
2020-21 Western Tech

Summer Reading Enrichment

We hope you have found some of the texts you read in school this past year interesting, challenging, engaging, or maybe even downright fascinating. We'd like you to continue reading, and engaging with ideas, even as summer stretches on. As newspapers around the world craft their stories, and as politicians tweet their ideas or offer their speeches, or even as movies offer up their heroic narratives, it remains vital that we be able to read critically, thoughtfully, and deeply.

For this year's summer reading, we are providing you a list of recommended texts—these are a mix of novels generally approved by BCPS, and texts (some fiction, some nonfiction) that are recommended by teachers around the building.

We encourage you to select some of these works to read, for their commentary on the human condition, or for their ability to tell a truth that isn't widely heard. Some of these are "classics" of literature that we may read again in high school; some of these are more modern works commenting on current events, identity, and long-standing tensions in society. We hope you read something that illuminates and challenges you!

While we strongly encourage you to read something from this list, other works of significant literary merit or of high interest to you are certainly recommended as well.

You can find alternative suggested summer reading lists for students and adults in many places, including Baltimore County Public Library, where you can access books for free online; the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, Amazon.com, and Western Tech's Library.

Check out Baltimore County Public Library's "[What to Read Next](#)" for suggestions, or join the [BCPL Well-read challenge](#) !

Want to put current events into context? Interested in anti-racist action and reading? Check out the New York Times "[Anti-Racist Reading list](#)" compiled by American University Professor [Ibram X Kendi](#).

The Washington Post includes a list of "[10 Books to Read in June](#)" for a choice of fiction and nonfiction.

Students can use their BCPS student ID to access books via the Baltimore County Public Library. We have compiled a [handy set of directions for accessing Western's Library and BCPL for you](#); have your student ID number close.

We look forward to hearing about your summer reading and the ideas you have encountered, and hope you find some good books to read

Suggested / Recommended Texts

- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *All Quiet on the Western Front*, by Eric Remarque (recommended by Mr. Renaud)
- *Born a Crime*, by Trevor Noah
- *Siddhartha*, by Herman Hesse
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, by Malcolm X and Alex Haley
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen
- *Outliers*, by Malcolm Gladwell
- *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Winterson
- *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines
- *The Awakening*, by Kate Chopin
- *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, by Frederick Douglass
- *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *Funny in Farsi*, by Firoozeh Dumas
- *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens (recommended by Ms. Gillern)
- *Into Thin Air*, by John Krakauer (suggested by Mrs. Woiak)
- *Unbroken*, by Laura Hillenbrand (suggested by Mrs. Woiak)
- *Hidden Figures*, by Margot Lee Shetterly (suggested by Mr. Streets and Mrs. Woiak)
- *The Other Wes Moore*, by Wes Moore
- *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury (recommended by Ms. Ward)
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, by Mark Haddon (recommended by Ms. Ward)
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston (recommended by Mr. Adelung)
- *Up from Slavery*, by Booker T. Washington (recommended by Profesor Ruth)
- *The Absolutely True Diary of A Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie
- *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Kite Runner* or *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, both by Khaled Hosseini
- *Native Speaker*, by Chang-Rae Lee
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot
- *Hiroshima*, by John Hersey
- *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- *Enrique's Journey*, by Sonia Nazarian
- *Stamped from the Beginning: the Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*—Ibram X. Kendi
- *The God of Small Things*, by Arundthai Roy
- *Orphan Train*, by Christina Baker Kline
- *Collected Essays* by James Baldwin (recommended by Mr. Daudelin)