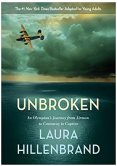


FRESHMEN



2023 DeMatha Summer Reading Guide

Required:



***Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation)*, by Laura Hillenbrand**

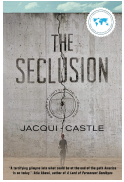
Louis Zamperini, mischievous and willful son of Italian immigrants, was headed toward a life of crime when his brother convinced him to join the track team. Zamperini discovered he had world-class talent, but the determination and toughness that made him so hard to handle as a child became invaluable traits for him in his roles as Olympic athlete, World War II pilot, and eventually a Japanese prisoner of war in appalling conditions. This is a true story of surviving incredible physical and emotional trials.

Choose One:



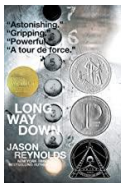
***Akata Witch*, by Nnedi Okorafor**

Often referred to as "the Nigerian Harry Potter," this coming-of-age novel follows a young American-born girl as she grows up in Nigeria. Her foreign-birth is only one of the traits that distinguishes her from her peers: she is also albino, and a witch, who had been unaware of her powers when she first moved to Nigeria. Now there is a serial killer on the loose. How will she navigate both this impending danger and her own complicated identity?



***The Seclusion*, by Jacqui Castle**

Fans of novels like *The Hunger Games* and *The Maze Runner* will find themselves engrossed in this dystopian version of America. In the year 2090, our country has been walled off from its neighbors, is suffering from environmental disasters, and is in a state of constant surveillance. When Patch stumbles upon some forbidden books, she begins to understand the truth about her country. The next question becomes about what she should do with this new knowledge.



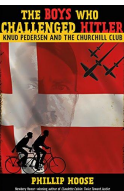
***Long Way Down*, by Jason Reynolds**

When his older brother Shawn is shot and killed, Will Holloman thinks he's supposed to just follow the rules. No crying. No snitching. Just get revenge. Will arms himself and rides his building's elevator down to the ground floor, but on that long way down he is visited by the ghosts of other loved ones lost who make him question just what exactly he'd be finishing by getting revenge. This is a powerful story—told through short poems on each page—about the cycle of violence and how to escape it.



***Black Ice*, by Andrew Lane**

Sherlock Holmes is a teenager in this adventure, and, while smart, he is not yet "the most perfect reasoning and observing machine that the world has seen." With the help of his mentor, Amyus Crowe, he must now save his brother from a murder conviction. The room was locked, only two people were inside—one ended up dead and Mycroft was discovered with a knife. Sherlock will have to travel the streets of London and Moscow to unravel the sinister set-up.



***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler*, by Phillip Hoose**

The Nazi war machine has over-run much of Europe, and a group of 15-year-old Danish boys can't stand the thought that their country has let the Germans occupy their towns without a fight. Armed with only their bicycles and their bravery, the boys launch a series of sabotage efforts and guerilla-style attacks on the Nazi occupiers. Their exploits—which include escaping from prison to continue their nightly raids—inspire the adults of their country to begin resisting the Nazis at every turn.

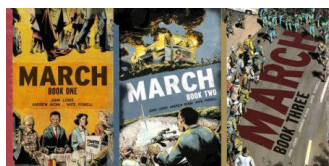
Rising freshmen are asked to prepare written responses to their two summer reading books. [See the prompts here](#). Students in the Summer Prep class will read *Unbroken* and prepare the first written response as part of the Summer Prep course. They must complete the second book and written response independently.

SOPHOMORES



2023 DeMatha Summer Reading Guide

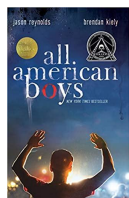
Required:



***March* (in three volumes), John Lewis and Nate Powell**

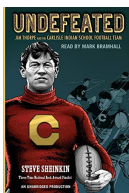
From an Alabama chicken farm to a podium on the National Mall, from Nashville lunch counters to Bloody Sunday on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, artist Nate Powell's illustrations and John Lewis's narration bring alive both the incredible personal story of a Civil Rights leader and the country-changing movement of which he was an integral part. Lewis's lessons about "good trouble" still resonate today. DeMatha freshmen read *Book One* as part of their English 9 course; transfer students should read it in addition to *Books Two* and *Three*. [Students can request to borrow digital copies of these texts here.](#)

Choose One:



***All American Boys*, by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely**

When Rashad is mistakenly accused of shoplifting at the corner store, Quinn is the only eyewitness to Rashad's encounter with an off-duty police officer—a confrontation that leaves Rashad in the hospital with broken ribs and a collapsed lung. To make matters worse, the officer was someone Quinn had looked up to like a father, after his own father had died in Afghanistan, and soon Quinn will have to choose between staying quiet to protect someone from his inner circle and speaking up for what he knows is the truth.



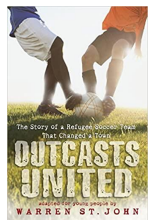
***Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School*, by Steve Sheinkin**

More than a century ago, legendary football coach Pop Warner took a game that frequently featured fist fights and cracked craniums and modernized it with the forward pass, trick plays, and the electric speed of his players at Carlisle Indian School. This is the true story of Jim Thorpe (often considered one of the best athletes of the 20th century), the evolution of football, and Native American cultures that refused to be erased.



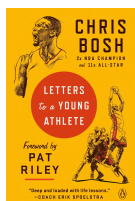
***Dear Justyce*, by Nic Stone**

Vernell LaQuan Banks and Justyce McAllister grew up a block apart in the Southwest Atlanta neighborhood of Wynwood Heights. Years later, though, Justyce walks the illustrious halls of Yale University...and Quan sits behind bars at the Fulton Regional Youth Detention Center. Through a series of flashbacks, vignettes, and letters to Justyce, Quan's story takes form. Troubles at home and misunderstandings at school give rise to police encounters and tough decisions. But then there's a dead cop and a weapon with Quan's prints on it. What leads a bright kid down a road to a murder charge? Not even Quan is sure.



***Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John**

Refugees fleeing civil wars, organized crime, and natural disasters have been resettled to apartment high rises in Clarksburg, GA, right outside of Atlanta. When Luma Mufleh, a young Jordanian immigrant, notices the children in these communities (many barefoot) using every available space and material to play soccer, she organizes a club team for them. Many of these boys have fled traumatic experiences in their home countries, but playing for Luma and the Fugees gives them a chance to feel like kids again and feel the power of coming together as a team.



***Letters to a Young Athlete*, by Chris Bosh**

In a voice that's both conversational and academic, former NBA star Chris Bosh gives advice to young people about how to succeed in athletics, in school, and in life. It comes down to finding your purpose and "putting work into your mental game." You do not have to be a basketball fan or an athlete to appreciate the stories and perspective that this book offers.

JUNIORS

2023 DeMatha Summer Reading Guide



Required:

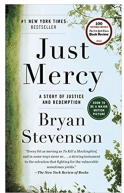


The Kite Runner [Graphic Novel], by Khaled Hosseini

Amir and Hassan had always been best friends—almost like brothers—despite Hassan being a Harza, an ethnic group considered inferior in Afghanistan’s social hierarchy. When Amir’s failure to stand up for Hassan turns his friend toward a terrible life trajectory, Amir must live with his guilt and remorse for years. This story about friendship and fathers and sons takes us inside Afghanistan before the rise of the Taliban and then shows us the upheavals and reversals of power—both personal and societal—that come with it.

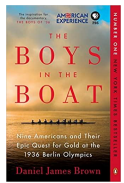
[Students can request to borrow digital copies of this text here.](#)

Choose One:



Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson

While on his summer break from Harvard Law School, Bryan Stevenson began volunteering at an organization in Georgia that offered legal representation to inmates on Death Row. Now, after more than 30 years working with the destitute, desperate, and forgotten through his Equal Justice Initiative, Stevenson delivers a frustrating, heart-breaking look into the corners of our justice system, and hope for how to reform it.



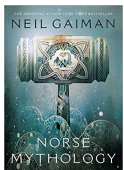
The Boys in the Boat, by Daniel James Brown

When Joe Rantz was just 15, his father and stepmother abandoned him, leaving him to fend for himself in a half-finished log cabin in the woods north of Seattle. Rantz survived by logging and doing odd jobs, all while finishing high school and then earning a place on the vaunted University of Washington rowing team. As the tough-as-nails young men on this team go from local heroes to Olympic hopefuls, this depression-era story becomes one of individuality and teamwork, an international triumph that is part Rocky and part Miracle on Ice.



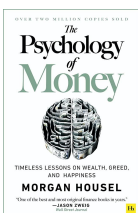
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, by Mark Haddon

Fifteen-year-old Christopher knows a mystery when he sees one. When his neighbor’s dog is mysteriously killed, Christopher decides to investigate. But Christopher is unlike any narrator we’ve heard from before. While he searches for clues, his autism prevents him from reading the social and emotional clues of the people around him, and he plunges deeper into a disturbing mystery about his own family. This modern classic is funny, sad, weird, brilliant, life-affirming, and unforgettable.



