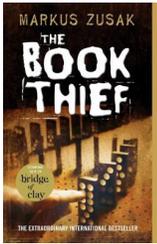


Recommended Summer Reading List - 2018

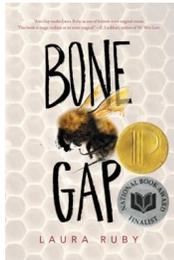
The recommended summer reading list is a compilation of titles, chosen annually by Solebury's English Department, intended to represent a variety of styles, eras, reading levels, and genres. The hope is that students will find something engaging and relevant. Some of the books deal with mature content,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

Fiction



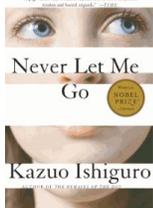
***The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak**

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist - books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.



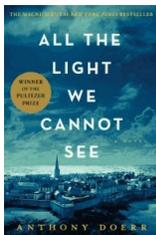
***Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby**

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.



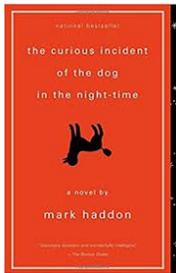
***Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro**

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.

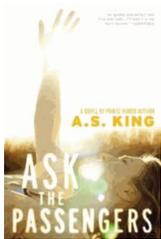


***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr**

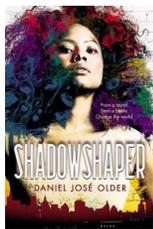
A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France try to survive the devastation of World War II. An unputdownable book.



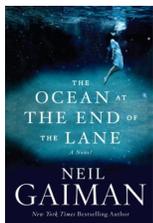
***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon**
Narrated by a 15-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling novel weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story, and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing 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.



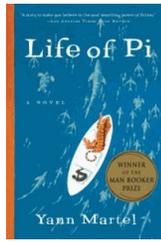
***Shadowshaper* by Daniel José Older**
Sierra Santiago planned an easy summer of making art and hanging out with her friends. But then a corpse crashes the first party of the season. Her stroke-ridden grandfather starts apologizing over and over. And when the murals in her neighborhood begin to weep real tears... Well, something more sinister than the usual Brooklyn ruckus is going on.



***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.

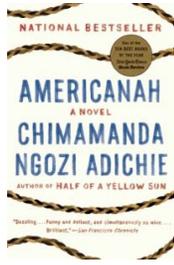


***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**
Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed, in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery to a Taliban official.



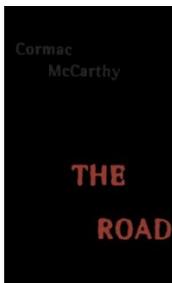
Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.



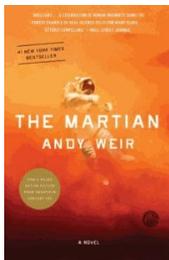
Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A young woman from Nigeria leaves behind her home and her first love to start a new life in America, only to find her dreams are not all she expected



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.



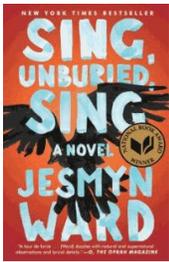
The Martian by Andy Weir

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?



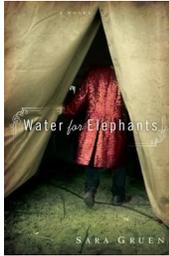
Binti by Okorafor Nnedi

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.



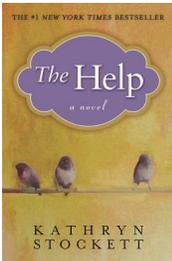
Sing Unburied Sing by Jesmyn Ward

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.



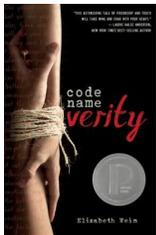
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Ninety-year-old Jacob Jankowski finds himself haunted by memories of his past in the circus and the freaks, exotic animals, and other people he encountered as a performer.



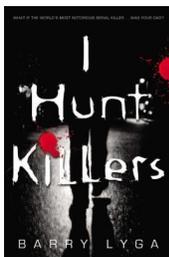
The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Skeeter returns home to Mississippi from college in 1962 and begins to write stories about the African-American women that are found working in white households, which includes Aibileen, who grieves for the loss of her son while caring for her seventeenth white child, and Minny, Aibileen's sassy friend, the hired cook for a secretive woman who is new to town.



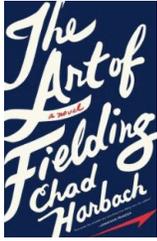
Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all that she can.



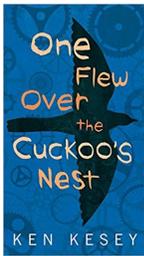
I Hunt Killers by Barry Lyga

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.



