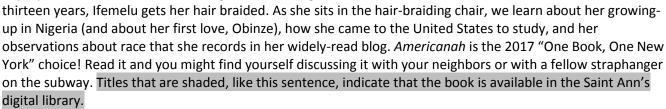
Saint Ann's Library Suggested Summer Reading List for Students Entering 9th grade, 2017



# Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. Americanah

In preparation for a move back to Nigeria after living in the States for





#### Ahdieh, Renée. The Wrath & the Dawn

Mystery, romance and magic! Riffing off of *The Arabian Nights: One Thousand and One Nights*, in this version Shahrzad volunteers to marry the Caliph of Khorasan after her best friend is murdered. (The friend had the misfortune of being chosen as a virgin bride for the Caliph.) Yes, Shahrzad does use her storytelling skills to stay alive—but there's a lot more going on in this culturally rich Middle Eastern tale.



# Alekseyeva, Julia. Soviet Daughter (graphic memoir)

Lola, the grandmother of the author, was born in 1910 in Russia. She lived through the Bolshevik Revolution, the Stalin era and the Holocaust before immigrating to the United States. Julia (the author) tells her grandmother's story and interweaves it with her own coming of age in an immigrant family in Chicago.



# Ballard, Chris. One Shot at Forever (nonfiction)

The ultimate underdog sports tale. It's 1971 and the Macon Ironmen, a ragtag high school baseball team from small-town Illinois, make it all the way to the state finals—with hand-me-down uniforms and a hippie-loving English teacher as a coach. Ballard, a writer for *Sports Illustrated*, has crafted one heck of a heartwarming—and true—story.



#### Bardugo, Leigh. Six of Crows

Six outcasts. One heist. Plenty of magic, action, and revenge. A brilliantly compelling YA novel with a cliffhanger ending—but don't worry, you can go straight to the sequel, *Crooked Kingdom*.



# Charaipotra, Sona and Dhonielle Clayton. Tiny Pretty Things

Immerse yourself in the elite and competitive world of pre-professional ballet. Narrated by Gigi, June, and Bette, this page-turner has been described as *Black Swan* meets *Pretty Little Liars*.



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# Cline, Ernest. Ready Player One

It's 2044 and in order to escape his grim life, Wade spends most of his time jacked into a virtual utopia called the OASIS. Wade, along with everyone else, is searching for the hidden clues that James Halliday, creator of the OASIS, has concealed somewhere in the virtual world. The first to discover and unlock the clues will inherit Halliday's vast fortune. As Wade begins to unlock the clues, he realizes that there are many who would commit murder to solve the puzzle before he does.



Coates, Ta-Nehisi and Brian Stelfreeze. *Black Panther: A Nation Under Our Feet* (comic)

Coates, author of *Between the World and Me*, combines his passion for social justice with rocking superhero action. (Multiple Volumes)



#### Cosgrove, Jennifer. A Boy Worth Knowing

It's senior year and Nate Shaw doesn't have many friends—it could be because of his ability to talk to ghosts, something Nate would like to keep secret. When James moves to town, Nate gets a friend, and also a first love. The ghosts keep giving advice.



# Cunningham, Darryl. How to Fake a Moon Landing: Exposing the Myths of Science Denial (graphic nonfiction)

There are folks who think the moon landing was fake, or that vaccines cause autism. Investigating the science and the reporting behind these issues (and others), Cunningham explains how scientific information is manipulated and misconceptions arise. An investigative journalism and mythbusters mashup in graphic form.



#### Downham, Jenny. Unbecoming

Kate's got a secret—she likes girls. It turns out that her mother and grandmother have secrets too. Much becomes clear when her estranged grandmother (suffering from dementia), comes to live with the family.



# Gregorio, I.W. None of the Above

Kristin is your average teenager. When she finds out she's intersex much of her identity is thrown into question.



#### Gyasi, Yaa. Homegoing

Effia and Esi are two half-sisters—born to the same Asante woman in the mid-1800s in what is now known as Ghana—who never actually meet. Effia marries an Englishman who participates in the Gold Coast slave trade. Esi is sold into slavery and sent to America. Every chapter focuses on a descendant of the original sisters, both in Ghana and in America. Masterful.



# Hardinge, Frances. The Lie Tree

In 1868, Faith joins her father at an archeological dig on a small island. When her father is found dead, others think it's suicide, but Faith knows it's murder. Can the lie tree—a tree that grows when it is told lies but bears fruit that reveal the truth—help solve the crime?



