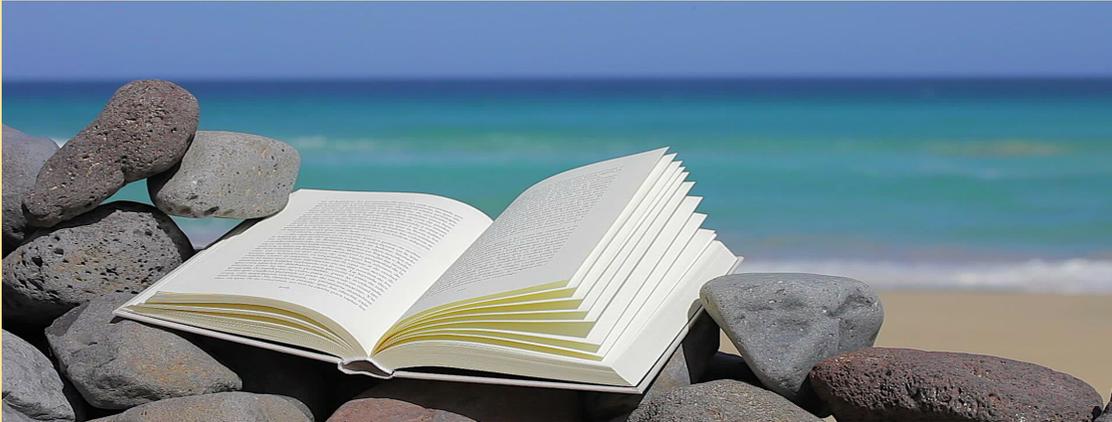


West High School Summer Reading 2022 Menu of Books



Take a look at the options on this menu and choose one book you will read over the summer. Then, find the Warrior Workshop booking on Schoology to sign up for the Book Chat in September. Happy reading!

Home is Not a Country, by Safia Elhillo

Book Chat Facilitator: Altenberg, Amy

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

From Amazon: In this novel in verse, Sudanese American poet Elhillo invites readers into her dreamlike story of 15-year-old Nima, who struggles with loneliness and the possibilities of the road not taken. Growing up in the United States, Nima wonders what life would be like if she spoke Arabic fluently, if her father hadn't died, if her mother had not left a country where everyone had dark eyes, sepia-toned skin, and textured hair like her, or if she had been given a name she felt she could live up to. Told in three parts, the flow is a bit disjointed, but overall this is a quick and engaging story. Fans of Reynold's *Long Way Down* may enjoy this book.

Astrophysics for People in a Hurry, by Neil deGrasse Tyson

Book Chat Facilitator: Anaya, Mimi

Best for Grade(s): Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

From Amazon: What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? How does the universe fit within us? There's no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than acclaimed astrophysicist and best-selling author Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Me (Moth), by Amber McBride

Book Chat Facilitator: Angell, Jaime

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

A young adult novel-in-verse about a teen girl who is grieving the deaths of her family, and a teen boy who crosses her path. An exquisite and uplifting novel about identity, first love, and the ways that our memories and our roots steer us through the universe. (from Amazon)

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, by Betty Smith

Book Chat Facilitator: Barr, Michael

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

From Amazon: A moving coming-of-age story set in the 1900s, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* follows the lives of 11-year-old Francie Nolan, her younger brother Neely, and their parents, Irish immigrants who have settled in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

Kobe Bryant and the Mamba Mentality, by Kobe Bryant

Book Chat Facilitator: Butler, Todd

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

In his own words, Bryant reveals his famously detailed approach and steps he took to prepare mentally and physically to not just succeed at the game, but to excel. Readers will learn how Bryant studied an opponent, how he channeled his passion for the game, how he played through injuries. They'll also get fascinating granular detail as he breaks down specific plays and match-ups from throughout his career.

Stillness is the Key, by Ryan Holiday

Book Chat Facilitator: Butler, Keith

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

In his new book, *Stillness Is the Key*, Holiday draws on timeless Stoic and Buddhist philosophy to show why slowing down is the secret weapon for those charging ahead.

The Night Circus, by Erin Morgenstern

Book Chat Facilitator: Cantrell, Ashley

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

The Night Circus tells the story of the rivalry between two different forms of magic—the old and the new—and the competition and love affair between two young magicians who are destined to face each other in a magical duel.

The House in the Cerulean Sea, by T.J. Klune

Book Chat Facilitator: Cerda, Rebecca

Best for Grade(s): Grade 11, Grade 12

A magical island. A dangerous task. A burning secret. Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours. (goodreads)

Note: While Common Sense rates this as 14 yrs and above and it is in the Young Adult section, I will be connecting this to (often brutal) experiences in Canadian and U.S. native boarding schools such as Carlisle Schools. Gender fluid characters (main character LGBT) in the book; theme of acceptance and love.

Psalm for the Wild-Built, by Becky Chambers

Book Chat Facilitator: Chambers, Nikki

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

In A Psalm for the Wild-Built, Hugo Award-winner Becky Chambers's delightful new Monk and Robot series gives us hope for the future.

It's been centuries since the robots of Panga gained self-awareness and laid down their tools; centuries since they wandered, en masse, into the wilderness, never to be seen again; centuries since they faded into myth and urban legend.

One day, the life of a tea monk is upended by the arrival of a robot, there to honor the old promise of checking in. The robot cannot go back until the question of "what do people need?" is answered.

But the answer to that question depends on who you ask, and how.

They're going to need to ask it a lot.

Becky Chambers's new series asks: in a world where people have what they want, does having more matter?

You Don't Lose 'Til You Quit Trying, by Sammy Lee Davis

Book Chat Facilitator: Chen, George

Best for Grade(s): Mature/Adult Audiences

Lessons on Adversity and Victory from a Vietnam Veteran and Medal of honor Recipient.

This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content.

Rise: A Pop History of Asian America from the Nineties to Now, by Jeff Yang, Phil Yu, Philip Wang

Book Chat Facilitator: Cheung, Carsten

Best for Grade(s): Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

Author Phil Yu will be joining us for this book talk! Please bring questions/comments!

From Amazon: Jeff Yang, Phil Yu, and Philip Wang chronicle how we've arrived at today's unprecedented diversity of Asian American cultural representation through engaging topics (including a step-by-step guide to a night out in K-Town, a note on historic Asian American landmarks, a handy "Appreciation or Appropriation?" discussion, and celebrations of both our "founding fathers and mothers" and the nostalgia-inducing personalities of each decade).

Untangling Emotions, by Alasdair Groves and Winston Smith

Book Chat Facilitator: Chou, Joseph

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

Untangling our emotions in the view of spirituality. Specifically, how do we understand what we feel and make sense of our emotions? How do we make sense of this and acknowledge when positive/negative emotions are good and when our reactions can grow (reflected from a Christian point of view).

The Magic of Reality, by Richard Dawkins

Book Chat Facilitator: Collins, Jeff

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

"...The Magic of Reality explains a stunningly wide range of natural phenomena: How old is the universe? Why do the continents look like disconnected pieces of a jigsaw puzzle? What causes tsunamis? Why are there so many kinds of plants and animals? Who was the first man, or woman? Starting with the magical, mythical explanations for wonders of nature, Dawkins reveals the exhilarating scientific truths behind these occurrences."

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Addams

Book Chat Facilitator: Comparsi, Vincent

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners, Mature/Adult Audiences

The saga mocks modern society with humor and cynicism and has as its hero a hapless, deeply ordinary Englishman (Arthur Dent) who unexpectedly finds himself adrift in a universe characterized by randomness and absurdity.

This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content.

The Handmaids Tale, by Margaret Atwood

Book Chat Facilitator: Cunningham, Mararet

Best for Grade(s): Mature/Adult Audiences

From Amazon -- Margaret Atwood's popular dystopian novel The Handmaid's Tale explores a broad range of issues relating to power, gender, and religious politics. Multiple Golden Globe award-winner Claire Danes (Romeo and Juliet, The Hours) gives a stirring performance of this classic in speculative fiction, one of the most powerful and widely read novels of our time.

After a staged terrorist attack kills the President and most of Congress, the government is deposed and taken over by the oppressive and all-controlling Republic of Gilead. Offred, now a Handmaid serving in the household of the enigmatic Commander and his bitter wife, can remember a time when she lived with her husband and daughter and had a job, before she lost even her own name. Despite the danger, Offred learns to navigate the intimate secrets of those who control her every move, risking her life in breaking the rules in hopes of ending this oppression.

This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content.

The Senator's Son, by Luke Larson

Book Chat Facilitator: Dolak, Jacob

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

"Author Luke Larson, a former Marine infantry officer, begins his novel fifty years into the future with an aging senator casting the deciding vote on whether to send the nation to war. The senator flashes back to his Iraq combat experience and labors in weighing the country's interests against his personal convictions.

Three warriors plunged into the urban chaos of the Iraq war. They went in naïve, not knowing what awaited them. John was a legacy. Bama wanted to prove he could out do his doctor father. Cash wanted a way out of the blue-collar world. Nothing could have prepared them for the moral dilemmas they would face. Baptized by fire, the three men are born again with new identities. They soon realize to win a counterinsurgency they must not focus on the enemy, but focus on the people."

Run Like a Pro, by Matt Fitzgerald and Ben Rosario

Book Chat Facilitator: DuGard, Rosario

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

From Amazon: In 80/20 Running, respected running and fitness expert Matt Fitzgerald introduced his revolutionary training program and explained why doing 80 percent of runs at a lower intensity and just 20 percent at a higher intensity is the best way for runners at all levels - as well as cyclists, triathletes, and even weight-loss seekers - to improve their performance.

Now, in this eye-opening follow-up, Fitzgerald teams with Olympic coach Ben Rosario to expand and update the 80/20 program to include ultramarathon training and such popular developments as the use of power meters.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X, by Alex Haley

Book Chat Facilitator: Eddy, Ian

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

This book shares the transformation of a man, haunted by his traumatic childhood experiences, who became one of the greatest leaders and orators in American History.

Hold Up the Sky, by Susan Palardy Egan

Book Chat Facilitator: Egan, Ben

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

"This is a fictional memoir, written by a first time author, who will be in attendance at West HS during the book talk...so this is an opportunity to read a great story and interact directly with the person who wrote it! (See below for a brief description):

""A girl, set adrift by the impact of a sudden death, struggles to gain control of herself while confronting the lack of choices before her. Beth Lawrence, a teenager of the 60's and product of a large Catholic family has grown up with a soft spoken, protective mother and an exuberant, excitable father. When her predictable, secure life is upended, she must choose to embrace what's expected or search for her own way forward.""

Truly Devious, by Maureen Johnson

Book Chat Facilitator: Eriksen, Stefanie

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

At a famous private school in Vermont, 2 people were kidnapped, and the only clue was a note signed Truly, Devious. This became one of the most famous unsolved crimes. Then many years later, a student who is determined to solve this cold case, stumbles upon another crime, also signed Truly, Devious. This is the first book in this trilogy.

The Art of Gathering, by Priya Parker

Book Chat Facilitator: Eriksen, Susan

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

For ASB students to learn about how we meet and why it matters for events.

In *The Art of Gathering*, Priya Parker argues that the gatherings in our lives are lackluster and unproductive—which they don't have to be. We rely too much on routine and the conventions of gatherings when we should focus on distinctiveness and the people involved. At a time when coming together is more important than ever, Parker sets forth a human-centered approach to gathering that will help everyone create meaningful, memorable experiences, large and small, for work and for play.

Sick Puppy, by Carl Hiaasen

Book Chat Facilitator: Evans, Christy

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

An eco-terrorist with anger-management issues takes on environmental irresponsibility. Twilly Spree teaches a flagrant litterbug a lesson—and leaves the offender's precious Range Rover swarming with hungry dung beetles. When he discovers the litterer is one of the most powerful political fixers in Florida, the real Hiaasen-style fun begins. (Adapted from Amazon)

Wish You Were Here, by Jodi Picoult

Book Chat Facilitator: Flaxman, Mary

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, Mature/Adult Audiences

Diana O'Toole is perfectly on track. She will be married by thirty, done having kids by thirty-five, and move out to the New York City suburbs, all while climbing the professional ladder in the cutthroat art auction world. She's an associate specialist at Sotheby's now, but her boss has hinted at a promotion if she can close a deal with a high-profile client. She's not engaged just yet, but she knows her boyfriend, Finn, a surgical resident, is about to propose on their romantic getaway to the Galápagos—days before her thirtieth birthday. Right on time.