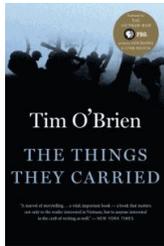
***The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach**

Henry Skirmshander, the star of a small college team found on the shore of Lake Michigan, is overcome with self-doubt, which threatens his future; meanwhile, four others--including Henry's best friend and teammate, who realizes he has sacrificed his own dreams for his friend's, Henry's gay roommate, college president Guert Affenlight, and Guert's daughter--also find themselves forced to confront their own secrets.



***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey**

In this classic novel, Ken Kesey's hero is Randle Patrick McMurphy, a boisterous, brawling, fun-loving rebel who swaggers into the world of a mental hospital and takes over. A lusty, life-affirming fighter, McMurphy rallies the other patients around him by challenging the dictatorship of Nurse Ratched.



***The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien**

Related stories, linked by recurring characters and an interwoven plot, recreate an American foot soldier's experience in the Vietnam War.



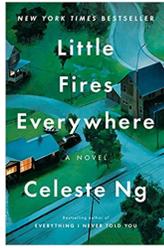
***I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson**

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.



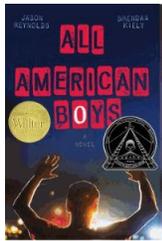
***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline**

In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS, but when Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday he finds he must compete with thousands of others--including those willing to commit murder--in order to claim a prize of massive fortune.



***Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng**

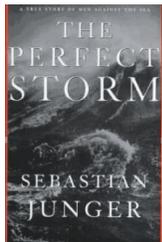
When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.



***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely**

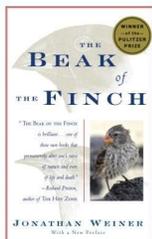
When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend

Non-Fiction



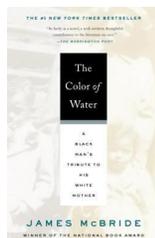
***A Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger**

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.



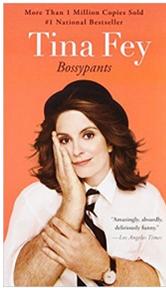
***The Beak of the Finch* by Jonathan Weiner**

Recounts the story of two evolutionary biologists and their research on finches in the Galapagos archipelago.



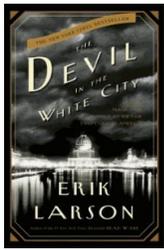
***The Color of Water* by James McBride**

Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared "light-skinned" woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful debut.



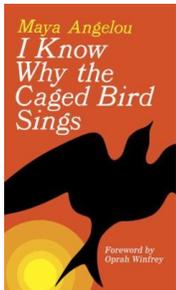
***Bossypants* by Tina Fey**

Tina Fey reveals all, and proves what we've all suspected: you're no one until someone calls you bossy.



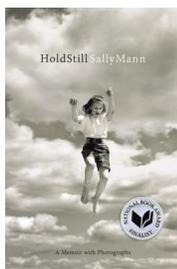
***Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson**

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.



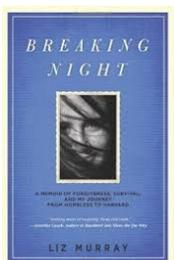
***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**

Poet Maya Angelou chronicles her early life, focusing on her childhood in 1930s rural Arkansas, including her rape at the age of five, her subsequent years of muteness, and the strength she gained from her grandmother and Mrs. Bertha Flowers, a respected African-American woman in her town.



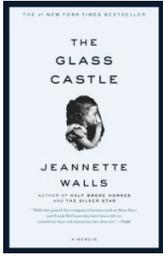
***Hold Still* by Sally Mann**

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



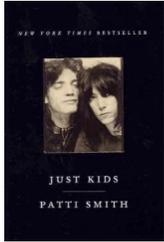
***Breaking Night* by Liz Murray**

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



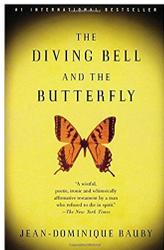
***Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother. In this memoir, she describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.



***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.



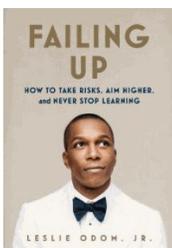
***The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* by Jean-Dominique Bauby**

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.



***Decoded* by Jay-Z**

Hip-hop artist and entrepreneur Jay-Z discusses his life and offers a revealing look at the influences and processes behind his lyrics.



***Failing Up* by Leslie Odom Jr.**

Leslie Odom, Jr. burst on the scene in 2015, originating the role of Aaron Burr in the phenomenon Broadway musical "Hamilton." Since then, he has performed for sold-out audiences, sang for the Obamas at the White House, and won a Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical.