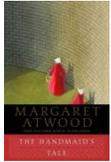


Saint Ann's Library Suggested Summer Reading List for Students Entering 9th Grade, 2012



Atwood, Margaret. ***The Handmaid's Tale***

In a warped, frightening, not-too-distant future, the women of the upper classes are sterile. All fertile women are treated as cattle with the sole purpose of breeding for the upper class. The narrator of this haunting story, the handmaid Offred, recalls her past life and how this horrific society came to be.



Cameron, Peter. ***Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You***

James is the consummate New Yorker—he is observant, cynical and precocious. Deep down, however, he is just a confused teenager. At 18, he has finished high school, he's working at his mother's gallery in SoHo for the summer and he's supposedly going to Brown in the fall. The only thing is, he doesn't want to go to Brown because he doesn't really like hanging out with people his own age, which he will undoubtedly have to do day after day during his four years of college. He's got problems.



Cashore, Kristen. ***Bitterblue***

Bitterblue is now queen of Monsea—but the influence of her violent and psychopathic father, Leck, lives on. Her advisors think she should pardon all who committed terrible acts under Leck's reign, and move on. But when Bitterblue begins sneaking outside the castle, exploring her own city, she realizes that the kingdom has been under the thirty-five-year spell of a madman, and the only way to move forward is to revisit the past. A companion novel to Cashore's *Graceling* and *Fire*, but it can be read on its own.



Chevalier, Tracy. ***Girl with a Pearl Earring***

History and fiction merge in this novel about Vermeer, a 17th century Dutch artist from Delft. The story imagines what life was like for the model who posed for one of his most famous paintings.



Chbosky, Stephen. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***

Charlie is writing letters to an unnamed person, chronicling his freshman year in high school. Charlie is clearly very intelligent (his English teacher even gives him extra work), but he is a "wallflower." This means he is more of an astute observer of life than a participator. He grows up a lot over the year—he makes a lot of friends, strengthens his relationships with his family, and learns a few pivotal hidden things about his past in the process.



Clavell, James. ***Shogun***

An adventurous Englishman, a powerful Japanese warlord, and a beautiful woman come together in an exciting saga of medieval Japan. Yes, it is long, but it is also gripping—you won't be able to put this one down.



Cline, Ernest. ***Ready Player One***

It's the year 2044. Wade spends most of his time jacked into the OASIS, a sprawling virtual utopia, in an attempt to escape his grim life. Wade and everyone else are searching for the ultimate lottery ticket concealed somewhere in this virtual world. As Wade comes close to discovering where it is hidden, he realizes that there are many who would commit murder to find the ticket before he does.



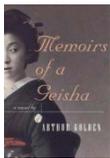
Du Maurier, Daphne. ***Rebecca***

At the great Cornwall estate of Manderley, Maxim de Winter and his frightened new wife try to live with the haunting legacy of Maxim's first wife, the beautiful and cold Rebecca, who died in a sailing accident. A truly romantic and suspenseful novel. A classic.



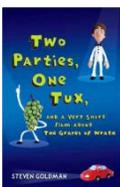
Ellison, Kate. ***The Butterfly Clues***

Tap, tap, tap, banana. Lo (short for Penelope) is a junior in high school and a bit compulsive. In fact, she usually has to tap three times and say the word banana every time she enters a room. She gets overcome by urges that she can't resist—to touch something a certain number of times, to steal something—all because she has to make it right. When she learns about the death of a nightclub dancer, Sapphire, Lo is overcome by an urge to figure out what happened—to make it right. She embarks on a dangerous journey to uncover the truth in a seedy underworld. Can she figure out what happened before she is the next victim?



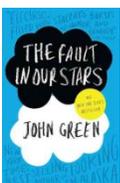
Golden, Arthur. ***Memoirs of a Geisha***

Chiyo, the daughter of a fisherman, is sold into slavery when her mother dies. Eventually she becomes a famous geisha known by the name of Sayuri. This is a fictionalized memoir—a page-turner that brings to life the reality of being a geisha during the 1930s and 1940s in Japan.



