

Summer Reading Class of 2021

Fiction

Coben, Harlan. Just One Look. Suburban wife and mother Grace Lawson's idyllic life begins to unravel when she picks up a set of newly developed family photographs that contains a much older picture of a group of men that includes her husband Jack, and sets off a chain reaction of kidnapping and murder leading back to a deadly rock concert., 370p. Provided by the publisher AR BL: 4.0 Pts. 14.0

Dessen, Sarah. Just Listen. Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life., 371p. Provided by the publisher AR BL: 4.9 Pts: 15.0

Doctorow, Cory. Little Brother - After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right. 384p. Request AR BL: 5.9 Pts. 17.0

Green, John. Looking For Alaska. Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. 221p. Request AR BL: 5.8 Pts:11.0

Grisham, John. Sycamore Row. The suspense never rests when A Time to Kill's Jake Brigance fights the good fight once again. Often named an all-time favorite by John Grisham's legions of fans, the book that started it all gets a brand-new chapter. America's favorite storyteller returns to Ford County, Mississippi, where defense attorney Jake Brigance will have to fight for justice in a trial that could tear the small town of Clanton apart. 447p. Request AR BL: 6.2 Pts: 28.0

King, Stephen. Cell: a novel. Maine artist Clayton Riddell, elated after closing the deal for his first comic book, comes down to Earth quickly when a brain-zapping energy burst--The Pulse--strikes, reducing cell phone users to zombie-like creatures, and leaving Clayton desperate to find a way home from Boston to see if his wife and son have survived. 355p. AR Bookfinder AR BL: 5.7 Pts: 19.0

Lupica, Mike. True Legend. Fifteen-year-old Drew "True" Robinson loves being the best point-guard prospect in high school basketball, but learns the consequences of fame through a former player, as well as through the man who expects to be his manager when True reaches the NBA. 292p. Request AR BL: 5.2 Pts: 10.0

Rowell, Rainbow. Fangirl: a novel - This charming coming-of-age novel tells the story of a painfully shy teen who prefers the fantasy world of fan fiction to reality. Cath expected to survive her first year of college with the help of her twin sister. Wren, however, is taking full advantage of her newfound freedom from parental supervision, spending a great deal of time partying and very little time with her needy, nerdy, slightly pathetic sister. Feeling lost and alone, Cath scurries from class to class, hiding in her room and working on her Simon Snow fan fiction omnibus. When she writes, she can escape herself and be somewhere else. Otherwise she's just another social misfit stuck with a surly roommate, her roommate's overly friendly, kind of cute boyfriend (who might also be flirting with Cath), and a family that's falling apart. Sometimes, however, real life can become better than fantasy. Even if getting there feels like an epic battle. 438p. School Library Journal AR BL:3.9 Pts:15.0

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Nonfiction

Bauman, Jeff. Stronger. When Jeff Bauman woke up on Tuesday, April 16th, 2013 in the Boston Medical Center, groggy from a series of lifesaving surgeries and missing his legs, the first thing he did was try to speak. When he realized he couldn't, he asked for a pad and paper and wrote down seven words: "Saw the guy. Looked right at me," setting off one of the biggest manhunts in the country's history.

Just thirty hours before, Jeff had been at the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon cheering on his girlfriend, Erin, when the first bomb went off at his feet. As he was rushed to the hospital, he realized he was severely injured and that he might die, but he didn't know that a photograph of him in a wheelchair was circulating throughout the world, making him the human face of the Boston Marathon bombing victims, or that what he'd seen would give the Boston police their most important breakthrough.

In **STRONGER**, Jeff describes the chaos and terror of the bombing itself and the ongoing FBI investigation in which he was a key witness. He takes us inside his grueling rehabilitation, and discusses his attempt to reconcile the world's admiration with his own guilt and frustration. . Brave, compassionate, and emotionally compelling, Jeff Bauman's story is not just his, but ours as well. 248p. Amazon

Blanco, Jodee. Please Stop Laughing at Me - The author shares the cruelty that was heaped on her by her classmates when she was labeled a freak in high school, describing what it meant to be an outcast among one's peers, the realities and consequences of bullying, and her struggle to overcome the torment. 276p. Provided by the publisher AR BL: 5.3 Pts: 10.0

