

**RHS SCHOOL-WIDE SUMMER READING
2016 BOOK LIST**

BOOK TITLE/AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
<u>13 Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis</u> by Robert Kennedy	During the thirteen days in October 1962 when the United States confronted the Soviet Union over its installation of missiles in Cuba, few people shared the behind-the-scenes story as it is told here by the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy. In this unique account, he describes each of the participants during the sometimes hour-to-hour negotiations, with particular attention to the actions and views of his brother, President John F. Kennedy.
<u>A Short History of Nearly Everything</u> by Bill Bryson	This book explains some areas of science, describing general sciences such as chemistry, paleontology, astronomy, and particle physics. In it, he explores time from the Big Bang to the discovery of quantum mechanics, via evolution and geology using easily accessible language that appeals more so to the general public than many other books dedicated to the subject.
<u>All Souls: A Family Story from Southie</u> by Michael Patrick MacDonald	A powerful memoir about growing up in South Boston during the 1970's. All Souls is heart-breaking testimony to lives lost too early, and the story of how a place so filled with pain could still be "the best place in the world."
<u>An Ember in the Ashes</u> by Sabaa Tahir	Students who have read this novel couldn't put it down and are eagerly awaiting the sequel. If you are a fan of <i>The Hunger Games</i> or <i>Divergent</i> series, I believe you'll love this story of Elias and Laia, both of whom are trying to survive in a brutal world where violence and power are more valued than family or friendship. Please be aware the novel does contain scenes of violence and mild sexual content. It is rated for readers 14 and older.
<u>Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior</u> by Temple Grandin	<u>Animals in Translation</u> explores the similarity between animals and people with autism. Temple Grandin draws upon a long, distinguished career as an animal scientist and her own experiences with autism to deliver an extraordinary message about how animals act, think, and feel. She has a perspective like that of no other expert in the field, which allows her to offer unparalleled observations and groundbreaking ideas.
<u>As A Man Thinketh</u> by James Allen	All that we achieve and all that we fail to achieve is the direct result of our own thoughts. <u>As a Man Thinketh</u> is a classic in the truest sense: few books have been so widely read, have stood the test of time so well, have had such an impact on generations of readers, and have carried such a simple, profound message: You are what you think.
<u>Basketball Junkie: A Memoir</u> by Chris Herren	In his own words, Chris Herren tells how he nearly lost everything and everyone he loved, and how he found a way back to life. Powerful, honest, and dramatic, <u>Basketball Junkie</u> is a remarkable memoir, harrowing in its descent, and heartening in its return.
<u>Beautiful and Damned</u> by Robert M. Drake	A man encounters God in a bar; a family is saved by a time traveler in the middle of the night; a journey into the mind of a severely autistic man; a woman finds herself one night out in the city and more. <u>Beautiful and Damned</u> is as haunting and as captivating as the stories it tells, it is proof that Robert M. Drake is one of the most visionary writers working today.
<u>Blink</u> by Malcolm Gladwell	<u>Blink</u> is a book about how we think without thinking, about the choices that seem to be made in an instant-in the blink of an eye-that actually aren't as simple as they seem.
<u>Blood Meridian or the Evening Redness in the West</u> by Cormac McCarthy.	<u>Blood Meridian or the Evening Redness in the West</u> is an (anti)-Western by Cormac McCarthy. The plot follows a teenager referred to as "the kid," who runs away from home and finds himself caught up with the Glanton Gang, a group of scalp hunters who massacred Native Americans and others in the United States-Mexico borderlands for bounty and pleasure. The gang is led by the "evil incarnate" Judge Holden, a ruthless, well-educated antagonist who leads the group across the harsh desert, ruthlessly executing his plan to collect as many scalps as possible.

<p><u>Clapton's Guitar: Watching Wayne Henderson Build the Perfect Instrument</u> by Allen St. John</p>	<p>Retired rural mail carrier Wayne Henderson is a true American original, making America's finest instruments using little more than a pile of good wood and a sharp whittling knife. There's a 10-year waiting list for Henderson's heirloom acoustic guitars—and even a musical legend like Eric Clapton must wait his turn! <u>Clapton's Guitar</u> is a non-fiction exploration of the art of guitar making, craftsmanship, patience, and life in rural Virginia.</p>
<p><u>Defending Jacob: A Novel</u> by William Landay</p>	<p>Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney for two decades. He is respected. Admired in the courtroom. Happy at home with the loves of his life: his wife, Laurie, and their teenage son, Jacob. Then Andy's quiet suburb is stunned by a shocking crime: a young boy stabbed to death in a leafy park. And an even greater shock: The accused is Andy's own son—shy, awkward, mysterious Jacob. Andy believes in Jacob's innocence. Any parent would. But the pressure mounts. Damning evidence. Doubt. A faltering marriage. The neighbors' contempt. A murder trial that threatens to obliterate Andy's family. It is the ultimate test for any parent: How far would you go to protect your child? It is a test of devotion. A test of how well a parent can know a child. For Andy Barber, a man with an iron will and a dark secret, it is a test of guilt and innocence in the deepest sense.</p>
<p><u>Fall River Dreams: A Team's Quest for Glory, A Town's Search for Its Soul</u> by Bill Reynolds</p>	<p>In this deeply felt, unforgettable book, Bill Reynolds journeys with a high school basketball team through the past and present of an American town. Fall River, Massachusetts, is a once-prosperous industrial center haunted by its history, the Durfee High School basketball team begins its annual drive for a state championship: a quest that inspires and sometimes consumes kids, coaches, families, teachers, and all of Fall River.</p>
<p><u>Famous Last Words</u> by Jennifer Dvorski</p>	<p>A sixteen-year-old high school junior who has a summer internship at the local newspaper gets involved in not one, but two summer romances, while also reporting on a scandal in her community.</p>
<p><u>Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions</u> by Edwin A. Abbott</p>	<p>The work of English clergyman, educator and Shakespearean scholar Edwin A. Abbott (1838-1926), it describes the journeys of A. Square, a mathematician and resident of the two-dimensional Flatland, where women-thin, straight lines-are the lowliest of shapes, and where men may have any number of sides, depending on their social status.</p>
<p><u>I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban</u> by Malala Yousafzai</p>	<p>When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.</p>
<p><u>In the Garden of Beasts</u> by Erik Larson</p>	<p>Suffused with the tense atmosphere of the period, and with unforgettable portraits of the bizarre Göring and the expectedly charming--yet wholly sinister--Goebbels, <i>In the Garden of Beasts</i> lends a stunning, eyewitness perspective on events as they unfold in real time, revealing an era of surprising nuance and complexity. The result is a dazzling, addictively readable work that speaks volumes about why the world did not recognize the grave threat posed by Hitler until Berlin, and Europe were awash in blood and terror.</p>
<p><u>Into the Wild</u> by Jon Krakauer</p>	<p>In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of <i>Into the Wild</i>.</p>
<p><u>Jennifer Government</u> by Max Barry</p>	<p>A strange and twisted world where the Government has virtually no power (they can't punish criminals unless they can bill the victims), and corporations run everything, including schools run by McDonalds™ and Pepsi™. Sci-fi satire and fast-paced action.</p>

<p><u>Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis</u> by Pete Nelson</p>	<p>Just after midnight on July 30, 1945, the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. The ship sank in 14 minutes. The Navy needed a scapegoat for this disaster. So it court-martialed the captain for “hazarding” his ship. An 11-year-old boy's history fair project on the Indianapolis soon became a crusade to restore the captain’s good name and the honor of the men who served under him.</p>
<p><u>Miles: The Autobiography</u> by Miles Davis</p>	<p>For more than forty years Miles Davis has been in the front rank of American music. Universally acclaimed as a musical genius, Miles is one of the most important and influential musicians in the world. The subject of several biographies, now Miles speaks out himself about his extraordinary life.</p>
<p><u>Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data</u> by Charles Wheelan</p>	<p>How can we catch schools that cheat on standardized tests? How does Netflix know which movies you’ll like? What is causing the rising incidence of autism? As best-selling author Charles Wheelan shows us in <i>Naked Statistics</i>, the right data and a few well-chosen statistical tools can help us answer these questions and more.</p>
<p><u>Orr: My Story</u> by Bobby Orr</p>	<p>Bobby Orr is often referred to as the greatest ever to play the game of hockey. He has never written a memoir, authorized a biography, or talked to journalists about his past, but now he is finally ready to tell his story. He is speaking out now because “I am a parent and a grandparent and I believe that I have lessons worth passing on.” <i>Orr: My Story</i> is more than a book about hockey—it is about the making of a man. Three themes shine through in this book: Personal Responsibility, Recognition, and The meaning of Sport.</p>
<p><u>Reason to Breathe</u> by Rebecca Donovan</p>	<p>In the affluent town of Weslyn, Connecticut, where most people worry about what to be seen in and who to be seen with, Emma Thomas would rather not be seen at all. She’s more concerned with feigning perfection—pulling down her sleeves to conceal the bruises, not wanting anyone to know how far from perfect her life truly is. Without expecting it, she finds love. It challenges her to recognize her own worth—at the risk of revealing the terrible secret she’s desperate to hide.</p>
<p><u>Revolutionaries</u> by Jack Rakove</p>	<p>An intricate look at the private lives of the American revolutionaries and how they were suddenly transformed into public figures. From the Boston Tea Party to the First Continental Congress, from Trenton to Valley Forge, from the ratification of the Constitution to the disputes that led to our two-party system, this book explores the competing views of politics, war, diplomacy, and society that shaped our nation.</p>
<p><u>The Alchemist</u> by Paulo Coelho</p>	<p>The Alchemist follows a young Andalusian shepherd named Santiago in his journey to Egypt, after having a recurring dream of finding treasure there.</p>
<p><u>The Devil in the White City</u> by Erik Larson</p>	<p>Not long after Jack the Ripper haunted the ill-lit streets of 1888 London, H.H. Holmes dispatched somewhere between 27 and 200 people, mostly single young women, in the churning new metropolis of Chicago; many of the murders occurred during (and exploited) the city's finest moment, the World's Fair of 1893. Larson's breathtaking new history is a novelistic yet wholly factual account of the fair and the mass murderer who lurked within it.</p>
<p><u>The Girl on the Train</u> by Paula Hawkins</p>	<p>Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and night, and every day is the same, until one day she sees something shocking in one of the homes she passes by. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel goes to the police. Soon she is deeply entangled not only in the investigation but in the lives of everyone involved.</p>
<p><u>The Help</u> by Kathryn Sockett</p>	<p>The story is about African-American maids working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi, during the early 1960s. A USA Today article called it one of the "summer sleeper hits".</p>