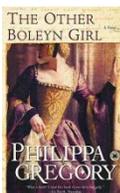
Goldman, Steven. ***Two Parties, One Tux, and a Very Short Film about The Grapes Of Wrath***

This laugh-out-loud novel's main character, Mitchell, is trying to get a hold on his identity while his younger sister insists on taking charge of his barely existent social life and his best friend announces he's gay. There's also his English grade which is at risk due do a somewhat risqué claymation short he submitted in lieu of a research paper. Did anyone mention prom?



Green, John. ***The Fault in our Stars***

"It's not fair," complains 16-year-old Hazel from Indiana. Indeed, life is not fair; Hazel and her new friend Gus both have cancer and regrettably, Hazel's is terminal. Despite this incredibly sad situation, Green's latest masterpiece will leave you laughing out loud, wishing you could spend some time with Hazel and Gus, and unfortunately—crying.



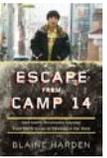
Gregory, Philippa. ***The Other Boleyn Girl***

Juicy historical fiction set during the reign of Henry VIII in England. Henry is the king famous for having so many wives and beheading a few of them. Most are familiar with Anne Boleyn, Henry's wife after he annulled his marriage with Katherine of Aragon. This novel features Anne's younger sister Mary, who was King Henry's mistress before her sister Anne. Better than the movie. Note: History can be racy.



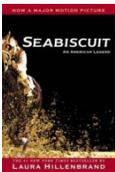
Hale, Shannon. ***Austenland***

Hale, author of *Princess Academy* and *The Goose Girl*, is growing up with you! Her latest novel (for adults) features Jane, a young NYC woman who can't seem to find the right man—perhaps because of her obsession with Mr. Darcy, as played by Colin Firth in the BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. On a trip to an English resort catering to Austen-obsessed women, however, Jane's fantasies of meeting the perfect Regency-era gentleman suddenly become a real possibility. Be sure to read Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* too!



Harden, Blaine. ***Escape from Camp 14*** (nonfiction)

Shin Dong-hyuk was born inside Camp 14, a North Korean political prisoner camp. At the age of twenty-two, he escaped through an electric fence—the first person ever to escape such a camp. His story, as told with help by journalist Blaine Harden, is a gripping tale of inhumanity and horror (he witnessed the execution of his mother and brother!). Shin survived, but unfortunately over 200,000 people remain imprisoned in similar North Korean camps.



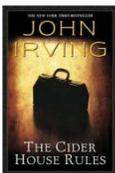
Hillenbrand, Laura. ***Seabiscuit: An American Legend*** (nonfiction)

Seabiscuit was an unlikely champion. He was an undersized horse with a sad little tail and knees that wouldn't straighten all the way. Competing during the cruelest years of the depression he became a symbol of the underdog and went on to become one of the biggest newsmakers of 1938. A great story! Yes, there is a movie—but read the book!



Hosseini, Khaled. ***The Kite Runner***

Amir, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman in Kabul, and Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant, are friends. As children in the relatively stable Afghanistan of the early 1970s, the boys are inseparable. They spend idyllic days running kites and telling stories of mystical places and powerful warriors until an unspeakable event changes the nature of their relationship forever. Warning: There are a few incredibly disturbing scenes.



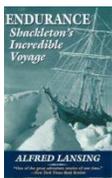
Irving, John. ***The Cider House Rules***

This is the story of Homer Wells, an orphan who was never adopted, and his mentor, Dr. Wilbur Larch—saint and obstetrician, founder and director of the orphanage, as well as ether addict and abortionist. Set in rural Maine in the first half of this century, *Cider House Rules* is a fine example of Irving's master storytelling abilities. But don't stop here—there are also *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and *The World According to Garp* to explore.



Jablonski, Carla. ***Resistance: Book 1*** (graphic novel)

Living in the free zone of France—not the occupied zone— during World War II, Paul and Marie are relatively lucky. But even their family is touched by the war—their dad is a prisoner of war, held by the Germans. When the children try to hide their Jewish friend, Henri, from the Germans after his parents disappear, they get recruited into the French Resistance movement. *Defiance* is the second book out in this graphic novel trilogy.



Lansing, Alfred. ***Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*** (nonfiction)

In 1914 Shackleton and a crew of 27 men, sailed for the South Atlantic on the 'Endurance' with the object of crossing the Antarctic over land. They didn't get very far and soon the ship became trapped and then crushed in ice. It took them 17 months, but they made it back. A gripping first-hand account. No helicopters to rescue them, no polypropylene, no medicine...



