

West Genesee High School's Summer Reading Program 2022-2023

For over 20 years, the English Department has sponsored a Summer Reading Program for students entering grades 9-12. The philosophy behind the program has always remained the same: to encourage students to read more by introducing them to contemporary novels that are pleasurable, yet worthwhile stories in the hope that they will become lifelong readers. **Each child is required to read one title from the list for the upcoming grade level.**

A committee of parents, students, and teachers has selected the list for each grade level. Effort has been made to address relevant issues in a responsible and thoughtful manner. Consideration has also been given to include books that offer a range of reading levels. Parents are encouraged to visit the [West Genesee High School Library website](#) for the lists, information about locating books, and access to book reviews.

The individual classroom English teacher will assign an assessment on the books when the students return to class in September.

We advise that students take notes or keep a journal as they read so they can better recall information which will be reviewed and assessed in their respective English classes when they return to school in September.

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement English or OCC English will complete the readings assigned by those teachers in lieu of one of the novels from this list.

The books listed in this brochure may be:

- borrowed at your local public library.
- purchased online or at local bookstores.
- downloaded (in many cases) in the form of eBooks and audiobooks from the WGHS Library-OverDrive.

We believe the Summer Reading Program is a positive learning experience for our children. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions related to the program, please call the Executive Principal at the High School: 487-4601.



GRADE 9

Students entering grade 9 this fall are required to read at least one of the selections listed below.

Miles Morales: Spider-Man by Jason Reynolds: You may already know Miles Morales from *Spider-Man Into the Spider Verse*, but fans and first-timers alike will enjoy this character-driven novel that finds Miles struggling with the guilt he feels over the death of his uncle, while he also tries to navigate life at the private school he attends on scholarship. When a domineering history teacher seems to have it in for him, Miles fears his future at the school is threatened. Can he balance being both a web-slinging superhero and just your average, everyday high schooler?

Ali Cross (Book 1 of 2) by James Patterson: Ali Cross is the son of a famous police detective (Alex Cross, the lead character in the adult thriller series by the same author). Ali should be excited. After all, it's the start of Christmas break, but instead he is worried that his best friend has been missing for three days. At the same time, Ali's father is being sued in a high-profile case, and the media is following the family everywhere. To top it off, the Cross family and their neighbors become the victims of a string of serial burglaries. Even though his dad warns him not to, Ali can't help but start investigating the disappearance of his friend. It seems as though keen detective skills seem to run in his family, but Ali starts to realize he may be in over his head.
Please note: This book is the first in a series. Be sure to read the correct title (gray/silver cover).

Scythe by Neal Shusterman: Imagine a world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery. Humanity has conquered all of these, even death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life in order to keep the size of the population under control. This job is the only one not overseen by the Thunderhead, an advanced version of "the cloud" that oversees every aspect of the population. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe - a role that neither wants. These teens must master the "art" of taking life, but they soon learn that a perfect world comes with a heavy price.

I'm Not Dying With You Tonight by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal: Over the course of one night, two girls with two very different backgrounds must rely on each other to get through the violent race riot that has enveloped their city. Lena has her killer style, her awesome boyfriend, and her plan for the future. She knows she's going to make it big. Campbell, on the other hand, is just trying to keep her head down and get through the year at her new school. When both girls attend the Friday-night football game, what neither expects is for everything to descend into sudden mass chaos. Chaos born from violence, hate, and racial tension. Chaos that unexpectedly throws them together. They aren't friends. They hardly understand the other's point of view. But none of that matters when the city is up in flames, and they only have each other to rely on if they're going to survive the night.

13 Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All by Laura Ruby: Pearl died in 1918, but that doesn't keep her from taking an interest in the lives of the living. Pearl takes a special interest in Frankie, whose father "temporarily" deposited Frankie and her siblings at an orphanage following their mother's death. Frankie thinks everything will be alright when her father returns to the orphanage, but he only intends to take his new wife and Frankie's brother with him to start over. As Frankie searches for a future of happiness she knows she deserves, Pearl attempts to confront the tragedies of her past. Set against the backdrop of WWII, *13 Doorways...* is a ghost story like you've never seen before!