Norse Mythology, by Neil Gaiman

Master storyteller Neil Gaiman breathes new life into the traditional myths of Odin, Thor, Loki and the other Norse gods of Asgard. Gaiman gives shape to these often disjointed tales by creating a unified plot that takes readers from the creation of the nine worlds through the gods’ many attempts to ward off the chaos of the giants and the long foreseen end of the world, Ragnarok. These reimagined myths are both funnier and more fearsome than the traditional tales.



The Psychology of Money: Timeless Lessons on Wealth, Greed, and Happiness, by Morgan Housel

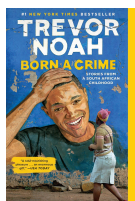
Housel, an award-winning finance journalist, believes that “personal finance” is more about the “personal” than it is about the “finance.” He’s a part of a growing field of study, known as behavioral economics, that looks into the psychology of *why* and *how* we make decisions with money. This book, accessible to novices but also intriguing to experts, shares 19 stories that reveal the ways people think about money. There’s also some sound financial advice here, but nothing about how to “get rich quick.” In fact, looking for a shortcut to wealth is one of the surest ways to never arrive there.

SENIORS

2023 DeMatha Summer Reading Guide

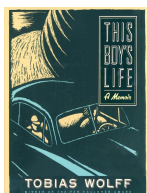


All rising seniors are asked to read **TWO** of the following memoirs—with a focus on the way each writer uses story-telling techniques to share a real experience from his or her life. Writing the college essay is a similar project.



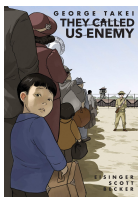
***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*, by Trevor Noah**

As the son of a Black South African mother and a white father, Trevor Noah was literally born a crime in Apartheid South Africa. In this collection of personal stories, Noah tells the story of growing up “mixed” in a society designed—by law and deeply rooted prejudices—to keep the races separate. In the process of telling these stories from childhood, the older Noah recognizes the impact of his mother’s strength, bravery, and love on nearly every element of his journey.



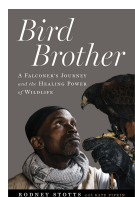
***This Boy's Life*, by Tobias Wolff**

Before he became a widely celebrated American short story writer and college professor, Tobias Wolff was a trouble-making kid with an unforgettable relationship to his mother, forced to navigate a variety of undesirable father-figures as he struggled to grow up. Told with humor and classic American literary tropes, this story details both his misadventures and his triumphs.



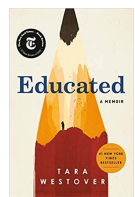
***They Called Us Enemy*, by George Takei**

During World War II, President Roosevelt ordered every person of Japanese descent to be sent to internment camps. George Takei was a boy when this happened, born in this country and detained with his family against their will. Fans of graphic memoirs like *March* will especially appreciate the way this form can be used to render an intimate and vivid account of a tragic part of our nation’s past.



***Bird Brother: A Falconer's Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife*, by Rodney Stotts**

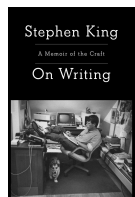
Growing up in a tough neighborhood of Southeast D.C., Rodney Stotts resorted to a life of selling drugs. His unconventional path leads him to conservationist work, trying to restore the Anacostia River. He gets interested in the birds of the region and finds, in nature, a form of salvation. Here he details the tragedies he experienced, the racial prejudice he faced, his journey to become a master falconer, and the mentorship he tries to bestow on the next generation.



***Educated*, by Tara Westover**

Tara Westover grew up in Idaho with a family who didn’t believe in modern medicine, education, or any sort of outside work that didn’t involve prepping for the upcoming End of Days. Westover didn’t have a birth certificate until she was 14, never went to school until she lied about being homeschooled and applied to BYU, and never visited a doctor until her first year in college. At the end of the book, you’re left wondering at what point she actually became “educated.” Was it during her Harvard graduation, or was it when she realized all of the ways her family had tried to keep her ignorant and dependent by filling her with feelings of shame and inadequacy?

Required for AP English Literature & Composition:



***On Writing*, by Stephen King**

After the memoir that composes the first third of the book, King presents one of the most accessible and engaging set of instructions out there for how to become a better writer. Although his focus is on fiction-writing, many of his lessons are applicable to other writing situations. Furthermore, one of our goals in AP Lit this year will be to learn how to think like a writer, because doing so allows one to become a much better reader. On your return to school in the fall, you will be asked to demonstrate your understanding of the concepts and terms found [here](#). You should use the guide to take notes as you read.