# Hill, Katie Rain. *Rethinking Normal* (memoir)

Katie Rain Hill always knew she was a girl, and considered it a mistake that she had the body of a boy. This memoir tells of her transition from suicidal 8-year-old to award-winning activist and college student. Read with *Some Assembly Required* by Arin Andrews—the memoir of an outdoorsy Oklahoma transgender teenage boy. (FYI: Hill and Andrews dated.)



# Konigsberg, Bill. *Openly Straight*

Rafe is a little tired of being known as "the gay kid." When he goes to boarding school to finish up high school, he figures he won't mention that he's gay. He's not going back in the closet, he reasons—he just won't mention the fact that he's gay. But then he falls in love with Ben—his new best friend (who happens to be straight). If you like this book, read the recently published sequel, *Honestly Ben*.



Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell. *March: Book Three* (graphic memoir)

This is Congressman John Lewis's final installment in his trilogy documenting his experiences during the civil rights era. Read about the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, the Freedom Summer murders, and the Selma to Montgomery marches. *Book One* covers Lewis's childhood and *Book Two* covers Lewis's early days in the movement. Don't miss this amazing trilogy!



#### Medina, Meg. Burn Baby Burn

It's the summer of 1977 and Nora Lopez, who lives in the Bronx with her mother and brother, Hector, is looking forward to life after high school. Things have never been easy for Nora (her father left years ago and money is tight), but it only gets worse when Hector starts dealing drugs and physically abusing their mother. Add "The Son of Sam" into the mix (a serial killer who terrorized young couples) and you have a perfect storm.



# Noah, Trevor. Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (memoir)

As talented a writer as he is a comedian, Trevor Noah's memoir is not to be missed. Noah writes about his experiences growing up under apartheid as the mixed-race son of a single mother—he has a lot of stories to tell.



#### O'Neill, Louise. Asking For It

Beautiful Emma has it all until the morning her parents find her disheveled and unconscious on their doorstep. Emma doesn't know what happened, but soon photos are circulating on Facebook. Her small Irish town is ripped apart as a criminal investigation is launched. Very upsetting. Recipient of a Printz Honor (for best YA fiction).



#### Perkins, Stephanie. Summer Days and Summer Nights: Twelve Love Stories

All sorts of young adult authors contributed love stories: Veronica Roth, Tim Federle, Francesca Lia Block, Libba Bray, Cassandra Clare, and many more. This collection has been described as "sizzling."



#### Picoult, Jodi. My Sister's Keeper

Anna was born to keep her older sister, Kate, alive. Engineered by her parents (with the help of a lab) to be a perfect genetic match for Kate, who was dying of leukemia, Anna began her life by donating stem cells from her umbilical cord. Each time Kate relapsed, Anna donated; first it was just platelets, then bone marrow. When, at the age of 13, it becomes clear that Anna's parents expect her to donate a kidney in order to save Kate's life, Anna sues for medical emancipation from her parents. Who's right? Anna? Her parents?



# Schrefer, Eliot. *Rescued*

John and Raja grew up together. Raja was the family pet orangutang, but now he's too big and aggressive. Determined to save Raja from life in a low-budget roadside zoo, John decides to return Raja to an ape sanctuary in Sumatra. Like this? Try *Endangered* and *Threatened*, also by Schrefer.



#### Schusterman, Neal. Scythe

Citra and Rowan have been assigned a job they don't want. They are to be apprenticed to a scythe. In Citra and Rowan's world, a scythe is the only person who can take life (hunger, disease, and war have been eliminated). Scythes are tasked with population control—a grim responsibility. Recipient of a Printz Honor (for best YA fiction), this is the first in a planned series.



Sheinkin, Steve. *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* (nonfiction) This book will make you smarter. Guaranteed. The Vietnam War, The Pentagon Papers, deception, corruption, break-ins, impeachment. High entertainment value—and it's all true.



Sheinkin, Steve. *Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team* (nonfiction)

The odds were stacked against Jim Thorpe. Sent to a school designed to erase his Native American culture, Thorpe joined a football team that challenged—and often defeated—some of the best schools of the day. He went on to win two Olympic gold medals, and has often been called "the world's greatest athlete."



Spelman, Lucy H. The Rhino with Glue-On Shoes: And Other Surprising True Stories of Zoo Vets and Their Patients (nonfiction)

Why won't the moray eel eat? How do you transport whale sharks across the world? Read about the wild animals who need medical help and the vets who care for them. Yes, there really is a rhino with glue-on shoes.



#### Tahir, Sabaa. An Ember in the Ashes

In a brutal world ruled by an Empire that executes all who challenge it, two people must decide how much they are willing to risk for the cause of justice. Elias is a trained assassin for the Commandant and Laia is a slave recruited to spy for the rebellion. Both are fighting for their freedom. Sequel: A Torch Against the Night.



#### Thomas, Angie. The Hate U Give

Starr's friend Khalil is killed by a white cop when the two of them are driving home after a party. Starr has to testify before a grand jury that will decide whether or not to indict the cop. Navigating the horror of what has happened, plus the contrasting realities of the predominantly black and poor neighborhood where she lives and the mostly white and wealthy private school that she attends, make for a compelling read.



#### Watson, Renée. Piecing Me Together

Jade has a full scholarship to a mostly white private school. Her mom wants her to take advantage of the "opportunities" the school provides. But Jade isn't so sure she wants to be a part of Women to Women—a mentorship program for "at risk" girls. Just because Maxine, Jade's mentor, is black doesn't mean she knows anything about Jade's life. In fact, Jade could probably teach her a thing or two.



# Wein, Elizabeth. The Pearl Thief

When fifteen-year-old Julie wakes up in the hospital after suffering a blow to the head, she has no memory of what happened. As bits and pieces return to her, she realizes it was no accident, and begins to unravel a mystery that affects more lives than her own. A coming-of-age story steeped in the history and prejudices of prewar Scotland, this prequel to *Code Name Verity* can be read before or after *Code* or just on its own.



Wilson, G. Willow and Adrian Alphona. *Ms. Marvel: No Normal* (comic)

Meet Kamala Khan, aka Ms. Marvel. A normal Muslim teenage girl in New Jersey, or the comic world's newest, fiercest superhero? You decide. Classic comic book style illustrated by Adrian Alphona (*The Runaways*).



# Yoon, Nicola. The Sun Is Also a Star

This is a love story told from the point of view of Natasha (a Jamaican science-loving girl about to be deported) and Daniel (a Korean boy born in this country who loves poetry). It is the story of the day they met and what transpired. Charming and also a recipient of a Printz Honor (for best YA fiction).

# Read the Book and then Watch the Movie or Series



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. (Watch the new series on Hulu.)



Dick, Philip K. *The Man in the High Castle*. It's 1962, but in this version of 1962, America lost World War II. The United States is divided among the Axis powers—Japan rules the West Coast, Germany rules the East Coast, and there is a sliver of land near the Rockies that is neutral. Slavery is legal and Jews hide their identity if they want to survive. In this world Hitler is still alive, although suffering from an advanced case of syphilis. Just who IS the man in the high castle? (Watch the Amazon series.)



Fainaru-Wada, Mark and Steve Fainaru. *League of Denial: The NFL, Concussions, and the Battle for Truth* (nonfiction) A very readable account by two investigative reporters (who happen to be brothers), about the NFL's twenty-year attempt to cover up the connection between football and brain damage. (Watch the 2013 Frontline investigation.)



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! (Watch the 2003 movie.)



Hillenbrand, Laura. *Unbroken*. (nonfiction) After their Army Air Forces plane crashes during a routine mission in May of 1943, Louie and two pals find themselves on a life raft in the middle of the Pacific Ocean dodging bullets from an attacking aircraft. This is an incredible survival story—47 days on a raft in the open ocean only to be rescued and sent to a Japanese prison camp. Brutal. (Watch the 2014 movie directed by Angelina Jolie.)



Hornby, Nick. *About a Boy.* Will Freeman is a guy who will do anything to get a date—even lie about having a kid in order to gain membership into SPAT (Single Parents—Alone Together). But then he meets 12-year-old Marcus and his very hip, very single London lifestyle hits a roadblock. Hilarious. (Watch the 2002 movie starring Hugh Grant.)



Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees.* It's 1964 and 14-year-old Lily has run away from her neglectful father with her nanny, Rosaleen. Lily has only fleeting memories of her mother, who she accidently shot and killed when she was four years old. Looking for clues about her mother's life, Lily finds a picture of a black Virgin Mary with the words "Tiburon, SC" on the back. Off the two go to South Carolina. (Watch the 2008 movie starring Queen Latifah, Alicia Keys, and Jennifer Hudson.)



Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild.* (nonfiction) In 1992 Christopher Johnson McCandless, a privileged young man, gave up all his worldly possessions and went off to live in the wilderness of Alaska. His journey didn't end well. Krakauer brilliantly tells his story. (Watch the 2007 movie.)



Lee Shetterly, Margot. *Hidden Figures*. (nonfiction) We know about the white men who first orbited the earth and walked on the moon, but do we know about the black women who helped them get there? This book chronicles the lives and work of four African American women who worked as human computers during the height of the space race. Read the original or the young reader's edition. (Watch the recent movie starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, and Janelle Monáe.)



Levin, Ira. *Rosemary's Baby.* Horrifyingly creepy even though it was published 50 years ago! Newly married Rosemary Woodhouse and her husband, Guy, a struggling actor, decide to sign a lease on an apartment in a beautiful, old New York City building, despite the fact that the site has been the location of some decidedly horrible events in the past (like murder). Soon Rosemary gets pregnant and Guy gets a role on Broadway. Things are looking up—or are they? (Watch the 1968 Roman Polanski film or the 2014 mini-series starring Zoe Saldana.)



Levin, Ira. *The Stepford Wives*. Although the suburb of Stepford seems idyllic when Joanna and her family move there, she soon observes that many of her female neighbors seem to be only interested in doing housework and serving their husbands. Odd. And what's this men's club that all the men in town belong to? (Watch the 2004 movie version starring Nicole Kidman and Matthew Broderick or the 1975 movie starring Katharine Ross. Jordan Peele's recent *Get Out* also draws on Levin's classic!)



# Martin, George R.R. A Song of Ice and Fire

Warriors, lords, ladies, sorcerers, assassins, and bastards—you know you want to read it. **Series:** A Game of Thrones, A Clash of Kings, A Storm of Swords, A Feast for Crows, A Dance with Dragons, The Winds of Winter, and A Dream of Spring. (Watch the HBO series.)



Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. (nonfiction) The story of Henrietta Lacks and her cervical cancer cells. Extracted from her tumor without her knowledge or consent, these cells gave rise to one of the most important cell lines, known as HeLa, ever grown. Not only have they been instrumental in countless scientific breakthroughs, but a multi-billion-dollar industry emerged based on the sale of these cells to labs around the world. But who was Henrietta Lacks? (Watch the recent HBO movie starring Oprah Winfrey.)



Smith, Alexander McCall. *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. Precious Ramotswe is a female detective in Botswana (highly unusual). Follow Ramotswe and her loyal assistant, Grace Makutsi, as they solve various cases. This is the first in a charming series. (Watch the 2008-2009 HBO series.)



Walls, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle.* (memoir) Walls had an unusual childhood. Dysfunctional yet brilliant, her parents encouraged their four children to "fly under the radar" to avoid attracting attention to their bizarre lifestyle. Virtual nomads, they often did the "skedaddle" rather than pay rent or deal with authority. Amazing story. (Movie starring Brie Larson coming out August 11th.)





# Bradley, Alan. Flavia de Luce

Flavia is an eleven-year-old eccentric science prodigy with a penchant for poison, who lives in an ancient English country house. Fearless and unflappable, she pursues clues and solves crimes. Totally fun. **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, Speaking from Among the Bones, The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches, The Curious Case of the Copper Corpse, and As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust.



# Brown, Pierce. Red Rising

Darrow is a Red, which means that he is the lowest of the low in his very class-conscious society. He is 16, happily married, and works as a miner in a mining colony on Mars. When his wife is executed in front of him and he gets recruited by a rebel group to infiltrate the government (Golds), his life takes a dramatic turn.

Series: Red Rising, Golden Son, and Morning Star.



# Charbonneau, Joelle. The Testing

Cia gets selected for the Testing by the United Commonwealth; it's an honor and an opportunity to join the ranks of the leaders. She soon finds herself at the university in Tosu City, where she and the others selected undergo physical and mental trials. Traps, tricks, and subterfuge ensue. Reminiscent of *The Hunger Games*. **Series:** *The Testing, Independent Study,* and *Graduation Day*.



#### Grant, Michael. Gone

Gone. Everyone is gone. Well, at least all the adults. There is also no internet, no phone, and no way to figure out what's happening. Soon there's no food. Those left start to develop special powers and abilities—and they begin to take sides in order to survive. **Series**: *Gone*, *Hunger*, *Lies*, *Plague*, *Fear*, and *Light*.



#### Ness, Patrick. Chaos Walking

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. **Series**: *The Knife of Never Letting Go, The Ask and the Answer,* and *Monsters of Men*.



#### Novik, Naomi. Temeraire

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. **Series:** *His Majesty's Dragon, Throne of Jade, Black Powder War, Empire of Ivory, Victory of Eagles, Tongues of Serpents,* and *Crucible of Gold.* 



#### 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 in an effort to save them. **Series**: *Birthmarked*, *Prized* and *Promised*.



#### Yancey, Rick. The 5th Wave

Cassie is one of the few humans left on Earth. Heavily armed at all times, she is battling the invading aliens in what is now called the 5th Wave. Her family survived Waves 1 and 2, only to meet their downfall in later Waves. Ben, an old high school crush of Cassie's, also survived. A thriller with non-stop action, told from the viewpoints of both Cassie and Ben. **Series**: *The 5th Wave, The Infinite Sea*, and *The Last Star*.

# Fan Fiction (or books that inspired other books)



The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling. Obviously, if you haven't read this extraordinary series yet, you should.



Harrington, Jamie. The Unofficial Guide to Crafting the World of Harry Potter: 30 Magical Crafts for Witches and Wizards—From Pencil Wands to House Colors Tie-Dye Shirts.

(nonfiction) This is not really fan fiction, but close enough. Need a journal to keep track of all your spells? Some butterbeer lip balm for those dry days? A nargle or two for your lawn? If you're a fan of Harry Potter and are feeling crafty, this is the book for you!



Rowell, Rainbow. *Fangirl*. For years Cath and her identical twin sister, Wren, have written wildly popular fan fiction about a character who bears a striking resemblance to the famous fictional character with a lightning bolt-shaped scar on his forehead. (Their character is named Simon Snow.) When the two get to college, Wren decides she wants distance from Cath and the fan fiction world, and Cath is left to cope on her own.



Rowell, Rainbow. *Carry On.* This *is* the Simon Snow story that is mentioned in *Fangirl*, also by Rowell. Simon Snow (Harry Potter-like character) goes to the Watford School of Magicks. He's a pathetic wizard who has trouble with his wand, but that doesn't stop his roommate, Baz (Draco Malfoy-like character), from falling in love with him.



Rowling, J.K. with Jack Thorne and John Tiffany. *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.*Harry, Ron, Hermione, Ginny, and Draco are all grown up and their children are now at Hogwarts. Albus (Harry's son) and Scorpius (Draco's son) are best friends and concoct a plan to go back in time. Never a good idea.



**Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte. This mid-19<sup>th</sup> century classic follows the life of orphan Jane—she was abused by her aunt and tormented at school. Eventually she gets a position as a governess working for Mr. Rochester; she falls in love and discovers a terrible secret.



Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Published 50 years ago, *Wide Sargasso Sea* is Rhys's answer to the question: Who the heck was the madwoman in Mr Rochester's attic? In Rhys's lush and vivid novel, the woman is Antoinette Cosway, a Creole heiress from Jamaica who has never even left the Carribean until she marries an English man (aka Mr. Rochester) and he carts her off to England. Oh, but there is so much that happens before that awful attic.



Park, Patricia. *Re Jane*. For Jane Re, a half Korean, half American orphan living with relatives in Flushing, Queens, a job as an au pair for a Brooklyn couple is her ticket out. After accepting the job, Jane moves in with the Mazer-Farleys, two English professors, and their adopted Chinese daughter. This new world of organic food, politically correct speech and playdates is light years away from her uncle's grocery store and the all-Korean community dominated by

obligation and protocol that was her youth in Queens.



**Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen. Mr. Bennet has five daughters, none of whom can inherit—so, needless to say, they must get married. Mrs. Bennet is obsessed with marrying off each daughter to the most eligible man of means available, regardless of what the girls think. Love, manner, intrigue—*Pride and Prejudice* has it all. The best part is, of course, Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy.



Sittenfeld, Curtis. *Eligible*. Liz and Jane, the two oldest of the five Bennet sisters, return home to Cincinnati for the summer while their father recovers from a heart attack. Having all five daughters under one roof seems to exacerbate Mrs. Bennet's frustration that not even one of them has managed to find a suitable husband. Also includes a spider infestation and, of course, Fitzwilliam Darcy.



Hale, Shannon. **Austenland.** Jane, a young NYC woman, 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.

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- Select the *Read in your Browser* option if you want to just read the title on your computer.
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Current and past reading lists available online at:

http://saintannsny.org/divisions-and-offices/library/high-school-library/reading-list/

Love, Ragan, Denise, and Hannah