<p><u>The Life we Bury</u> by Allen Eskens</p>	<p>While preparing to write a biography of a stranger to fulfill his college English class requirement, student Joe Talbert meets Carl Iverson, a convicted murderer living out his last days in a nursing home. After spending time together, Joe is unable to accept Carl's conviction and sets out with the help of a neighbor to uncover the truth. This book is hailed by critics as a page-turning thriller!</p>
<p><u>The Little Prince</u> by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry</p>	<p>Few stories are as widely read and as universally cherished by children and adults alike as The Little Prince. Richard Howard's translation of the beloved classic beautifully reflects Saint-Exupéry's unique and gifted style. Howard, an acclaimed poet and one of the preeminent translators of our time, has excelled in bringing the English text as close as possible to the French, in language, style, and most important, spirit. The artwork in this edition has been restored to match in detail and in color Saint-Exupéry's original artwork. Combining Richard Howard's translation with restored original art, this definitive English-language edition of The Little Prince will capture the hearts of readers of all ages.</p>
<p><u>The Outliers</u> by Malcolm Gladwell</p>	<p>In this stunning new book, Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"--the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band.</p>
<p><u>The Perfect Storm</u> by Sebastian Junger</p>	<p>The book is about the 1991 Perfect Storm that hit North America between October 28 and November 4, 1991, and features the crew of the fishing boat Andrea Gail, from Gloucester, Massachusetts, who were lost at sea during severe conditions while longline fishing for swordfish 575 miles (925 km) out.</p>
<p><u>The Shack</u> by William P. Young</p>	<p>Mackenzie Allen Phillips's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in this midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change his life forever.</p>
<p><u>The Story of My Life</u> by Helen Keller</p>	<p>The autobiography of the blind and deaf woman who, through the help of concerned teachers and friends, became an inspiration to those challenged, physically and otherwise.</p>
<p><u>The Trials of Apollo, Book 1: The Hidden Oracle</u> by Rick Riordan</p>	<p>After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus and lands in new York City as a regular teenage boy. Without his godly powers, the 4,000 year old deity must learn to survive in the modern world until he can somehow regain Zeus's favor.</p>
<p><u>To Build a House</u> by Dana Reinhard</p>	<p>In this novel, a 17 year-old girl hopes to escape the effects of her father's divorce on her family and friendships by volunteering her summer to build a house in a small Tennessee town devastated by a tornado.</p>
<p><u>Tuesdays with Morrie</u> by Mitch Albom</p>	<p>Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.</p>
<p><u>Vision of a Champion</u> by Anson Dorrance</p>	<p>Legendary soccer coach Anson Dorrance has coached 17 of the last 21 NCAA women's championship soccer teams. Enough said. "The Vision of a Champion" is just that, as Dorrance distills his vision in this mandatory guide for young athletes and coaches who want to inspire and train them.</p>