The authors and books listed below are recommendations from members of the English department and the librarians for summer reading. For English, students are expected to read a minimum of five books over the summer. One of those five books must be a book of poetry by a poet from this list.

Students may read any book by a writer on this list. Choices for summer reading do not have to be limited to the specific titles listed here.

Please note: Do not read any of the following works, which are part of the Upper School English curriculum: Romeo and Juliet, All My Sons, 1984, Twelfth Night, Pride and Prejudice, A Doll’s House, The Great Gatsby, Their Eyes Were Watching God, Othello, and As I Lay Dying.
**Fiction & Story Collections**

Ali, Monica  
*Brick Lane*

Allende, Isabel  
*The House of the Spirits*

Alvarez, Julia  
*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*

Austen, Jane  
*Sense and Sensibility*

Baldwin, James  
*If Beale Street Could Talk*

Barry, Sebastian  
*A Long Long Way*

Baxter, Charles  
*The Feast of Love*

Bayard, Louis  
*Mr. Timothy*

Beal, Daphne  
*In the Land of No Right Angles*

Bender, Aimee  
*Willful Creatures*

Bradbury, Ray  
*Fahrenheit 451*

Bronte, Charlotte  
*Jane Eyre*

Brooks, Geraldine  
*March*

Cameron, Peter  
*Some Day This Pain Will Be Useful To You*

Camus, Albert  
*The Stranger*

Canin, Ethan  
*Emperor of the Air*

Carey, Peter  
*Theft*

Carr, Caleb  
*The Alienist*

Carroll, Lewis  
*Alice in Wonderland*

Carver, Raymond  
*What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*

Chabon, Michael  
*The Yiddish Policemen’s Union*

Chaon, Dan  
*Among the Missing*
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<td>Chevalier, Tracy</td>
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<td>Chbosky, Stephen</td>
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<td>Cole, Teju</td>
<td><em>Open City</em></td>
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<td>Collins, Wilkie</td>
<td><em>The Moonstone</em></td>
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<td>Courtenay, Bryce</td>
<td><em>The Power of One</em></td>
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<td>Cunningham, Michael</td>
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<td>Desai, Kiran</td>
<td><em>The Inheritance of Loss</em></td>
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<td>Diamant, Anita</td>
<td><em>The Red Tent</em></td>
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<td>Diaz, Junot</td>
<td><em>Drown</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dickens, Charles</td>
<td><em>Bleak House</em></td>
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“I love the complexity of the plot [of *Bleak House*] and how well-drawn the characters are...I was transported back to Dickensian London when I read this novel. I could feel the fog pressing up against the window panes.”
- Mr. Blyth

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<td>Faulkner, William</td>
<td><em>Light in August</em></td>
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<td>Fellowes, Julian</td>
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<td>Fitzgerald, F. Scott</td>
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<td>Flaubert, Gustave</td>
<td>Madame Bovary</td>
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<td>Franzen, Jonathan</td>
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<td>Garcia Marquez, Gabriel</td>
<td>Love in the Time of Cholera</td>
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<td>Gogol, Nikolai</td>
<td>Diary of a Madman and Other Stories</td>
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<td>Greene, Graham</td>
<td>The Quiet American</td>
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<td>Hammett, Dashiell</td>
<td>The Maltese Falcon</td>
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<td>Hannah, Barry</td>
<td>Airships</td>
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<td>Hardy, Thomas</td>
<td>Tess of the D’Urbervilles</td>
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<td>Hemingway, Ernest</td>
<td>A Farewell to Arms</td>
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<td>Hempel, Amy</td>
<td>The Dog of the Marriage : Stories</td>
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<td>Hijuelos, Oscar</td>
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<td>Homes, A.M.</td>
<td>Jack</td>
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<td>Hornby, Nick</td>
<td>About a Boy</td>
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<td>Hosseini, Khaled</td>
<td>The Kite Runner</td>
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<td>Hurston, Zora Neale</td>
<td>The Complete Stories</td>
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<td>Huxley, Aldous</td>
<td>Brave New World</td>
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<td>Jacques, Paula</td>
<td>Light of My Eye</td>
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<td>James, Henry</td>
<td>Daisy Miller</td>
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<td>Jen, Gish</td>
<td>Mona in the Promised Land</td>
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<td>Jones, Edward P.</td>
<td>The Known World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kafka, Franz</td>
<td>The Trial</td>
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</table>
"The Trial is the twentieth century's most comprehensive statement about
man's alienation in modern society. This book is the gospel to me!"

