
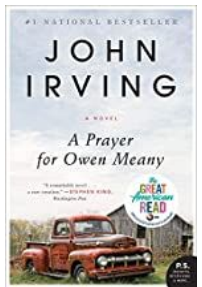
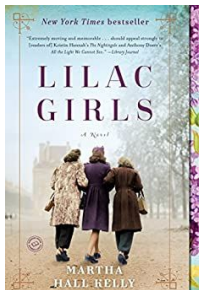

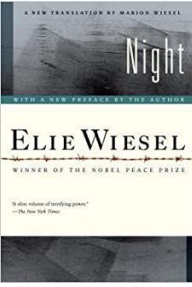
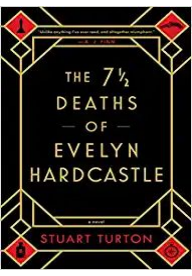
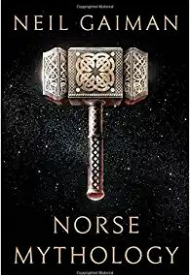
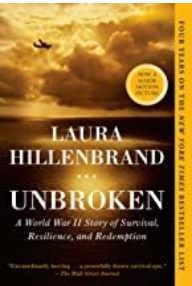

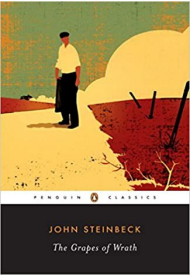
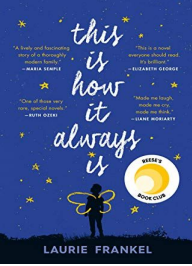
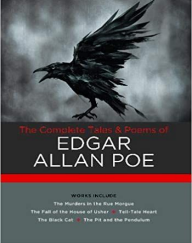
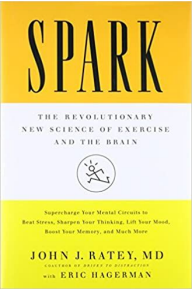
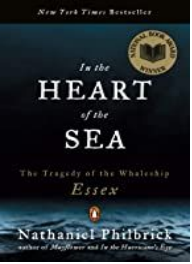
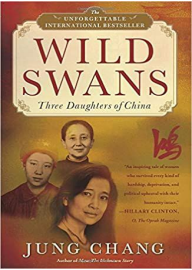


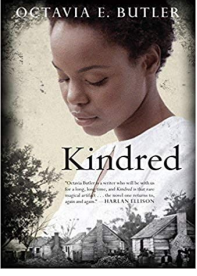
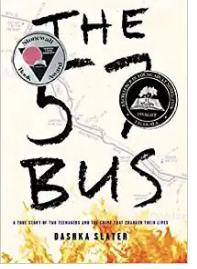
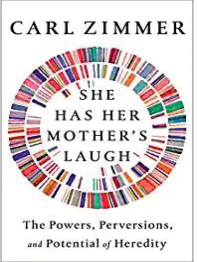
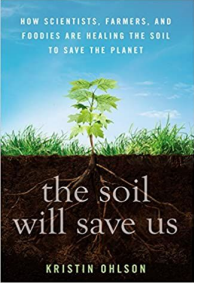
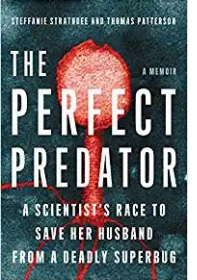
West Boylston Summer Reading 2020
High School Reading List*
Grades 9-12

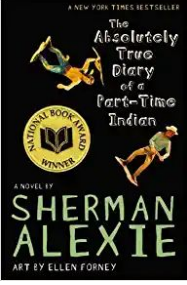
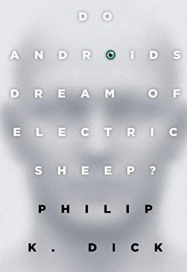
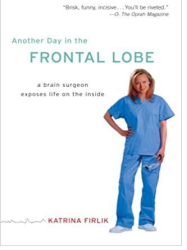
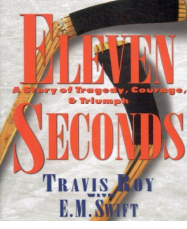
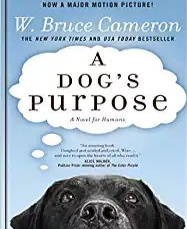
Directions: Each student should read two books over the summer: one from the teacher recommended reading list, and a second book of free choice.