Lyga, Barry. ***I Hunt Killers***

What if your dad was...the world's worst serial killer? That's the case with poor Jasper (aka Jazz). Unfortunately, Jazz's dad believed in Take Your Son to Work Day—every day. In an effort to clear his name, Jazz joins the police in a hunt for a new serial killer. But Jazz has a secret—could he be more like his father than anyone knows?



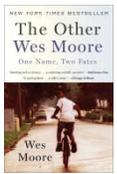
Marchetta, Melina. ***Saving Francesca***

Francesca's mother is depressed and won't get out of bed. In addition, Francesca is one of just a few girls in a school that has recently turned co-ed. Actually, there are only thirty girls and seven hundred and fifty boys. Heaven? Think again. Slowly Francesca's life starts to improve as she figures out who she is and what she wants to do with her life. Poignant, yet still pretty amusing.



Moon, Sarah (editor) ***The Letter Q: Queer Writers Notes to Their Younger Selves***

Included are sixty-three supportive letters from older queer adults to their younger selves—telling their younger selves what they would have liked to know then about their lives as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgendered people. Featuring Amy Bloom, Michael Cunningham, David Levithan, Armistead Maupin, Brian Selznick, Jacqueline Woodson, and dozens of others. (Sarah is a Saint Ann's faculty member!)



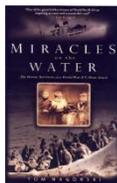
Moore, Wes. ***The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*** (nonfiction)

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless and had difficult childhoods—hanging out on street corners with their crews and various run-ins with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar and a decorated veteran, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question.



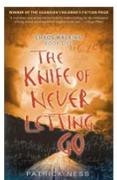
Myracle, Lauren. ***Shine***

When her best guy friend is the victim of a vicious hate crime, sixteen-year-old Cat decides to discover who in her small town did it. A mystery set in a tightly knit Southern community rife with poverty, clannishness, drugs and intolerance.



Nagorski, Tom. ***Miracles on the Water: The Heroic Survivors of a World War II U-Boat Attack*** (non fiction)

In 1940, ninety English children were placed by their parents on board a ship headed to Canada. The intention was to take them away from their war-ravaged homes to safety, but their ship was attacked by a German U-boat. Passengers rushed to lifeboats, yet rescuers were nowhere to be seen. Thirteen out of the ninety children survived. Nagorski, whose great-uncle was among the survivors, bases his narrative largely on eyewitness accounts.



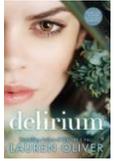
Ness, Patrick. ***The Knife of Never Letting Go***

Todd Hewitt has to flee his settlement in haste after a wacko preacher chases him out. All of the women on his planet have been killed and the men have been infected with a sickness that broadcasts all of their thoughts. Expect suspense and tension in this dystopian nightmare of a story. Don't miss the rest of the trilogy: *The Ask and the Answer* and *Monsters of Men*.



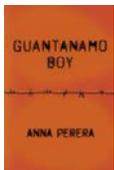
O'Brien, Caragh M. ***Birthmarked***

Gaia has lived her entire life with her parents outside the wall. She has assisted her mother, a midwife, at countless births. Gaia continues to deliver babies even after her parents are arrested; she also continues to hand over the first three babies born every month to guards at the wall, just as her mother did. When it appears her parents are never returning, she sneaks through the wall to save them. Don't miss the sequel: *Prized*.



Oliver, Lauren. ***Delirium***

Lena Haloway is content in her safe, government-managed society. Her future husband and career will be decided and when she turns eighteen, she will be cured of deliria, a.k.a. love. She tries not to think about her mother's suicide (her last words to Lena were a forbidden "I love you") or the supposed "Invalid" community made up of the uncured just beyond her Portland, Maine border. But when she meets Alex, everything changes.



Perera, Anna. ***Guantanamo Boy***

Innocent until proven guilty? Not here you're not. This is the fictional experience of one boy robbed of his childhood by the supposed war on terror. Khalid, a fifteen-year-old Muslim boy from England, is abducted from Pakistan while on holiday with his family. He is taken to Guantanamo Bay and held without charge, where his hopes and dreams are crushed under the cruelest of circumstances. What's happening to him and how will he get out?



