

Heights Bulldogs Read for Enjoyment This Summer!

There will NOT be a REQUIRED summer reading list this year.

The Heights English Department IS encouraging you to read for **FUN!**

Teacher Top Picks!

Mr. Hebert

- *Makes Me Wanna Holler*- by Nathan McCall - Riveting autobiography of an African American “street kid” from Portsmouth, Virginia that chronicles his life on the streets, his experiences as a convicted felon, Washington Post reporter and university lecturer and public speaker. McCall’s wit and candor offer a uniquely African American perspective on life and coming of age in a racially polarized environment and the lessons he has learned in the process.
- *The Faraway Brothers* - by Lurne Markham -The inspiring true story of identical twin teenage brothers who escape El Salvador's violence to build new lives in California as undocumented immigrants. The brothers endure a harrowing journey to the U.S. alone and without the adult members of their family to lean on. Speaking almost no English and with no marketable skills, the brothers must begin their quest for the ‘American Dream’ in very challenging circumstances.
- *Boys Don’t Knit (in Public)* - by Tom Easton - Seventeen-year-old Ben Fletcher is a professional worrier. As a result of recklessly biking into Mrs. Frensham, a grouchy traffic guard, while on an ill-advised alcohol-stealing venture with his "idiot friends," Ben has been placed on probation for a year. As a condition of his probation, Ben must take up knitting as a hobby and is thrust into the “cut-throat” world of competitive knitting.

Mr. Nieto

- *Turtles All the Way Down* – By John Green - A realistic fiction novel with elements of mystery, *Turtles All the Way Down* tells a story of a lifelong friendship, the search for a fugitive billionaire, and the difficulties that come with anxiety and depression.
- *The Kite Runner* -By Khaled Hosseini - A story of family, love, and friendship told against the backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years, *The Kite Runner* is a powerful novel that has become a one-of-a-kind classic.
- *And Then There Were None* – By Agatha Christie - Ten strangers are summoned as weekend guests to a private island. Their host, a millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a past they're unwilling to reveal and wicked secrets that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder.

Ms. Seward

- *The Poet X* – By Elizabeth Acevedo – A young girl finds her voice through slam poetry.
- *Clap Where You Land* – By Elizabeth Acevedo - Sisters discover each other and many other truths after their father dies in a plane crash.

- *Brown Girl Dreaming* – By Jacqueline Woodson – Woodson tells how she grew up in the 1960s -70s among the vestiges of Jim Crow and the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement.
- *Piecing Me Together* –By Renée Watson – Jade attends a posh private school on scholarship and discovers that her life experience gives her a strength unique to her campus.
- *Felix Ever After* – By Kacen Callender– A transgender teen falls in love for the first time and struggles with receiving threatening messages.
- *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me* – (Mariko Tamaki) Freddy falls in love yet struggles with rising above a toxic relationship. (Graphic Novel)
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You* – (Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi) - Explains the origins of racism and how we can recognize racist thoughts within ourselves and in our daily lives.

Ms. Zappone

- *Exit West* - by Mohsin Hamid- In an unnamed war-torn country, two young lovers flee through magical doors searching for a place to call home.
- *Infinite Country* by Patricia Engel - This story follows a mixed-status family as they struggle to survive and reunite after a father's deportation from the United States. The teenage Talia, American-born but raised in Colombia, escapes a reform school in the Andes and races to make her plane to rejoin her mom and siblings in New York.
- *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden - A fantasy, based on Russian folklore, this book follows a young girl who can communicate with mythological creatures. (The first in a trilogy.)

Ms. Thiem

- *I Am not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*- by Erika Sanchez - As Julia digs deeper into the secrets her recently deceased older sister Olga left behind, she comes face-to-face with more and more unsettling truths about her family's past.
- *The Porcupine of Truth* - by Bill Konigsberg - Carson Smith is spending his summer in Montana, helping his mom take care of his dying, alcoholic father that he doesn't really know. Then he meets Aisha Stinson, a girl who has run away from her difficult family, and discovers a secret regarding his grandfather, who disappeared without warning or explanation decades before. Carson and Aisha embark on an epic road trip to discover the "Porcupine of Truth" in all of their lives.
- *If I Was Your Girl* - by Meredith Russo – This is the story of Amanda, a transgender teen. After being bullied and beaten in her previous high school, she goes to live with her father in a small Tennessee town, leaving behind her old identity as Andrew.

Ms. Wright

- *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson – A powerful story about a girl striving for success in a world that too often seems like it's trying to break her.
- *Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson –A gripping novel about the mystery of one teenage girl's disappearance and the traumatic effects of the truth.
- *This Time Will Be Different* by Misa Sugiura – A coming of age story that weaves family drama, surprising humor, and delightful romance into a story about family, community and the importance of writing your own history.
- *My Almost Flawless Tokyo Dream Life* - by Rachel Cohn – A story about learning what it is to be family, and finding the inner strength to be yourself, even in extreme circumstances.