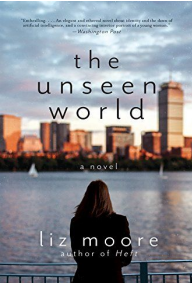

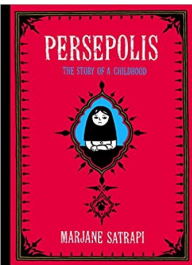
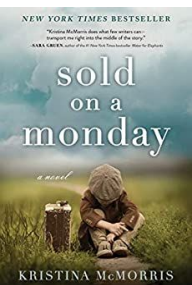
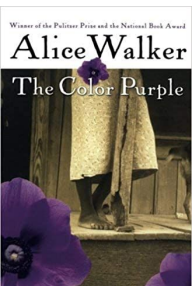
Book Titles		
	<p><u>The Handmaid's Tale</u> By: Margaret Atwood</p> <p>Also available in: <u>Digital ebook</u></p>	<p>In Margaret Atwood's dystopian future, environmental disasters and declining birth rates have led to a Second American Civil War. The result is the rise of the Republic of Gilead, a totalitarian regime that enforces rigid social roles and enslaves the few remaining fertile women. Offred is one of these, a Handmaid bound to produce children for one of Gilead's commanders. Deprived of her husband, her child, her freedom, and even her own name, Offred clings to her memories and her will to survive.</p>
	<p><u>A Prayer for Owen Meany</u> By: John Irving</p> <p>Also available in: <u>Digital ebook</u></p>	<p>In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boys—best friends—were playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills the other boy's mother. The boy who hits the ball doesn't believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen after that 1953 foul ball is extraordinary.</p>
	<p><u>Lilac Girls</u> By: Martha Hall Kelly</p> <p>Also available in: <u>Digital ebook</u> <u>Digital audiobook</u></p>	<p>New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France. An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power. The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women.</p>
	<p><u>Room</u> By: Emma Donoghue</p> <p>Also available in <u>Digital ebook</u> <u>Digital audiobook</u></p>	<p>Held captive for years in a small shed, a woman and her precocious young son finally gain their freedom, and the boy experiences the outside world for the first time.</p>

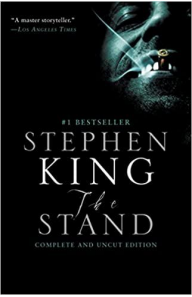
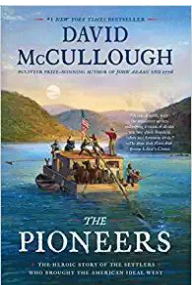
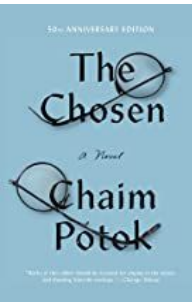
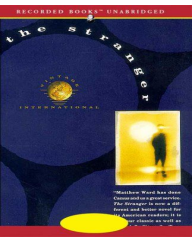
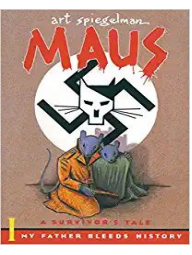
	<p>Night By: Elie Wiesel</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>Night is an unmistakably autobiographical account of the author's own gruesome experiences in Nazi Germany's death camps. Told through the eyes of 14-year-old Eliezer, the tragic fate of the Jews from the little town of Sighet unfolds with a heart-wrenching inevitability. Even as they are stuffed into cattle cars bound for Auschwitz, the townspeople refuse to believe rumors of anti-Semitic atrocities. Not until they are marched toward the blazing crematory at the camp's "reception center" does the terrible truth sink in.</p>
	<p>The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle By: Stuart Turton</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>Evelyn Hardcastle will die. Every day until Aiden Bishop can identify her killer and break the cycle. But every time the day begins again, Aiden wakes up in the body of a different guest. And some of his hosts are more helpful than others. The 7½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle is a breathlessly addictive novel that follows one man's race against time to find a killer— but an astonishing time-turning twist means that nothing and no one are quite what they seem.</p>
	<p>Norse Mythology By: Neil Gaiman</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>In Norse Mythology, Gaiman stays true to the myths in envisioning the major Norse pantheon: Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki—son of a giant—blood brother to Odin and a trickster and unsurpassable manipulator. Gaiman fashions these primeval stories into a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds and delves into the exploits of deities, dwarfs, and giants.</p>
	<p>Unbroken: a World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption By: Laura Hillenbrand</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater.</p>
	<p>No Ordinary Time By: Doris Kearns Goodwin</p> <p>Also available in Digital audiobook</p>	<p>No Ordinary Time describes how the isolationist and divided United States of 1940 was unified under the extraordinary leadership of Franklin Roosevelt to become the preeminent economic and military power in the world.</p>