GRADE 10

Students entering grade 10 this fall are required to read at least one of the selections listed below.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys: This work of historical fiction tells the riveting story of four refugees during WWII in East Prussia. Through the use of shifting narrators, readers meet a Lithuanian nurse, an apprentice to a Prussian art historian, a German soldier, and a young Polish girl, all with unique obstacles to overcome. We follow their journeys as their paths cross on their way to the ill-fated MV Wilhelm Gustloff, a German military transport ship, which they hope will save them. Sepetys highlights the deadliest maritime disaster in history while also urging readers to learn from the past.

We Are Displaced by Malala Yousafzai: This book is a collection of refugee stories from around the world written by Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize winner who was displaced as a result of her fight for the education of girls in Pakistan. She tells her own story and the stories of girls who, amazingly, displayed their resilience even in the midst of being forced with no option but to leave their homes and the community they loved. This book is an important reminder from one of the world's most prominent young activists that every single one of the 68.5 million currently displaced is a person -- often a young person -- with hopes and dreams.

An Uninterrupted View of the Sky by Melanie Crowder: Bolivia, 1999. Francisco's life is almost normal. He has a mother, a father, and a younger sister. All this changes when his father is arrested under false charges and sent to prison because of a corrupt system that targets the indigenous, poor, and uneducated. As a result, Francisco and his younger sister move into the prison with their father. But, when life in prison becomes something less than safe, Francisco must decide whether to sacrifice his and his sister's safety for his education. In order to decide, he must face everything he's ever been taught to believe and question where he belongs in the world.

You Bring the Distant Near by Mitali Perkins: Sonia and Tara Das, who were born in India but spent most of their childhoods in England, immigrated to America with their parents in the 70's. Sonia is extremely bright and loves reading and writing, while Tara seeks the limelight and models her look after her favorite American TV stars. The sisters navigate school, friendships, dating, and an overbearing mother while also grappling with a sense of their own identities. Just when things seem to be going well for the family, tragedy strikes and threatens to change their lives, and relationships, forever. This novel, told from the point of view of alternating narrators and covering four decades, is as interesting as it is poignant.

The Berlin Boxing Club by Roberta Sharenow: This is a novel loosely inspired by the true story of boxer Max Schmeling's experiences following Kristallnacht, the night when Nazi soldiers set out to destroy Jewish businesses in Germany. Karl, a Jewish teen, is faced with bullying that occurs when most of his classmates begin to join the Hitler Youth. Because of his father's work in art dealing, Karl has the good fortune of meeting Max and receiving an invitation to be trained by him at a local gym. Boxing becomes Karl's refuge in this turbulent time and the key to his coming of age.

GRADE 11

Students entering grade 11 this fall are required to read at least one of the selections listed below.

The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater: This startling work of nonfiction tells the story of two teens from Oakland, CA. Sasha and Richard find themselves on the same public bus after school one day. One fateful act leaves Sasha covered with third degree burns and Richard facing a possible sentence of life in prison for the two hate crimes he finds himself charged with. Dashka Slater first covered this story as a journalist for *The New York Times*. By turning their story into a full length-novel, Slater is able to allow readers an intimate glimpse into both teens' lives, that polarizing incident, and the aftermath that neither of them saw coming. Although centered around a horrible incident, the novel is ultimately about family, education, love, and forgiveness.

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate: Rill Foss and her siblings are taken from their home one night in 1939 in Memphis, Tennessee, brought to an orphanage, and told they will one day be reunited with their parents. Rill vows to keep her siblings together, but it is a difficult task considering the harsh conditions they face. Many years later, Avery Stafford, a lawyer from a privileged background returns home to discover some shocking secrets from her past. This novel is based on a little-known, yet true story!