- Mr. Bikk

Kawabata, Yasunari  
Thousand Cranes

Kidd, Sue Monk  
The Secret Life of Bees

Kingsolver, Barbara  
Animal Dreams

Kunzru, Hari  
The Impressionist

Lahiri, Jhumpa  
Interpreter of Maladies

"Jhumpa Lahiri’s stories manage to be lyrical, straightforward, and
romantically satisfying at the same time. She always writes with great clarity
and an unusual point of view."

- Ms. Schutt

Lethem, Jonathan  
Motherless Brooklyn

Livesey, Margot  
Eva Moves the Furniture

Mahfouz, Naguib  
The Thief and the Dogs

Malamud, Bernard  
The Fixer

Mantel, Hillary  
Wolf Hall

Marcus, Ben  
The Flame Alphabet

Marias, Javier  
A Heart So White

Marsh, Ngaio  
Death in a White Tie

Mason, Bobbie Ann  
In Country

McCann, Colum  
Let the Great World Spin

McCarthy, Cormac  
All the Pretty Horses

McCullers, Carson  
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

McDermott, Alice  
Charming Billy
Michaels, Anne  
Minot, Susan  
Mitchell, David  
Moore, Susanna  
Morrison, Toni  
Munro, Alice  
Nabokov, Vladimir  
Naipaul, V.S.  
Naylor, Gloria  
Ness, Patrick  
Obeht, Tea  
O’Brien, Tim  
O’Connor, Flannery  
Osborne, Betsey  
Otsuka, Julie  
Paley, Grace  
Patchett, Ann  
Poe, Edgar Allan  
Proulx, Annie  
Puig, Manuel  
Robison, Mary  
Roth, Philip  
Russell, Karen  
Salinger, J.D.  
Saunders, George  

Fugitive Pieces  
Evening  
Black Swan Green  
My Old Sweetheart  
Jazz  
Dance of the Happy Shades  
Lolita  
The Mystic Masseur  
The Women of Brewster Place  
A Monster Calls  
The Tiger’s Wife  
The Things They Carried  
The Violent Bear It Away  
The Natural History of Uncas Metcalfe  
The Buddha in the Attic  
The Collected Stories  
Bel Canto  
The Gold Bug and Other Tales  
Close Range: Wyoming Stories  
Kiss of the Spider Woman  
Why Did I Ever  
The Ghost Writer and Zuckerman Unbound  
Swamplandia!  
The Catcher in the Rye  
Pastoralia
Sayers, Dorothy  
Schlink, Bernhard  
Schutt, Christine  
Selvadurai, Shyam  
Sepetys, Ruta  
Shepard, Jim  
Sijie, Dai  
Smith, Zadie  
Steinbeck, John  
Stowe, Harriet Beecher  
strauss, Darin  
Tan, Amy  
Tanizaki, Junichiro  
Toibin, Colm  
Tolstoy, Leo  
Twain, Mark  
Umrigar, Thrity  
Vergheese, Abraham  
Waldman, Amy  
Walbert, Kate  
Walker, Alice  
Waugh, Evelyn  
Welty, Eudora  
Wharton, Edith  
Wilde, Oscar

Gaudy Night  
The Reader  
All Souls  
Funny Boy  
Between Shades of Gray  
Like You’d Understand Anyway  
Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress  
NW  
The Grapes of Wrath  
Uncle Tom’s Cabin  
Chang and Eng  
The Joy Luck Club  
The Makioka Sisters  
Mothers and Sons  
Anna Karenina  
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn  
If Today Be Sweet  
Cutting for Stone  
Submission  
A Short History of Women  
The Color Purple  
A Handful of Dust  
The Collected Stories  
Summer  
The Picture of Dorian Gray
Winterson, Jeanette  
*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*

Winthrop, Elizabeth  
*December*

Wolff, Tobias  
*Old School*

Woolf, Virginia  
*To the Lighthouse*

"*Virginia Woolf shows us how the shift of a gaze can change the tenor of an entire relationship.*"

- Ms. Osborne

Wright, Richard  
*Native Son*

Yates, Richard  
*Revolutionary Road*

**Poetry**

Alexie, Sherman  
*The Business of Fancydancing*

Alvarez, Julia  
*Homecoming*

Brooks, Gwendolyn  
*Selected Poems*

Clifton, Lucille  
*Voices*

Collins, Billy  
*Ballistics*

Doty, Mark  
*Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems*

Dove, Rita  
*Mother Love*

Dunn, Stephen  
*The Insistence of Beauty: Poems*

Emerson, Claudia  
*Figure Studies*

Frost, Robert  
*Collected Poems*

Heaney, Seamus  
*Death of a Naturalist*

Hirsch, Edward  
*Special Orders*

Hoagland, Tony  
*Donkey Gospel*

Hudgins, Andrew  
*Shut Up, You’re Fine*
Millay, Edna St. Vincent  
Selected poetry

Nelson, Marilyn  
Wreath for Emmett Till

Neruda, Pablo  
Odes to Common Things

Olds, Sharon  
The Dead and the Living

Oliver, Mary  
Why I Wake Early

"Lest we assume that nature poetry ended with Wordsworth and the Romantics, Mary Oliver appears on the contemporary American scene to make us see the world all over again." - Mr. Whitehurst

Plath, Sylvia  
Ariel

Ryan, Kay  
The Best of It: New and Selected Poems

Salter, Mary Jo  
A Telephone Call to the Future

Sexton, Anne  
Transformations

Sleigh, Tom  
Army Cats

Song, Cathy  
The Land of Bliss

Stone, Ruth  
In the Next Galaxy

Swenson, May  
Complete Love Poems of May Swenson

Szymborska, Wislawa  
Monologue of a Dog

Thomas, Dylan  
Collected Poems

Trethewey, Natasha  
Native Ground

Wilbur, Richard  
Collected Poems  1943-2004

Plays

Albee, Edward  
The Zoo Story/The American Dream

Auburn, David  
Proof
“Proof is a smart play about a smart young woman...yet another example of the intersection of drama and math!”

- Ms. Sand

Baitz, Jon Robin Other Desert Cities
Bennett, Alan The History Boys
Chekhov, Anton The Cherry Orchard
Edson, Margaret Wit
Fugard, Athol “Master Harold”...and the Boys
Guare, John Six Degrees of Separation
Guirgis, Stephen Adly The Little Flower of East Orange
Hansberry, Lorraine A Raisin in the Sun
Hwang, Henry David M Butterfly
Ibsen, Henrik Ghosts
Ionesce, Eugene Rhinoceros
Kaufman, Moises The Laramie Project

“Moises Kauffman tackles contemporary issues in a bold and awakening manner. If you want a memorable and transformative experience, read The Laramie Project.”

–Ms. Kirk

La Bute, Neil The Shape of things
Mamet, David Oleanna
Marguiles, Donald Time Stands Still
Miller, Arthur The Price
O’Neill, Eugene A Moon for the Misbegotten
Shanley, John Patrick Doubt
Shaw, George Bernard  
*Major Barbara*

Stoppard, Tom  
*The Real Thing*

*If you like wit, clever dialogue, and a brisk dramatic pace, the plays of Tom Stoppard will be your cup of tea. Tom Stoppard is my cup of tea. Tom Stoppard is the cup of tea for all people who are witty, clever, and brisk.*

-Mr. Loughery

Wasserstein, Wendy  
*The Heidi Chronicles*

Wilde, Oscar  
*An Ideal Husband*

Williams, Tennessee  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Wilson, August  
*Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*

**Biography & Letters**

Alvarez, Julia  
*Something to Declare*

Angelou, Maya  
*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Baldwin, James  
*The Fire Next Time*

*No one does anger and alienation like Baldwin.*

-Mr. Smith

Eggers, Dave  
*Zeitoun*

Faderman, Lillian  
*To Believe in Women*

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr.  
*Colored People*

Graham, Katharine  
*Personal History*

Herrera, Hayden  
*Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo*

Hoffman, Eva  
*Lost in Translation*

Karr, Mary  
*The Liar’s Club*
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<td>Rodriguez, Richard</td>
<td><em>Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez</em></td>
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