But then a virus that felt worlds away has appeared in the city, and on the eve of their departure, Finn breaks the news: It's all hands on deck at the hospital. He has to stay behind. You should still go, he assures her, since it would be a shame for all of their nonrefundable trip to go to waste. And so, reluctantly, she goes... (From Amazon)

This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content.

Boys & Sex: Young Men on Hook-Ups, Love, Porn, Consent and Navigating the New Masculinity, by Peggy Orenstein

Book Chat Facilitator: Hall, Holly

Best for Grade(s): Grade 11, Grade 12

Orenstein uses a fascinating mix of anecdote and research to reveal how young men understand and negotiate the new rules of physical and emotional intimacy. Drawing on interviews with young men, psychologists, academics, and experts in the field, Orenstein takes an unprecedented look at the many factors that are shaping boys' ideas of sex, girls, and masculinity.

This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content.

Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand

Book Chat Facilitator: Hays, Debbie

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

This is the life story of our Hometown Hero, Louis Zamperini - the person for whom many places in Torrance are named! It's a MUST read!

The Obstacle Is the Way, by Ryan Holiday

Book Chat Facilitator: Heinrich, Kara

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

The book draws its inspiration from philosophy, namely stoicism, the ancient Greek philosophy of enduring pain or adversity with perseverance and resilience. Stoics focus on the things they can control, let go of everything else, and turn every new obstacle into an opportunity to get better, stronger, tougher. As Marcus Aurelius put it nearly 2000 years ago: "The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way."

Author Ryan Holiday shows how some of the most successful people in history—from John D. Rockefeller to Amelia Earhart to Ulysses S. Grant to Steve Jobs had overcome difficult or even impossible situations. Their embrace of stoic principles in life ultimately mattered more than their natural intelligence, talents, or luck.

This Is Ear Hustle: Unflinching Stories of Everyday Prison Life, by Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods

Book Chat Facilitator: Hettinger, Drew

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

When Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods met, Nigel was a photography professor volunteering with the Prison University Project and Earlonne was serving thirty-one years to life at California's San Quentin State Prison. Initially drawn to each other by their shared interest in storytelling, neither had podcast production experience when they decided to enter Radiotopia's contest for new shows...and won. Using the prize for seed money, Nigel and Earlonne launched Ear Hustle, named after the prison term for "eavesdropping". It was the first podcast created and produced entirely within prison and would go on to be heard millions of times worldwide, garner Peabody and Pulitzer award nominations, and help earn Earlonne his freedom when his sentence was commuted in 2018.

In *This Is Ear Hustle*, Nigel and Earlonne share their own stories of how they came to San Quentin, how they created their phenomenally popular podcast amid extreme limitations, and what has kept them collaborating season after season. They present new stories, all with the same insight, balance, and rapport that distinguish the podcast. In an era when more than two million people are incarcerated across the United States - a number that grows by 600,000 annually - Nigel and Earlonne explore the full and often surprising realities of prison life. With characteristic candor and humor, their moving portrayals include unexpected moments of self-discovery, unlikely alliances, inspirational resilience, and ingenious work-arounds. (Summary from Amazon.com)

Ender's Game, by Orson Scott Card

Book Chat Facilitator: Hettinger, Erika

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

A young boy gets sent to military space school in the future. There is an intergalactic war going on and the boys have been selected to train to become elite officers to help win the war. The story is about how all the boys are competing against each other in all the military space games and also how they are living in a boarding school type environment....oh, and of course, how they are gonna fight the aliens!

Conversations with the Past, by Aura Imbarus

Book Chat Facilitator: Imbarus, Aura

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

There are no accidents in this life—and the more aware we become, the more we're able to discover the patterns that challenge, elevate, and enlighten us. In *Conversations with the Past*, Dr. Aura Imbarus delves into many of the profound experiences she's had over the years—from emotional breakdowns to spiritually elevated states—in order to help people discover and understand their own purpose in life. Through this exploration, we will all be inspired to examine our own lives and take the necessary steps to enhance our happiness and well-being.

