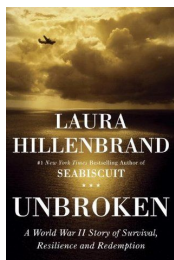
### ***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown**

Tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans.



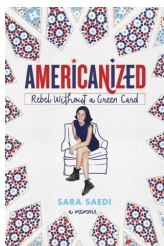
### ***The World is Blue* by Sylvia Earle**

This eloquent, urgent, fascinating book reveals how just 50 years of swift and dangerous oceanic change threatens the very existence of life on Earth.



### ***Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand**

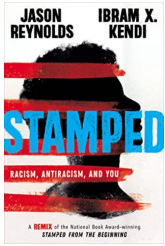
A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.



### ***Americanized: Rebel without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi**

At thirteen, bright-eyed, straight-A student Sara Saedi uncovered a terrible family secret: she was breaking the law simply by living in the United States. Only two years old when her parents fled Iran, she didn't learn of her undocumented status until her older sister wanted to apply for an after-school job, but couldn't because she didn't have a Social Security number.





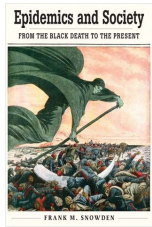
***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi**

This is NOT a history book.

This is a book about the here and now.

A book to help us better understand why we are where we are.

*A book about race.*



***Epidemics and Society: from the Black Death to the Present* by Frank M. Snowden**

This sweeping exploration of the impact of epidemic diseases looks at how mass infectious outbreaks have shaped society, from the Black Death to today.

## Graphic Novels



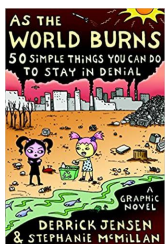
***March* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin**

A trilogy about civil rights movement told through interviews with a Congressman who participated in them



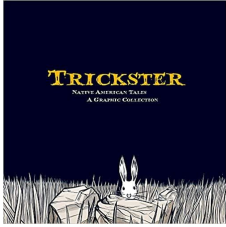
***Blood Song* by Eric Drooker**

A young girl travels from her war-torn island to a busy metropolis, from lush jungles to cold concrete and steel, and finds something that eludes most denizens of bustling, noisy, wasteful cities: love.



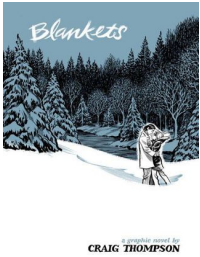
***As the World Burns* by Derrick Jensen and Stephanie McMillan**

A cutting exploration of environmental activism.



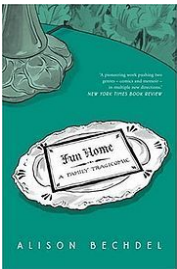
***Trickster* edited by Matt Dembicki**

A compilation of traditional American Indian folk stories told as comics



***Blankets* by Craig Thompson**

Wrapped in the landscape of a blustery Wisconsin winter, *Blankets* explores the sibling rivalry of two brothers growing up in the isolated country, and the budding romance of two coming-of-age lovers. A tale of security and discovery, of playfulness and tragedy, of a fall from grace and the origins of faith.



***Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel**

Meet Alison's father, a historic preservation expert and obsessive restorer of the family's Victorian home, a third-generation funeral home director, a high school English teacher, an icily distant parent, and a closeted homosexual.