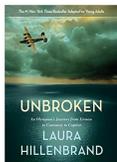


FRESHMEN

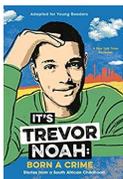
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***Unbroken*, by Laura Hillenbrand**

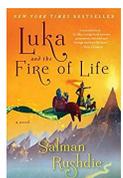
Louis Zamperini, mischievous and willful son of Italian immigrants, was headed toward a life of crime when his brother convinced him to join the track team. Zamperini discovered he had world-class talent, but the determination and toughness that made him so hard to handle as a child became invaluable 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.

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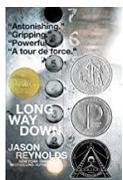
***It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime - Stories from an African Childhood*, by Trevor Noah**

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.



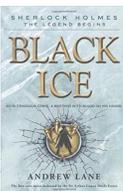
***Luka and the Fire of Life*, by Salman Rushdie**

Rashid Khalifa, the legendary storyteller of Kahani, has fallen into deep sleep from which no one can wake him. To keep his father from slipping away entirely, Luka must travel to the Magic World and steal the ever-burning Fire of Life. Thus begins a quest replete with unlikely creatures, strange alliances, and seemingly insurmountable challenges as Luka and an assortment of enchanted companions race through peril after peril, pass through the land of the Badly Behaved Gods, and reach the Fire itself, where Luka’s fate, and that of his father, will be decided.



***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.



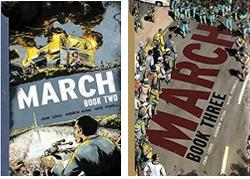
***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler*, by Phillip Hoose**

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

Required:

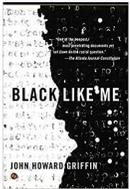


March, Books Two and Three, John Lewis and Nate Powell

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.

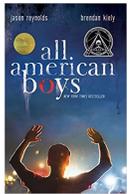
[Students can request to borrow digital copies of these texts here.](#)

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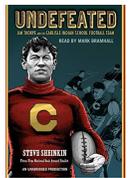
Black Like Me, by John Howard Griffin

In 1959, John Howard Griffin, a White journalist from Texas, traveled to New Orleans with the intent of understanding what it meant to be a Black man in the Deep South. He checked into a New Orleans hotel and, after cutting his hair and darkening his skin with creams and sunlamp treatments, he checked out of the hotel passing as an African American man. He immediately experienced the impact of racial segregation first-hand and brought it to a mass audience in this very influential piece of non-fiction.



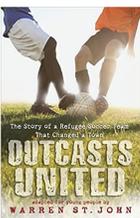
All American Boys, by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

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.



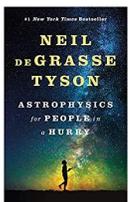
Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School, by Steve Sheinkin

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.



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.



Astrophysics for People in a Hurry, by Neil deGrasse Tyson

From the first zillionth of a second after the Big Bang, to black holes and the search for life elsewhere in the universe, de Grasse Tyson explains current and recent discoveries in our understanding of the cosmos, all in terms that are understandable, memorable, and mesmerizing. This book is perfect for the science-minded and for those who simply look to the sky with questions about the universe and our place in it.

JUNIORS

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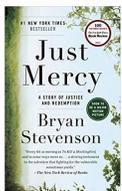


The Kite Runner [Graphic Novel], by Khaled Hosseini

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.

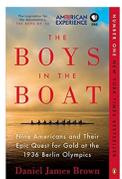
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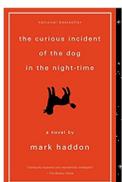
Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson

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.



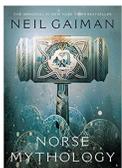
The Boys in the Boat, by Daniel James Brown

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.

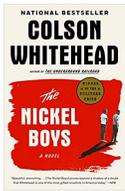


Soonish: Ten Emerging Technologies That’ll Improve and/or Ruin Everything, by Kelly and Zach Weinersmith

Mass transportation to space? Brain-computer interfaces? And just how close are we to making nuclear fusion reactors? Self-described Super Nerds and pop science writers Kelly and Zach Weinersmith explore real emerging technologies that seem more fiction than science fiction. Will these shiny new technologies make us better, or simply more distracted from what truly plagues us?

SENIORS

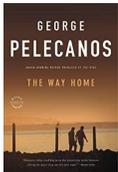
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***The Nickel Boys*, by Colson Whitehead**

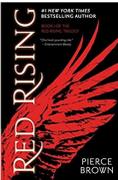
Late for his first day of school, Elwood Curtis decides to hitchhike to his Tallahassee community college. When the man who stops to pick him up is pulled over for driving a stolen car, Elwood is also punished and sent to Nickel Academy, a Jim Crow-era reformatory school that, as Elwood soon finds out, has no interest in reforming its young “students.” Can Elwood, a Black boy who grew up inspired by the idealism and hope of the Civil Rights movement, retain his identity in an institution designed to break him?

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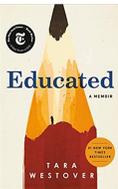
***The Way Home*, by George Pelecanos**

As a teenager, Chris Flynn was always in trouble, eventually landing in juvenile detention center after a dangerous, destructive joyride. Now in his early 20s, however, Flynn is trying to get his life back on track. One day, while working at his job as a flooring contractor, he and his partner find a gym bag full of cash underneath the floorboards of a Washington, DC rowhouse. Although Flynn resists the temptation, his old life comes flooding back as his former criminal associates—now older and more dangerous—come looking for the money.



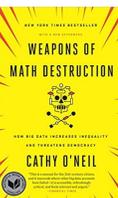
***Red Rising*, by Pierce Brown**

For as long as they can remember, the Reds have been miners, drilling deep into the core of Mars to collect the ore and elements that have made space colonization possible. In the first book of this exciting trilogy, Darrow, a young Red, awakens to the brutal class inequality of their world and sets his sights on revolution as he disguises himself as a Gold, one of the elites, and tries to take down this oppressive society from the inside-out.



***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?



***Weapons of Math Destruction*, by Cathy O'Neil**

In this fascinating account, the author explores how the complex algorithms that help companies like Netflix and Amazon suggest videos and products we might like are also being used in investment banking, policing, mortgage lending, and college rankings. But as our use of Big Data becomes more sophisticated, we also lose sight of how human prejudices and assumptions driving the code can help these supposedly objective algorithms increase inequality and create a “toxic cocktail for democracy.”



***A Tale of Two Cities**, by Charles Dickens**

Some novels have a great first line. Some novels have a great last line. It is very rare for a novel to have both. And then there's this novel by Charles Dickens. *A Tale of Two Cities* has one of the most memorable opening lines in all of literature. Its concluding sentence is a clarion call for selfless sacrifice for the greater good. Dickens looks at the causes and consequences of the French Revolution by focusing on the injustices suffered by ordinary people in France. He also shows us the problems associated with mob violence. He bounces back and forth between London and Paris, the two cities, and helps us to see how revolutionary movements get started and how they impact individuals.

**A Tale of Two Cities* is required for students taking AP Literature and Composition