Emotional, physical, and spiritual experiences are all part of the intricate, interwoven tapestry of existence. And though it may sometimes feel like finding our life's purpose is difficult and elusive, Dr. Imbarus demonstrates how it can, and will, be revealed to the curious mind and willing heart.

Letters to a Young Athlete, by Chris Bosh

Book Chat Facilitator: Jin, Jason

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

A legendary NBA player shares his remarkable story, infused with hard-earned wisdom about the journey to self-mastery from a life at the highest level of professional sports. Chris Bosh, NBA Hall of Famer, eleven-time All-Star, two-time NBA champion, Olympic gold medalist, and the league's Global Ambassador, had his playing days cut short at their prime by a freak medical condition. His extraordinary career ended "in a doctor's office in the middle of the afternoon." Forced to reckon with moving forward, he found himself looking back over the course he'd taken, to the pinnacle of the NBA and beyond.

Trouble Maker, by John Cho

Book Chat Facilitator: Kahlon, Gurbir

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

Troublemaker follows the events of the LA Riots through the eyes of 12-year-old Jordan as he navigates school and family. This book will highlight the unique Korean American perspective.

12-year-old Jordan feels like he can't live up to the example his older sister set, or his parent's expectations. When he returns home from school one day hoping to hide his suspension, Los Angeles has reached a turning point. In the wake of the acquittal of the police officers filmed beating Rodney King, as well as the shooting of a young black teen, Latasha Harlins by a Korean store owner, the country is at the precipice of confronting its racist past and present.

As tensions escalate, Jordan's father leaves to check on the family store, spurring Jordan and his friends to embark on a dangerous journey to come to his aide, and come to terms with the racism within and affecting their community.

Crying in H Mart, by Michelle Zauner

Book Chat Facilitator: Kim, Daisy

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

In this exquisite story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a dazzling singer, songwriter, and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food.

As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band--and meeting the man who would become her husband--her Koreanness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer, when Michelle was twenty-five, that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her. (From goodreads)

Crazy Rich Asians, by Kevin Kwan

Book Chat Facilitator: Kim, Joyce

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

When New Yorker Rachel Chu agrees to spend the summer in Singapore with her boyfriend, Nicholas Young, she envisions a humble family home and quality time with the man she hopes to marry. But Nick has failed to give his girlfriend a few key details. One, that his childhood home looks like a palace; two, that he grew up riding in more private planes than cars; and three, that he just happens to be the country's most eligible bachelor.

On Nick's arm, Rachel may as well have a target on her back the second she steps off the plane, and soon, her relaxed vacation turns into an obstacle course of old money, new money, nosy relatives, and scheming social climbers.

Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand

Book Chat Facilitator: Krumpke, Kati

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running (at Torrance High School), discovering a prodigious talent that 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. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity, hope, resolve, and humor.

Please Look After Mom, by Kyung Sook Shin

Book Chat Facilitator: Lee, Karyn

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

When sixty-nine-year-old So-nyo is separated from her husband among the crowds of the Seoul subway station, her family begins a desperate search to find her. Yet as long-held secrets and private sorrows begin to reveal themselves, they are forced to wonder: how well did they actually know the woman they called Mom?

Run, Rose, Run, by Dolly Parton and James Patterson

Book Chat Facilitator: Lopez, Hilda

Best for Grade(s): Grade 11, Grade 12

Every song tells a story.

She's a star on the rise, singing about the hard life behind her.

She's also on the run. Find a future, lose a past.

Nashville is where she's come to claim her destiny. It's also where the darkness she's fled might find her. And destroy her.

Run, Rose, Run is a novel glittering with danger and desire—a story that only America's #1 beloved entertainer and its #1 bestselling author could have created. (From Amazon) ** May include language and themes for a mature audience

Becoming, by Michelle Obama

Book Chat Facilitator: Machado, Elizabeth

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

"An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States." --Amazon

Atomic Habits, by James Clear

Book Chat Facilitator: Mara, Gil

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

Learn practical strategies on how to build good habits and break bad ones.

From Little Tokyo, with Love, by Sarah Kuhn

Book Chat Facilitator: Murata, Jenna

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

Author Sarah Kuhn reinvents the modern fairy tale in this novel of a girl whose search for a storybook ending takes her to unexpected places in both her beloved LA neighborhood and her own guarded heart. (Goodreads)

The Imagineering Process: Using the Disney Theme Park Design Process to Bring Your Creative Ideas to Life (The Imagineering Toolbox), by Louis J. Prospero

Book Chat Facilitator: Nakasuji, Heather

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

A Master Class in Imagineering

When we think of Imagineering, we think of Disney theme parks. But Imagineering is a creative process that can be used for nearly any project, once you know how it works. Lou Prospero distills years of research into a practical how-to guide for budding "Imagineers" everywhere.

The Imagineering Process is a revolutionary creative methodology that anyone can use in their daily lives, whether at home or on the job. Prospero will teach you first how Disney uses the Imagineering Process to build theme parks and theme park attractions, and then he'll show you how to apply it to your own projects, "beyond the berm."

The Last Flight, by Julie Clark

Book Chat Facilitator: Orabuena, Christy

Best for Grade(s): Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

"Two women. Two flights. One last chance to disappear.

Claire Cook has a perfect life. But behind closed doors, nothing is quite as it seems. That perfect husband has a temper that burns as bright as his promising political career, and he's not above using his staff to track Claire's every move. But what he doesn't know is that Claire has worked for months on a plan to vanish.

A chance meeting in an airport bar brings her together with a woman whose circumstances seem equally dire. Together they make a last-minute decision to switch tickets — Claire taking Eva's flight to Oakland, and Eva traveling to Puerto Rico as Claire. But when the flight to Puerto Rico goes down, Claire realizes it's no longer a head start but a new life. Cut off, out of options, with the news of her death about to explode in the media, Claire will assume Eva's identity, and along with it, the secrets Eva fought so hard to keep hidden.

This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content.

Shoot Your Shot - A Sport Inspired Guide to Living Your Best Life, by Vernon Brundage Jr.

Book Chat Facilitator: Pearson, Jon

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

The book identifies the key principles that the world's most elite basketball players have applied in their lives and explains in detail how you can use those same exact principles to help you navigate through life, accomplish your goals, and realize your dreams.

Tuesdays With Morrie, by Mitch Albom

Book Chat Facilitator: Phelps, Bernard

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

This is an uplifting approach to the inevitability of death. It is a life lesson for all who will face the mortality of a loved one, which is all of us. It is based on a true story and is a quick read.

The 5th Wave, by Rick Yancey

Book Chat Facilitator: Puccio, Mary Lou

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

"Yancey's heartfelt, violent, paranoid epic, filled with big heroics and bigger surprises, is part War of the Worlds, part Starship Troopers, part Invasion of the Body Snatchers, and part The Stand . . . a sure thing for reviewers and readers alike."

—Booklist Starred Review

Against All Odds, by Alex Kershaw

Book Chat Facilitator: Rollins, Matthew

Best for Grade(s): Grade 11, Grade 12

The untold story of four of the most decorated soldiers of World War II—all Medal of Honor recipients—from the beaches of French Morocco to Hitler's own mountaintop fortress.

For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts: A love letter to women of color, by Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez

Book Chat Facilitator: Sagastume, Ambar

Best for Grade(s): Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

The founder of Latina Rebels and a “Latinx Activist You Should Know”(Teen Vogue) arms women of color with the tools and knowledge they need to find success on their own terms

For generations, Brown girls have had to push against powerful forces of sexism, racism, and classism, often feeling alone in the struggle. By founding Latina Rebels, Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez has created a community to help women fight together. In *For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts*, she offers wisdom and a liberating path forward for all women of color. She crafts powerful ways to address the challenges Brown girls face, from imposter syndrome to colorism. She empowers women to decolonize their worldview, and defy “universal” white narratives, by telling their own stories. Her book guides women of color toward a sense of pride and sisterhood and offers essential tools to energize a movement.

May it spark a fire within you.

The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini

Book Chat Facilitator: Scheerle, Michaelae

Best for Grade(s): Grade 11, Grade 12

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father’s servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

Since its publication in 2003 *Kite Runner* has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic of contemporary literature, touching millions of readers, and launching the career of one of America’s most treasured writers.

Furia, by Yamile Saied Méndez

Book Chat Facilitator: Secura, Mary

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

The story follows Camila, a seventeen year old girl from Rosario, Argentina who dreams of playing Fútbol professionally. All Camila wants is to throw the expectations her parents have of her, and instead live a life that is hers. A life that she can earn for herself and be proud of. However, her family, society, and even her childhood crush place barriers to her futbolera dreams.

This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content.

From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement, by Paula Yoo

Book Chat Facilitator: Sprague, Tracy

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

The 1982 murder of Vincent Chin leads to an Asian American civil rights movement in this narrative nonfiction book. School Library Journal says that "the book reads almost like a TV crime drama" and recommends it highly to readers interested in social justice books.

This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content.

Atomic Habits, by James Clear

Book Chat Facilitator: Villaneda, Carina

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, English Language Learners

The book gives practical ideas of what you can do to improve certain habits and break habits you do not want.

From This Moment On, by Lynn Kurland

Book Chat Facilitator: Wade, Kathryn

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12, Mature/Adult Audiences

Taking place in 13th century medieval England, "Colin of Berkhamshire knows two things--the pleasures of warring and that brides do not want him. Two years ago his bride-to-be, Alienore, fled and hasn't been seen since. Yet his father keeps foisting prospects on him. The latest seems to do nothing but faint.

Alienore of Solonge knows two things as well--that fleeing not only Colin but also her scheming stepmother was the right thing to do. Yet as a knight in disguise she constantly fears discovery. At this point, she's not sure whom she fears more, the Butcher of Berkhamshire or her evil stepmother.

Through a bizarre twist of fate, she ends up journeying with her charge--Colin's latest intended--to England, where Alienore finds herself not only in the Butcher of Berkhamshire's garrison, but being made over into a knight by him personally. She thinks her life cannot worsen.

Until she begins to fall in love with him..."

Contains mature themes: brief sex, abuse, and murder

Shadow and Bone, by Bardugo, Leigh

Book Chat Facilitator: Wang, Regina

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

Genre: Fantasy

Orphaned and expendable, Alina Starkov is a soldier who knows she may not survive her first trek across the Shadow Fold—a swath of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters. But when her regiment is attacked, Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed.

Now Alina will enter a lavish world of royalty and intrigue as she trains with the Grisha, her country's magical military elite—and falls under the spell of their notorious leader, the Darkling. He believes Alina can summon a force capable of destroying the Shadow Fold and reuniting their war-ravaged country, but only if she can master her untamed gift.

As the threat to the kingdom mounts and Alina unlocks the secrets of her past, she will make a dangerous discovery that could threaten all she loves and the very future of a nation.

Dune, by Frank Herbery

Book Chat Facilitator: Weber, Nick

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

Frank Herbert's *Dune* is a science fiction novel. However, this novel incorporates elements of many different aspects of humanity. Some of the themes include philosophy, religion, history, and poetry.

Set on the desert planet Arrakis, *Dune* is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, heir to a noble family tasked with ruling an inhospitable world where the only thing of value is the "spice" melange, a drug capable of extending life and enhancing consciousness. Coveted across the known universe, melange is a prize worth killing for.... (From Amazon)

Me (Moth), by Amber McBride

Book Chat Facilitator: White, Melanie

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

"A debut YA novel-in-verse that is both a coming-of-age and a ghost story.

Moth has lost her family in an accident. Though she lives with her aunt, she feels alone and uprooted.

Until she meets Sani, a boy who is also searching for his roots. If he knows more about where he comes from, maybe he'll be able to understand his ongoing depression. And if Moth can help him feel grounded, then perhaps she too will discover the history she carries in her bones.

Here is an exquisite and uplifting novel about identity, first love, and the ways that our memories and our roots steer us through the universe." (GoodReads)

Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens

Book Chat Facilitator: Yang, Peggy

Best for Grade(s): Grade 9, Grade 10, Grade 11, Grade 12

When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens. *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder.

This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content.