Crowe, Chris. Getting Away with Murder: the True Story of Emmett Till - Presents a true account of the murder of fourteen-year-old, Emmett Till, in Mississippi, in 1955. 128p. Request AR BL: 8.7 Pts. 5.0

Davis, Kenneth C. In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives. "An examination of American slavery through the true stories of five enslaved people who were considered the property of some of our best-known presidents"—286 p. Provided by publisher. AR BL: 8.2 Pts. 8.0

Maraniss, Andrew. Strong Inside: The True Story of How Perry Wallace Broke College Basketball's Color Line. Perry Wallace was born at an historic crossroads in U.S. history. He entered kindergarten the year that the Brown v. Board of Education decision led to integrated schools, allowing blacks and whites to learn side by side. A week after Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, Wallace enrolled in high school and his sensational jumping, dunking, and rebounding abilities quickly earned him the attention of college basketball recruiters from top schools across the nation. In his senior year his Pearl High School basketball team won Tennessee's first racially-integrated state tournament.

The world seemed to be opening up at just the right time, and when Vanderbilt University recruited Wallace to play basketball, he courageously accepted the assignment to desegregate the Southeastern Conference. The hateful experiences he would endure on campus and in the hostile gymnasiums of the Deep South turned out to be the stuff of nightmares. Yet Wallace persisted, endured, and met this unthinkable challenge head on. This insightful biography digs deep beneath the surface to reveal a complicated, profound, and inspiring story of an athlete turned civil rights trailblazer. 272p. Amazon AR BL: 7.9 Pts: 8.0

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Pfetzner, Mark. Within Reach: My Everest Story. In May 1996 the media scrambled to document the gripping story of sixteen-year-old **Mark Pfetzner's** expedition to Mount Everest. Not only was he the youngest climber ever to attempt the summit, he also witnessed the tragedy documented in **Jon Krakauer's Into Thin Air**, in which eight climbers perished in a sudden storm. **Within Reach** is Mark's extraordinary account of this experience and of his triumphs over several other challenging peaks. At once triumphant and tragic, this story will be an inspiration to climbers, athletes, and armchair enthusiasts alike. 224 p. Amazon AR BL:6.0 Pts:11.0

Reynolds, Bill. Hope: A School, a Team, a Dream. Hope High School in Providence, Rhode Island was once a model city school, graduating a wide range of students from different backgrounds. But the tumult of the 1960s and the drug wars of the 70s changed both Providence and Hope. Today, the aging school is primarily Hispanic and African-American, with kids traveling for miles by bus and foot each day.

Hope was known for its state championship basketball teams in the 1960s, but its 2012 team is much different. Disobedient, distracted, and overwhelmed by family troubles, with mismatched sneakers and a penchant for profanity and anger, these boys represent Coach Dave Nyblom's dream of a championship, however unlikely that might seem. Nyblom's mostly black players, including several who emigrated to Providence from war-torn Liberia, face gang violence, domestic uncertainty, drug problems, and a host of other issues. But with the unfailing support and guidance of Nyblom and other Hope coaches, their ragtag team gradually pulls together, overcoming every obstacle to find the faith and trust in themselves that Nyblom never stops teaching.

A look at a hidden world that just a few hundred yards from Brown University, Bill Reynolds' Hope is the inspiring true story of young men and their mentors pursuing one goal—a championship—but achieving so much more. 256p. Amazon

Sheinkin, Steve. Bomb: the race to build and steal the world's most dangerous weapon - Recounts the scientific discoveries that enabled atom splitting, the military intelligence operations that occurred in rival countries, and the work of brilliant scientists hidden at Los Alamos. – 226p. Summary from Request AR BL:6.9 Pts:10.0

Skloot, Rebecca. The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks - Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling numerous medical and scientific discoveries. 381p. Destiny AR BL:8.0 Pts:18.0

Weir, Andy. The Martian. "When a dust storm forces his crew to evacuate the planet while thinking him dead, astronaut Mark Watney finds himself stranded on Mars's surface, completely alone. Armed with nothing but his ingenuity, his engineering skills--and a gallows sense of humor that proves to be his greatest source of strength--Mark embarks on a dogged quest to stay alive, but will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?" 387p. Summary from Request AR BL:5.4 Pts:16.0

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