Saint Ann's Suggested Summer Reading List, 2015



for students entering ninth grade



Albertalli, Becky. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*

Simon's life is forever changed when he steps away from his computer at school and his biggest secret is discovered. Drama, blackmail, and hilarity ensue in this coming-of-age, coming-out masterpiece. Titles that are shaded, like this sentence, indicate that the book is available in the Saint Ann's digital library.



Arnold, Elana K. Infandous

Sephora lives in Venice Beach in a seedy apartment with her mother whose beauty rivals that of a Disney princess.

But life doesn't always turn out the way it does in fairy tales with the beautiful princess triumphing at the end. Sephora's story is bumpy and fraught with challenges—a decidedly un-Disney fairy tale.



Atwood, Margaret. The Handmaid's Tale

In a warped, frightening, not-too-distant future, women in the Republic of Gilead are relegated to certain roles. There are upper class wives, Econowives, housekeeping Marthas, and reproductive Handmaids. Offred, the narrator of this story, serves as Handmaid—her sole purpose is to breed for the upper class. How did this horrific society come to be?

Ballard, Chris. One Shot at Forever (nonfiction)

The ultimate underdog sports tale. It's 1971 and the Macon Ironmen, a rag-tag 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.



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, 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 win 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. Steven Spielberg is going to direct the movie version!

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containing yours (though you may have it already). For instructions and other digital library tips, see the last page of this list.

Shaded titles on this list indicate that it is available in the digital library.



Copeland, Misty. Life in Motion (memoir)

When Misty started to study ballet at the Boys and Girls Club of Los Angeles as a teenager, she never imagined that one day she would become a soloist for the American Ballet Theatre. African American prima ballerinas are few and far between. But she did become one and this is her amazing story.



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, or even that climate change isn't real. Cunningham investigates the science (and the reporting) behind these issues, as well as many others, and explains how scientific information is manipulated and misconceptions arise. An investigative journalism and mythbusters mash-up in graphic form.



Doctorow, Cory. Little Brother

After a terrorist attack on San Francisco, 17-year-old computer-savvy Marcus, a.k.a "w1n5t0n," and his crew find themselves in a whole heap of trouble. The Department of Homeland Security detains them and interrogates them for days. When they are released, they discover that the city has become a police state. It's time to take care of things themselves. Marcus's story is continued in the sequel, *Homeland*. In the second installment, while attending the Burning Man Festival, he is given a bunch of data exposing corruption in the government. What to do with it?



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.



Fleming, Candace. *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia* (nonfiction) Brilliantly told story of the last tsar of Russia and his family in their final years. Stories from inside the palace are interspersed with those of ordinary Russians living in poverty. It reads like a dramatic novel!



Gansworth, Eric. If I Ever Get Out of Here

Lewis Blake is an American Indian living on a reservation in upstate New York in the 1970s. Poverty is his reality at home and at school he is relegated to outcast status. Life is kind of grim until a new boy, George Haddonfield, comes to school. The two bond over music (Beatles, Wings, Queen), but Lewis is worried about inviting George to his house. Can he handle it? When Lewis becomes the target of the school bully, the friendship is put to the test.



Giles, Gail. **Girls Like Us**

Quincy and Biddy have just graduated from their special ed high school class. A guidance counselor gets them set up with an apartment and jobs working for Elizabeth (the wealthy wife of the former mayor who is suffering from health problems). Written in the vernacular in alternating chapters from the points of view of both girls, this is the poignant and heart-wrenching story of Biddy, Quincy, and Elizabeth as they learn to live together and become a family.



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 couple 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 Anne. Better than the movie. Note: History can be racy.



Griner, Brittney and Sue Hovey. In My Skin: My Life On and Off the Basketball Court (memoir)

Griner was the WNBA's number one draft pick in 2013. At 6'8" with a size 17 men's shoe, she's a physical phenom. As one can imagine, life hasn't always been easy for her. A remarkable and very readable coming-of-age story.



Haddon, Mark. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Christopher is autistic. He takes everything at face value and has trouble understanding the behavior of people around him. One night he comes across his neighbor's poodle, Wellington, impaled on a garden fork. Wellington's owner finds Christopher holding her dead dog and has him arrested. After spending a night in jail, he decides to discover who murdered Wellington. His social worker encourages him to write a book about his investigations. This is the book.



Hawkins, Paula. The Girl on the Train

The page-turning psychological thriller of the season. Murder, unreliable narrators, twists and turns—what more do you need?



Herren, Chris and Bill Reynolds. Basketball Junkie (memoir)

When the book opens, Herren is a hopeless heroin addict with no job, no insurance, and no future. Yet only seven years earlier, Herren had been playing for the Boston Celtics and making \$450,000 a year. Raw and gritty, this is the mesmerizing story of his downfall and ultimately, his redemption.



Hiaasen, Carl. Skink: No Surrender

Richard's cousin, Malley, has run off with the boyfriend she met on the internet. Not such a good idea. Richard knows it, and pretty soon Malley realizes it too—but only after she is kidnapped. Richard enlists Skink, the renegade ex-governor of Florida, to track her down. The two make a lawless, entertaining, good-hearted duo as they traipse across Florida in search of Malley. They endure an alligator attack, bullets, and an internet sexual predator.



Hijuelos, Oscar. Dark Dude

Rico is a Cuban American growing up in Harlem in the 1960s. Life isn't easy and his light skin and hair don't help matters much. Fed up, Rico runs away to Wisconsin with a friend to live on a hippie farm. In white-bread Wisconsin, Rice blends in physically—but he soon comes to realize that you are who you are, wherever you are. This is the only novel for teens that Pulitzer Prize winner Hijuelos ever wrote.



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 moving and candid 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 honest and compelling memoir of an outdoorsy Oklahoma transgender teenage boy.



Hillenbrand, Lauren. Unbroken (nonfiction)

After their plane crashed 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 movie after you read the book!



Kantor, Melissa. **Better Than Perfect**

Life is pretty awesome for Juliet. She's a good student and has a great boyfriend—her plans for the future include rocking the SATs and going to a prestigious college. But then her dad leaves and her mom falls apart and Juliet realizes that maybe there are things more important than being perfect. The latest by our very own Melissa Kantor (English teacher extraordinaire).



Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*

It's 1964 and 14-year-old Lily has run away from her neglectful father with Rosaleen, a servant. 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 girls go to South Carolina. Read this heartwarming story and then see the movie.



Kleist, Reinhard. *The Boxer: The True Story of Holocaust Survivor Harry Haft* (graphic nonfiction) It is in Auschwitz that 16-year-old Harry is forced to fight other inmates to survive. It's in postwar America that he becomes a professional prizefighter—undefeated until he fights Rocky Marciano in 1949. But forgetting his past and the fiancée he left behind in Poland just isn't possible.



Knowles, Jo. **Read Between the Lines**

Twelve distinct stories are told which eventually intersect to tell the truth of what lies underneath the surface of this small town. Yes, you have to read between the lines.



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.



Kuehn, Stephanie. Complicit

Cate and Jamie were adopted by a wealthy family after their single mother was murdered many years ago. Jamie is now seventeen and Cate, who has been locked up for two years after setting fire to a barn, is back. Jamie is afraid—afraid because with Cate's arrival everything that he has tried to ignore from his past starts to come crashing back. A compelling psychological thriller.



Lee, Harper. **To Kill a Mockingbird**

I hope, for your sake, that you have already read this book. Maybe you've seen the movie? If you have never read it, don't waste another second—read it. Better yet, read it again. *Go Set a Watchman*, a never-published novel written by Harper Lee before she wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is set to be published for the first time this July. It will be available on the digital library mid-July.



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

This is Congressman John Lewis's second book in his planned trilogy of graphic memoir documenting his experiences working in the civil rights movement. Sit-ins, freedom rides, his election as chairman to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and speaking at the 1963 March on Washington—it's all here. Start with *March: Book One* and learn about Lewis's childhood spent on a sharecropper's farm in Alabama.



Maguire, Gregory. Egg and Spoon

Elena is a poor peasant girl with a dead father, a sick mother, and a brother who has been conscripted into the Tsar's army. Ekaterina is a wealthy girl travelling on a train to Saint Petersburg to meet the prince. Two girls meet when the train breaks down in the middle of Elena's village. What happens next is pretty crazy, to say the least. Identities are switched and lies are told. Baba Yaga, the infamous witch of Russian folklore plays a starring role (along with her mobile house atop chicken legs), as does a stunning Fabergé egg. By the author of *Wicked*.



McDougall, Steve. Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen (nonfiction)

Want to learn about the Tarahumara Indian tribe—renowned long distance runners from Mexico's Copper Canyon? What about the theory that evolutionarily speaking, humans were literally born to run? (The idea is that our ancestors survived because they were able to outrun their prey.) Well, this is the book for you! Fascinating stuff.



Myers, Suzanne. Stone Cove Island

Eliza is cleaning up the lighthouse on Stone Cove Island after a devastating hurricane when she finds a creepy letter, perhaps new evidence in the twenty-five year old unsolved murder of a high school girl named Bess. None of the adults on the island want to revisit the past so Eliza and her friend Charlie decide to solve the mystery themselves. A page-turner.

Nelson, Jandy. I'll Give you the Sun

Twins Jude and Noah communicate without words, understand each other's art, and know that in an emergency they would each save the other before anyone else. But something happens that tears them apart. The novel is told from both perspectives (Jude at age 16, Noah starting at age 13 and gradually getting older), and their stories converge as secrets are revealed to the characters and the reader alike. A unique portrayal of grief, love, and sexuality—this novel won the 2015 Printz Award and was a Stonewall Honor book.



Pfetzer, Mark. Within Reach: My Everest Story (memoir)

At age 16, Mark Pfetzer became the youngest person ever to climb Mt. Everest. Mark was on the expedition that Jon Krakauer recounted in his book *Into Thin Air* (where eight climbers died). Read *Into Thin Air* while you're at it!



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. Eventually it becomes clear that Anna's parents expect her to donate a kidney in order to save Kate's life once again. That's when, at the age of 13, Anna sues for medical emancipation from her parents. Who's right? Anna? Her parents?



Quintero, Isabel. Gabi, a Girl in Pieces

This is Gabi's diary during her senior year of high school. Raw, charming and humorous, Gabi's diary chronicles her best friend's pregnancy, her dad's attempt to quit his meth habit, and her religious aunt's desire to put an end to any possible romantic life Gabi might aspire to have.



Rawl, Paige (and Ali Benjamin). Positive (memoir)

Paige Rawl was born with HIV. She had a pretty regular childhood growing up in Indiana—she entered pageants, was a cheerleader, had a best friend, and a crush on a cute boy. All that changed in middle school when she confided her HIV status to the girl who was supposedly her best friend. Paige soon became the target of bullies at her school. An engaging memoir about one girl's journey that not only dispels myths about HIV, but also inspires its readers.



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. 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. Cath is an expert when it comes to writing about friendship and love—it turns out having friends and being in love is a little harder in real life. An amazing book—don't miss it.



Schrefer, Eliot. Threatened

Luc is a desperately poor orphan living in Gabon. When a man who calls himself the Prof (short for professor) comes to town, Luc tries to steal his suitcase—but he gets caught. Instead of turning Luc in, the Prof offers him a job as an assistant. The two travel into the jungle to study chimpanzees. What follows is an extraordinary story one of survival, love, danger, and family.



Sedaris, David. Me Talk Pretty One Day (essays)

So funny! Sedaris writes about his family (lots of material to draw from!) and his move to Paris. Do not attempt to read the title story in public (about his efforts to learn French); people will look at you strangely due to uproarious laughter.

Shabazz, Ilyasah with Kekla Magoon. X

A fictionalized account of the early years of Malcolm X, written by his daughter in collaboration with an acclaimed young adult author. Malcolm, a smart troubled youth—still reeling from his father's murder and his mother's institutionalization—travels from Lansing, Michigan to Boston to New York hustling and smoking reefer at every step, trying to figure out where he came from and where he is meant to go.



Smith, Lindsay. Sekret

It's the early 1960s in the Soviet Union and Yulia, who is psychic, is captured (along with her mother and brother) by the KGB. Yulia is forced to work as a psychic spy—her mission is to undermine the U.S. space program. She can trust no one.



Tamaki, Mariko and Jillian Tamiko. This One Summer (graphic novel)

Rose can't wait to get to her family's cottage at Awago Beach and see her best summer friend, Windy. Things seem different this summer though, and Rose, on the cusp of adolescence, is struggling—her parents are fighting, she and Windy seem to be drifting apart, and the older teenage boy who she has a crush on appears to have gotten another girl pregnant. A unique coming-of-age graphic novel which won an honor for both the Caldecott and the Printz in 2015.



Vlahos, Len. *The Scar Boys*

Harry is supposed to be writing a 250-word essay for college, but this book is proof that he went far beyond the given word count. His essay begins when he is eight years old and the neighborhood bullies tie him to a tree—and it gets hit by lightning. Len came and read to us from his book earlier this year—remember?



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.



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



Yousafzai, Malala (and Christina Lamb). I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban (memoir)

Fifteen-year-old Malala spoke out about the importance of educating girls. In response to her efforts she was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the school bus near her home in northern Pakistan. She survived—this is her story.





Zevin, Gabrielle. **The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry**

A.J. Fikry lives on a small island off the coast of Rhode Island and runs Island Books—but not particularly well. He used to successfully and happily run the bookstore with his wife—unfortunately she died in a car crash and in her absence he has become an irritable drunk. One evening, when he is passed out from drinking, his beloved book of Edgar Allan Poe poetry gets stolen. Add a baby who gets abandoned in the bookstore, a pretty (but quirky) travelling salesperson, a crime-novel-reading detective friend, a whole lot of references to books and literature, and you've got yourself a very entertaining novel.

Series:



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.*



Condie, Ally. Matched

Cassia lives in a world without choice. The Society Officials decide what she eats, what her job will be, even the man she's going to marry. Cassia is pretty happy not to have the burden of decision-making, but when it looks like she's been matched with the wrong boy, she questions everything she has known. **Series:** *Matched*, *Reached*, and *Crossed*.



Lu, Marie. **Legend**

June was born into a wealthy family. At twelve she became the only child to achieve a perfect score on the Trial (the test that all 12-year-olds take to determine their future). At fifteen she is a military prodigy, being groomed for a high-ranking position in the Republic. Day was born into poverty—at fifteen he is an outcast and the Republic's number one wanted criminal. When it appears that Day murdered June's brother, he becomes June's most wanted enemy as well. **Series:** *Legend, Prodigy,* and *Champion.*

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 Dance with Dragons, The Winds of Winter, and A Dream of Spring.



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.*



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 and The Infinite Sea.

Read a Classic this Summer:

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson Dracula by Bram Stoker The Lord of the Rings series by J.R.R. Tolkien The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

Need a Break? Try One of These:



Teens Cook Dessert by Megan Carle, Jill Carle, and Judi Carle. Malted milk ball cookies, peanut butter and jelly cookies, peach upside down cake. Bring it on.



Our Dumb Century: The Onion Presents 100 Years of Headlines from America's Finest News Source by Scott Dikkers.

Need a laugh? Look no further.



Crochet : The Complete Step-by-Step Guide by DK Publishing.

Learn the basics of crocheting. Make a chunky bracelet, a cell phone case or an owl pillow. You can do it! Next try Star Wars Crochet by Lucy Collin—a kit which includes instructions, a crochet hook and yarn to make a yoda and a stormtrooper. You know you want to try this.



Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain Workbook: The Definitive, Updated 2nd Edition by Betty Edwards. Learn how to draw this summer—this workbook is just what you need to learn or improve your skills.



Unlikely Loves: 43 Heartwarming True Stories from the Animal Kingdom by Jennifer Holland. This is a follow up to Unlikely Friendships. A duck and a pit bull. A mama mutt and some kittens. Wonderful stories to melt your heart.



The Big-Ass Book of Home Decor: More Than 100 Inventive Projects for Cool Homes Like Yours by Mark Montano.

It's possible that you might find yourself at home with time on your hands this summer. Spruce up your room by decorating a lampshade or making a super-cool pillow.



The Darwin Awards: Countdown to Extinction by Wendy Northcutt.

Who would attach a five-horsepower engine to a barstool? Someone whose demise is imminent—that's who. Fans of The Onion and The Simpsons will not be disappointed with this chronicle of really stupid things humans have done.



The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Extreme Edition by Joshua Piven, David Borgenicht and Jennifer Worrick.

Be prepared for life's challenges. Learn how to survive a flash flood, take a bullet, and escape from fire ants or an angry gorilla.

Saint Ann's Digital Library at Overdrive

Remember, students can check out e-books all summer long. Access the digital library at <u>saintannsny.lib.overdrive.com</u> or locate it by Googling the phrase *Saint Ann's Digital Library*. The easiest way to read our e-books is with a Kindle, Kindle app, or Overdrive app.

Logging in: Students need a library card number and PIN to check out books. Look for an email from <u>library@saintannsny.org</u> with yours (though you may have it already). **FYI**: Your library card number is simply your student ID number with an "S" in front. For example, if your student ID number is 18840, your library card number is S18840. Your PIN is your first and last initials, lower case, followed by the same ID number. So, if your name is Eleanor Roosevelt and your library card number is S18840, your PIN is er18840. Got it, Eleanor? Now, go read some books!

Other things to keep in mind:

- You can check out a book from the digital library using a 3G or WiFi connection. But to actually download it to your device, **you must use WiFi**.
- Select the *Read in your Browser* option if you want to just read the title on your computer.
- For more information click "help" when you access the digital library.

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