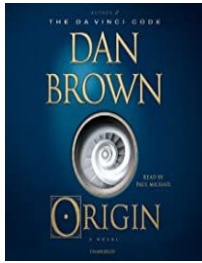
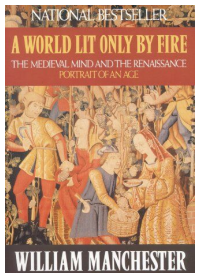
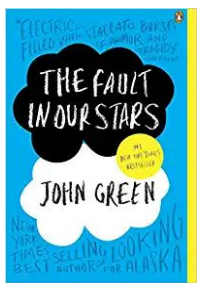
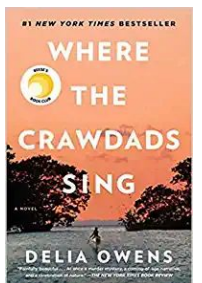
	<p>The Grapes of Wrath By: John Steinbeck</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California.</p>
	<p>This is How it Always is By: Laurie Frankel</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>A novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.</p>
	<p>The Complete Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe By: Edgar Allan Poe</p>	<p>Despite Poe's hardships in his personal life, he produced many works that are now considered to be essential to the American literary canon. His often macabre and dark works include "The Raven," "The Black Cat," "The Tell-Tale Heart," and "Annabelle Lee." This elegant book includes Poe's short stories, melodious poems, literary criticism, essays, and his only full-length novel.</p>
	<p>Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain By: John J. Ratey, MD</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>John J. Ratey, M.D., embarks upon a fascinating and entertaining journey through the mind-body connection, presenting startling research to prove that exercise is truly our best defense against everything from depression to ADD to addiction to aggression to menopause to Alzheimer's.</p>
	<p>In the heart of the sea : the tragedy of the whaleship Essex By: Nathaniel Philbrick</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>In 1820, the whaleship Essex was rammed and sunk by an angry sperm whale, leaving the desperate crew to drift for more than ninety days in three tiny boats. Nathaniel Philbrick uses little-known documents and vivid details about the Nantucket whaling tradition to reveal the chilling facts of this infamous maritime disaster.</p>
	<p>Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China By: Jung Chang</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook</p>	<p>An engrossing record of Mao's impact on China, an unusual window on the female experience in the modern world, and an inspiring tale of courage and love, Jung Chang describes the extraordinary lives and experiences of her family members: her grandmother, a warlord's concubine; her mother's struggles as a young idealistic Communist; and her parents' experience as members of the Communist elite and their ordeal during the Cultural Revolution.</p>

	<p>Kindred By: Octavia Butler (Not the graphic novel version)</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>Having just celebrated her 26th birthday in 1976 California, Dana, an African-American woman, is suddenly and inexplicably wrenched through time into antebellum Maryland. After saving a drowning white boy there, she finds herself staring into the barrel of a shotgun and is transported back to the present just in time to save her life. During numerous such time-defying episodes with the same young man, she realizes the challenge she's been given: to protect this young slaveholder until he can father her own great-grandmother.</p>
	<p>The 57 Bus By: Dashka Slater</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.</p>
	<p>She Has Her Mother's Laugh By: Carl Zimmer</p> <p>Also available in: Digital ebook</p>	<p>In <i>She Has Her Mother's Laugh</i>, New York Times columnist Carl Zimmer dives deep into the ways that we pass along our genetic inheritance. Through history, science, and a boatload of personal curiosity (the book originated from questions he had regarding his own child, and he had his entire genome mapped in the process of writing it), Zimmer seeks to retell the story of heredity in broader and more inclusive terms than the ones we're used to hearing.</p>
	<p>The Soil Will Save Us! By: Kristin Ohlson and Dina Pearlman, et.al.</p>	<p>Journalist and bestselling author Kristin Ohlson makes an elegantly argued, passionate case for "our great green hope"—a way in which we can not only heal the land but also turn atmospheric carbon into beneficial soil carbon—and potentially reverse global warming.</p>
	<p>The Perfect Predator By: Steffanie Strathdee and Thomas Patterson</p>	<p>Epidemiologist Steffanie Strathdee and her husband, psychologist Tom Patterson, were vacationing in Egypt when Tom came down with a stomach bug. What at first seemed like a case of food poisoning quickly turned critical, and by the time Tom had been transferred via emergency medevac to the world-class medical center at UC San Diego, where both he and Steffanie worked, blood work revealed why modern medicine was failing: Tom was fighting one of the most dangerous, antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the world.</p>

	<p>Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian By: Sherman Alexie</p> <p>Digital options</p>	<p>Best-selling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.</p>
	<p>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? By: Philip K Dick</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook</p>	<p>By 2021, the World War has killed millions, driving entire species into extinction and sending mankind off-planet. Those who remain covet any living creature, and for people, companies built incredibly realistic simulacra: horses, birds, cats, sheep, even humans. Immigrants to Mars receive androids so sophisticated they are indistinguishable from true men or women. Fearful of the havoc these artificial humans can wreak, the government bans them from Earth. Driven into hiding, unauthorized androids live among human beings, undetected. Rick Deckard, an officially sanctioned bounty hunter, is commissioned to find rogue androids and “retire” them. But when cornered, androids fight back—with lethal force.</p>
	<p>Another Day in the Frontal Lobe: A Brain Surgeon Exposes Life on the Inside By: Katrina Firlik</p>	<p>Katrina Firlik is a neurosurgeon, one of only two hundred or so women among the alpha males who dominate this high-pressure, high-prestige medical specialty. She is also a superbly gifted writer—witty, insightful, at once deeply humane and refreshingly wry. In <i>Another Day in the Frontal Lobe</i>, Dr. Firlik draws on this rare combination to create a neurosurgeon’s Kitchen Confidential—a unique insider’s memoir of a fascinating profession.</p>
	<p>Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage, & Triumph By: Travis Roy</p>	<p>In this heartfelt testament to the power of love and the strength of the human spirit, Travis Roy, who suffered a devastating injury eleven seconds into his first college hockey game, reveals how he has managed to cope after the accident and, with the help of family and friends, overcome tremendous barriers to begin a new life.</p>
	<p>A Dog's Purpose By: W. Bruce Cameron</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p><i>A Dog's Purpose</i> is not only the emotional and hilarious story of a dog's many lives, but also a dog's-eye commentary on human relationships and the unbreakable bonds between man and man's best friend. This moving and beautifully crafted story teaches us that love never dies, that our true friends are always with us, and that every creature on earth is born with a purpose.</p>

	<p>The Unseen World By: Liz Moore</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>Ada Sibelius is raised by David, her brilliant, socially inept single father, who directs a computer science lab in 1980s-era Boston. Home-schooled, Ada accompanies David to work every day; by twelve, she is a painfully shy prodigy. The lab begins to gain acclaim at the same time that David's mysterious history comes into question. When his mind begins to falter, leaving Ada virtually an orphan, she is taken in by one of David's colleagues. Soon she embarks on a mission to uncover her father's secrets: a process that carries her from childhood to adulthood.</p>
	<p>American Born Chinese By: Gene Luen Yang</p>	<p>Jin Wang starts at a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn't want to be associated with an FOB like him. Jin just wants to be an all-American boy, because he's in love with an all-American girl. Danny is an all-American boy: great at basketball, popular with the girls. But his obnoxious Chinese cousin Chin-Kee's annual visit is such a disaster that it ruins Danny's reputation at school, leaving him with no choice but to transfer somewhere he can start all over again.</p>
	<p>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood By: Marjane Satrapi</p>	<p>In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.</p>
	<p>Sold on a Monday By: Kristina McMorris</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook</p>	<p>2 CHILDREN FOR SALE - The sign is a last resort. It sits on a farmhouse porch in 1931, but could be found anywhere in an era of breadlines, bank runs and broken dreams. It could have been written by any mother facing impossible choices. For struggling reporter Ellis Reed, the gut-wrenching scene evokes memories of his family's dark past. He snaps a photograph of the children, not meant for publication. But when it leads to his big break, the consequences are more devastating than he ever imagined. Inspired by an actual newspaper photograph that stunned the nation, <i>Sold on a Monday</i> is a powerful novel of love, redemption, and the unexpected paths that bring us home.</p>
	<p>The Color Purple By: Alice Walker</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook</p>	<p>Celie has grown up poor in rural Georgia, despised by the society around her and abused by her own family. She strives to protect her sister, Nettie, from a similar fate, and while Nettie escapes to a new life as a missionary in Africa, Celie is left behind without her best friend and confidante, married off to an older suitor, and sentenced to a life alone with a harsh and brutal husband. In an attempt to transcend a life that often seems too much to bear, Celie begins writing letters directly to God. The letters, spanning 20 years, record a journey of self-discovery and empowerment guided by the light of a few strong women.</p>

	<p>The Stand (abridged or unabridged) By: Stephen King</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>A patient escapes from a biological testing facility, unknowingly carrying a deadly weapon: a mutated strain of super-flu that will wipe out 99 percent of the world's population within a few weeks. Those who remain are scared, bewildered, and in need of a leader. Two emerge—Mother Abigail, the benevolent 108-year-old woman who urges them to build a peaceful community in Boulder, Colorado; and Randall Flagg, the nefarious “Dark Man,” who delights in chaos and violence. As the dark man and the peaceful woman gather power, the survivors will have to choose between them—and ultimately decide the fate of all humanity.</p>
	<p>The Pioneers By: David McCullough</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>The #1 New York Times bestseller by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough rediscovers an important chapter in the American story that's “as resonant today as ever” (The Wall Street Journal)—the settling of the Northwest Territory by courageous pioneers who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would define our country.</p>
	<p>The Chosen By: Chaim Potok</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook</p>	<p>It's the spring of 1944 and fifteen-year-olds Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders have lived five blocks apart all their lives. But they've never met, not until the day an accident during a softball game sparks an unlikely friendship. Soon these two boys—one expected to become a Hasidic rebbe, the other at ease with secular America—are drawn into one another's worlds despite one father's strong opposition.</p>
	<p>The Stranger By: Albert Camus</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook</p>	<p>When a young Algerian named Meursault kills a man, his subsequent imprisonment and trial are puzzling and absurd. The apparently amoral Meursault, who puts little stock in ideas like love and God, seems to be on trial less for his murderous actions, and more for what the authorities believe is his deficient character.</p>
	<p>Maus I & II By: Art Spiegelman</p>	<p>A brutally moving work of art—widely hailed as the greatest graphic novel ever written—<i>Maus</i> recounts the chilling experiences of the author's father during the Holocaust, with Jews drawn as wide-eyed mice and Nazis as menacing cats.</p>

	<p>Origin By: Dan Brown</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>Robert Langdon, Harvard professor of symbology and religious iconology, arrives at the ultramodern Guggenheim Museum Bilbao to attend a major announcement - the unveiling of a discovery that "will change the face of science forever." The evening's host is Edmond Kirsch, a 40-year-old billionaire and futurist whose dazzling high-tech inventions and audacious predictions have made him a renowned global figure. Kirsch, who was one of Langdon's first students at Harvard two decades earlier, is about to reveal an astonishing breakthrough...one that will answer two of the fundamental questions of human existence.</p>
	<p>A World Only Lit by Fire By: William Manchester</p>	<p>William Manchester's <i>A World Lit Only by Fire</i> is the preeminent popular history of civilization's rebirth after the Dark Ages.</p>
	<p>The Fault in our Stars By: John Green</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook</p>	<p>Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.</p>
	<p>Where the Crawdads Sing By: Delia Owens</p> <p>Also available in Digital ebook Digital audiobook</p>	<p>For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life - until the unthinkable happens.</p>

*Images and editorial reviews were copied, edited, or adapted from www.amazon.com.

The books for this list were recommended by the West Boylston Middle/High School teachers in all subject areas.

Beaman Library is virtually here for you!

Although Beaman Library is not yet open to the public, the staff is working, and happy to help you obtain the books you need for your Summer Reading assignments. We are preparing plans to begin curbside pick-up soon, allowing you to pick up a book you reserved. Speaking of reserving books, there are links to the catalog from the titles in this list, so you can easily request what you want to read using your Library card and pin number*. It may take a week or more for your reserve to reach us. We will let you know

when the book you have requested has arrived and is ready for pick-up. There are links to eBooks and digital audiobooks on the list as well, if you'd rather read a digital version. You will need to download the free [Overdrive](#) or [Libby](#) app, and set up a digital account, using your email, library card number and pin number*. Learn more [here](#).

*If you have trouble getting into your account or don't know your pin number, please give us a call. If you don't have a library card, please call us at 508-835-3711. We will also need to speak with your parent, or guardian, at that time.

And, since you are reading books this summer anyway, why not join the [Virtual Teen Summer Reading Program](#) sponsored by The Friends of Beaman Library. It runs from June 16-August 15, is for students entering grades 6-12 and you might just win a gift certificate at the end of the summer! Learn all about this program and upcoming virtual Zoom events for teens [here](#).

To get information about the Library's evolving reopening plans, join the email list [here](#).

Happy reading!

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