Portman, Frank. ***King Dork***

Hilarious. Tom, aka King Dork, is a witty, sarcastic high school sophomore. Tom and his only friend, Sam, form a band. Half the fun of having a band is naming it, and Tom and Sam are constantly coming up with new names like Baby Batter, Occult Blood, The Mordar Apes, and Balls Deep, to name but a few. The novel revolves around the band, Tom's dismal existence in high school reading *Catcher in the Rye* for the hundredth time, solving the mystery of his dad's death, and lusting after various girls.



Riggs, Ransom. ***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children***

A family tragedy results in sixteen-year-old Jacob's journey to a remote island, where he discovers a seemingly abandoned orphanage formerly known as Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores the bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar—they may have been dangerous and quarantined on the island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive. Add some very peculiar photographs and you've got a real spine-tingler.



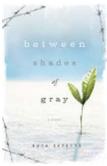
Roth, Veronica. ***Divergent***

Imagine a society divided up into five factions: Abnegation, Candor, Dauntless, Erudite and Amity. Each faction values one quality above all others. For Abnegation that quality is selflessness, for Candor it is honesty, for Dauntless it is bravery, for Erudite it is intelligence and lastly, for Amity, it is peace. Everyone chooses a faction to join when they turn sixteen. Which faction will Beatrice choose? Does she fit in anywhere? Don't miss the sequel: *Insurgent*



Sedaris, David. ***Me Talk Pretty One Day***

The title story is Sedaris’ description of a beginning French language class he took while living in Paris. In the essay “Jesus Shaves,” he and his classmates from many nations try to convey the concept of Easter to a Moroccan Muslim in their very elementary French. “It is a party for the little boy of God,” says one. “Then he be die one day on two...morsels of...lumber,” says another. Absolutely hilarious.



Sepetys, Ruta. ***Between Shades of Gray***

Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father, Lina, her mother, and her young brother are sent to a Siberian work camp. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp.



Stiefvater, Maggie. ***The Scorpio Races***

The Scorpio races happen every November on a remote Irish island. The water turns red with the blood of man and beast as men attempt to ride mythical water horses to the finish line. Sean is the returning champion, skilled in the way of the water horse. Puck is definitely different. As a girl, she was never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races, but somehow she's racing—fate hasn't given her much of a choice. She is in no way prepared for what is going to happen...



Stork, Francisco ***Marcelo in the Real World***

Seventeen-year-old Marcelo has autism and has a hard time reading people’s emotions and facial expressions. He has always gone to a special school where he has been understood and protected. In the summer before his senior year, his father insists that he work in the mailroom at his law firm so he can learn how to function in the “real world.” Told from Marcelo’s perspective, the book gives you a glimpse into his intriguing mind.



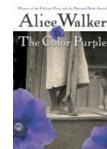
Tezuka, Osamu. ***Buddha: Volume 1: Kapilavastu*** (graphic novel)

This is the first of eight volumes chronicling Siddhartha’s life and times. (Siddhartha is the birth name of the founder of Buddhism.) Siddhartha runs away from home, travels across India, and questions certain Hindu practices such as ascetic self-mutilation and caste oppression. Tezuka, a master Japanese comicker, imbues the action with humor and nuggets of enlightenment. Tezuka (1928-89), is best known in this country for the series *Astro Boy*.



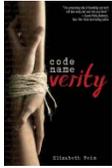
Tran, GB. ***Vietnam: A Family's Journey*** (graphic novel)

Growing up in South Carolina, Tran never fully grasped what his parents’ childhood was like in Vietnam. As a young man, he traveled with his parents to Vietnam and learned of their hardships. This graphic novel tells their story.



Walker, Alice. ***The Color Purple***

Celie, abused by her stepfather, is forced to marry Albert who also treats her badly. Celie's life is pretty miserable. It is only when she meets Shug Avery, Albert’s mistress, that she begins to rise above the despair. It is Shug who teaches Celie self-respect through her love. A classic.



Wein, Elizabeth. **Code Name Verity**

When “Verity” is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution. During her imprisonment Verity writes out her confession, describing how she got there and how everything went terribly awry.



Westerfeld, Scott. **Leviathan**

World War I with a twist! The story begins the same: on June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife are assassinated, triggering a sequence of events that leads to world war. But from there everything is different... This war is between the Clankers and the Darwinists. After the assassination of his parents, Prince Aleksandar's Clanker allies turn on him and he flees. Meanwhile, as Deryn Sharp trains to be an airman with the Darwinist British Air Service, she prays that no one will discover that she is a girl. Eventually the two teens cross paths. Who is an enemy and who is an ally? The sequels: *Behemoth* and *Goliath*.



Whaley, John Corey. **Where Things Come Back**

It is the summer before Cullen's senior year of high school and things have gotten out of control in his dull Arkansas town. His cousin overdoses, his town becomes absurdly obsessed with the alleged reappearance of an extinct woodpecker, and Cullen's brother, Gabriel, suddenly disappears. Meanwhile, a young missionary in Africa has lost his faith. Somehow, the disparate stories masterfully come together in a surprising climax. (Winner of this year's Printz award given for the best young adult literature.)



Zadoff, Allen. **Food, Girls, and Other Things I Can't Have**

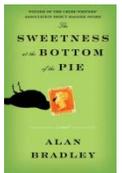
Andy, an obese 15-year-old, is bullied by his classmates, ignored by his high-powered dad, overprotected by his mom, and in a rut. His good friend Eytan's goal is for the two of them to dazzle everyone with their mad debate skills in the UN club. Everything changes when Andy gets recruited as center for the football team and develops a raging crush on a new girl.



Zevin, Gabrielle. **All These Things I've Done**

In 2083, chocolate and coffee are illegal, water is rationed, and NYC is rife with crime. And yet, for Anya Balanchine, the sixteen-year-old daughter of the city's most notorious (and dead) crime boss, life is fairly routine. Basically she goes to school, takes care of her siblings and her dying grandmother, and avoids her loser ex-boyfriend. That is until her ex is poisoned by the chocolate her family manufactures and the police think she's to blame...

Series



Bradley, Alan. **Flavia de Luce**

These mysteries feature eleven-year-old Flavia, an eccentric science prodigy with a penchant for poison, who lives in an ancient English country house. Fearless and unflappable, she solves crimes herself while in hot pursuit of clues. Totally fun. **The Series:** *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, *The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag*, *A Red Herring Without Mustard*, *I am Half Sick of Shadows*



Card, Orson Scott. **Ender**

Aliens threaten to annihilate the human race. In order to defend humanity, the government must create the greatest military commander in history. The brilliant young Ender Wiggin is their last hope. But first he must survive the rigors of a brutal military training program. A savior for mankind must be produced, through whatever means possible. Are they creating a hero or a monster? Be sure to read at least *Ender's Game* before the movie comes out next year! **The Series:** *Ender's Game, Speaker for the Dead, Xenocide, Children of the Mind* (and many more...)



Marsden, John. **Tomorrow**

A group of Australian teens return from a camping trip to discover that their homes have been torched or deserted, their families imprisoned, and their country taken over by a foreign military. They decide to go into hiding where they make plans to wage guerilla warfare against the enemies. **The Series:** *Tomorrow, When the War Began, The Dead of Night, A Killing Frost, Darkness Be My Friend, Burning for Revenge, The Night is for Hunting, The Other Side of Dawn*



Novik, Naomi. **Temeraine**

Dragons and fantasy set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars! Each country has its own special dragon breed and the British Captain, Will Laurence, is very fortunate to intercept a French ship carrying a special gift from the Chinese: a precious dragon egg. The Captain and the dragon form a special bond and join the Aerial Corps together. Lots of battle action ensues. **The Series:** *His Majesty's Dragon, Throne of Jade, Black Powder War, Empire of Ivory, Victory of Eagles, Tongues of Serpents, Crucible of Gold*

Tired of Reading? Try one of these!



Montano, Mark. **The Big-Ass Book of Crafts 2**

Zipper bags, jewelry made from melted plastic bottles, mobiles, lampshades, wallets! The possibilities are endless.



Tack, Karen and Alan Richardson. **Cupcakes, Cookies & Pie, Oh My!**

The authors of the beloved imaginative cupcake cookbooks: *Hello, Cupcake* and *What's New, Cupcake* are back! But this time they include cookies, pies and cakes in their wild how-to creations.

Happy Reading!

Love, Ragan, Denise, and Hannah

The booklists, years past and present, can be found online at:

<http://www.saintannsny.org/depart/library/publib.html>