- *Little White Lies (Debutantes, 1)* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes – A story about the life of debutantes and high society but with dangerous and scandalous secrets.
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely – Two teens – One black, one white – grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

Ms. Diers

- *Crying in H-Mart: A Memoir* – By Michelle Zauner - Memoir written about growing up as a Korean American, losing her mother, and her attempts to re-connect with the Korean culture and heritage she previously rejected.
- *We Were Feminists Once: From Riot Grrrl to CoverGirl®, the Buying and Selling of a Political Movement* – By Andi Zeisler- This book explores how capitalism turned a valid political movement into a way to sell us things.

Ms. Harris

- *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo - A high school student struggles between her passion for cooking, her studies and being a single Mom. She has many tough decisions ahead.
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas - A young woman must find her voice and speak up for what is right. Touches on current race and police brutality issues
- *The Paper Menagerie* by Ken Liu - This story has a sweet sadness to it and teaches us about taking people for granted and the immigrant experience. (Short Story)

Ms. Hall

- *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* – by Seth Grahame-Smith - A parody novel that mixes Jane Austen's classic *Pride and Prejudice* with elements of zombie fiction.
- *The Cabin at the End of the World* by Amy Landon – A psychological suspense novel in which seven-year-old Wen and her parents are vacationing at a remote cabin on a quiet lake. Their closest neighbors are more than two miles in either direction along a rutted dirt road. Thus begins an unbearably tense, gripping tale of paranoia, sacrifice, apocalypse, and survival that escalates to a shattering conclusion, one in which the fate of a family and quite possibly all of humanity are entwined.
- *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline – A dystopian thriller in which Wade Watts escapes the grim surroundings of the present world by playing the OASIS, a virtual utopia that lets you be anything you want. And like most of humanity, Wade dreams of being the one to discover the ultimate lottery ticket that lies concealed within this virtual world. For years, millions have struggled fruitlessly to attain this prize. And then Wade stumbles upon the first puzzle. Suddenly the whole world is watching, and thousands of competitors join the hunt - among them certain powerful players who are willing to commit very real murder to beat Wade to this prize.
- *Sabriel* by Garth Nix (Fantasy) - Ever since she was a tiny child, Sabriel has lived outside the walls of the Old Kingdom, away from the random power of Free Magic, and away from the Dead who won't stay dead. But now her father, the Mage Abhorsen, is missing, and to find him Sabriel must cross back into that world.

Mr. Paniagua

- *Meditations* -By Marcus Aurelius - Diary of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius that outlines his views and ideas of the Stoic philosophy.
- *Frankenstein* – By Mary Shelley - The horror classic that examines many different aspects of the human experience through a stand-in that is arguably not human. The monster is not called Frankenstein by the way.

- *One Hundred Years of Solitude* -By Gabriel Garcia Marquez - A story filled with Magical Realism that tells the generational story of the Buendia family and the ways that the past, present, and future are all intertwined.

Ms. Ioannidis

- *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East* - by Naomi Shihab Nye - Drawing on her Palestinian-American heritage, Nye uses poetry to facilitate cultural understanding.
- *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne: From Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest* - by Stephen Ambrose - The inspiration for the HBO series, this journey takes readers to the frontlines of World War II from training camp to D-Day to the Battle of the Bulge.
- *Atomic Women* - by Rosanne Montillo- They were leaning over the edge of the unknown and afraid of what they would discover there—meet the World War II female scientists who worked in the secret sites of the Manhattan Project. These scientists helped in—the development of the atomic bomb. While their involvement was critical to its success, many of them were not fully aware of the consequences.

Mr. Harrison

- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison – A spellbinding portrait of a woman haunted by the past and slavery. Once escaping slavery, she still is not free because of her memories and the mysterious girl that arrives in town.
- *Bless Me Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya - Antonio Marez is six years old when Ultima enters his life and comes to live with his family. She is one who heals with herbs and magic.
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee - The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it.

Mr. Krause

- *Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch* - by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett. The Antichrist is born. Ends up being reared by the wrong family. A hilarious apocalypse ensues.
- *Cat's Cradle*, by Kurt Vonnegut. This is an indescribable book about a journalist, a dictator of a poor Caribbean island nation, an incomprehensible religion, and a substance that can instantly freeze all life on earth.
- *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*, by Charles Mann. - This book surveys recent scholarship in the field of pre-Columbian history and archeology. What researchers are finding out about the cultures of North and South America before European colonization is mind-blowing and provide a ready rebuttal to anyone who thinks there was very little here before Columbus “discovered” the “New” World. (non-fiction)

Mr. Wise

- *Animal Farm* – By George Orwell – A satirical allegorical novel about the Russian Revolution and Communism
- *Gulliver's Travels* by Johnathan Swift – A satirical novel based on the human nature and “travelers’ tales.”
- *D’aulaires’ Book of Greek Myths* Great selections and illustrations on Greek Mythology

*A book is a gift you can
open again and again.*

—Garrison Keillor