The Lying Woods by Ashley Elston: Owen is shocked when his mother pulls him from the comfort of his boarding school to tell him his father has embezzled millions of dollars and disappeared in the blink of an eye. Owen must return home to a small town and the local public high school, where the local people look at Owen and his mother like criminals. Owen's only source of solace is at his after school job, working for a man his father once worked for. But when Owen and his mother begin to receive threatening letters, Owen knows it's up to him to uncover the truth about his father.

Who Killed Christopher Goodman? by Allan Wolf: Christopher Goodman might be a little odd, but people really like him. So who would want to kill him? This novel, based on a true story of a teenage boy who was killed in 1979, is told from the point of view of six different people--including the person who killed Christopher. The novel doesn't just attempt to answer the question of who did it, but more importantly- *how* could something like this happen.

Girls with Sharp Sticks by Suzanne Young: Mena is a girl who goes to a school where she is taught how to be the perfect woman. The girls are conditioned to behave properly and to obey those in authority. However, Mena starts noticing how unusual the school is and how sheltered the girls are as strange things start happening at the school. With the help of a boy from outside the school walls, Mena opens her eyes and sees what's really going on at Innovations Academy. As all the girls band together, the men of Innovations will learn the meaning behind the phrase, "some of the prettiest flowers have the sharpest thorns."

GRADE 12

Students entering grade 12 this fall are required to read at least one of the selections listed below.

Frankly in Love by David Yoon: Frank Li has a problem. His parents, who immigrated from Korea to America to give him more opportunities, have very traditional expectations for how Frank should live his life- even right down to who he should date! So, Frank has to hide the fact that he is secretly dating a white girl. Luckily, at one of their regular get-togethers with other Korean families, Frank and his longtime friend make a pact to pretend to date each other in order to get their parents off their backs. Will it work? *Frankly in Love* is both a funny and touching novel that follows one teenage boy's journey to discover who he truly is.

This Was Never About Basketball by Craig Leener: Zeke is his school's basketball star, but his future is ruined when he loses control at the city championship game. But with a new friendship comes a strange revelation. Zeke finds out that basketball was first introduced on Earth by "the 7th Dimension" who, because of the series of events Zeke set in motion during that fateful game, has decided to take basketball away for good. Can Zeke come to terms with the struggles of his past and, at the same time, save basketball?

The Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson: For her Senior Capstone Project, Pippa Fitz-Amboi, a very focused high school girl, decides to solve a murder. Andie Bell, disappeared five years ago from Pippa's hometown, and foul play was suspected. The police, and everyone else, believe Andie was murdered by her boyfriend at the time, Sal Singh, who was thought to have disposed of her body. The biggest piece of evidence against Sal is a supposed confession he texted to his parents, days after Andie disappeared. This confession was sent just prior to Sal's death, an apparent suicide. However, Pippa does not believe in Sal's guilt. Read this book to find out if Pippa can uncover the truth about what really happened to Andie and Sal.

All Our Broken Pieces by L.D. Crichton: When Lennon moves in with her father and her new stepfamily, she and Kyler become neighbors. Lennon is a teenager who suffers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, while Kyler is traumatized from the scars he has gotten from a past tragedy. As the two teens find themselves drawn to one another they develop a life-changing relationship, despite the disapproval of their families.

Dread Nation by Justina Ireland: After the Civil War ended, shamblers rose up from the dead. They roam the country like zombies, either killing or infecting anyone who comes in their way. And, although slavery has ended, social injustice is as widely accepted as it was before the war. Jane McKeene, like many young black youths, has been sent to a combat school to learn to fight shamblers and protect the upper class. But Jane has a few secrets from her past, and longs to return home to her mother and the plantation she grew up on. Once the people they are supposed to protect begin to go missing, Jane finds that she has to put these hopes aside, and form an alliance with a very unlikely ally. Jane and her friend begin to discover that shamblers are not our country's only threat.