



Brookline High School
115 Greenough Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

Deborah Holman
Headmaster

Mary Burchenal
English Department Chair

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Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

This year, Brookline High School summer reading is based on students reading books of their own choosing and recommending them to one another. In their English classes, students have been sharing book ideas and coming up with a list of books they intend to read over the summer. The requirement is for each student to read, by September, a minimum of two books. Of course, if a student would like to read more, so much the better! Books are available over the summer from the BHS library.

Students new to Brookline need only to create their own plan of two books, fiction or non-fiction. The Brookline High School Library, in collaboration with the BHS English Department, has compiled a list of recommended titles; this list is available at <http://brooklinesummerreading.weebly.com/>. Many of these and other appealing books are available both from the BHS Library and from the Brookline Public Library.

When they return in the fall, students will be asked to make a list of all the books they read over the summer. Although students are not expected to take notes as they read, they should be prepared to write and speak in some depth about one of the books they read and really liked.

People who read a lot tend to do better in school. We hope that choosing their own books will prompt students to read more and discover titles to recommend to others. Thank you in advance for your support of summer reading. Together we will cultivate the strong culture of literature and intellectual curiosity at Brookline High School.

Sincerely,

BHS Library
BHS English Department

**BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST
2016**

SUMMER READING 2016 continues the tradition of student choice. Books on the list are recommended by the BHS Library and the BHS English Department, with input from last year's student readers. Feel free to choose a book from any grade level, and don't forget the classics!

Visit BHS Library Website (bhslibrary.weebly.com) to search our catalog for a full selection of titles.

Fiction

***Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams (Classic/Science Fiction)**

Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.

***Americanah* by Chimamanda Adichie**

Separated by differing ambitions after falling in love in occupied Nigeria, beautiful Ifemelu experiences triumph and defeat in America, while Obinze endures an undocumented status in Longon until the pair is reunited in their homeland fifteen years later.

***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (Sports)**

This winner of the Newbery Medal in 2015 combines hip-hop, verse and jazz to tell the story of twin brothers who are kings on the basketball court, with the help of their dad, a former professional baller. Their shared passion for the sport is equal to their family's dedication to education, encouraged by their mom, an assistant principal.

***Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Anderson (Realistic Fiction)**

Greg has managed to become part of every social group at his Pittsburgh high school without having any friends, but his life changes when his mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl he once knew in Hebrew school who has leukemia.

***The Impossible Knife of Memory* by Laurie Halse Anderson (Realistic Fiction)**

Hayley Kincaid and her father move back to their hometown to try a "normal" life, but the horrors he saw in the Iraq War threaten to destroy their lives.

***Emma* by Jane Austen (Classic)**

A novel of Regency England which centers upon a self-assured young lady who is determined to arrange her life and the lives of those around her into a pattern dictated by her romantic fancy.

***Radiance of Tomorrow* by Ishmael Beah (Historical Fiction)**

In a parable about postwar life in Sierra Leone, two long-time friends return to their ruined home village and struggle to rebuild in the face of violence, scarcity, and a corrupt foreign mining company.

By the author of *A Long Way Gone: Memoir of a Boy Soldier*

***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (Classic/Science Fiction)**

In a future time when government policy decrees that all books must be burned, a few courageous individuals memorize as many books as possible.

***Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky (Realistic Fiction)**

Charlie, a freshman in high school, explores the dilemmas of growing up through a collection of letters he sends to an unknown receiver.

***Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie (Mystery)**

Detective Hercule Poirot has a wealth of suspects to choose from when a wealthy American is stabbed to death en route to Paris on the Orient Express.

***Brooklyn* by Tiobin Colm (Historical Fiction/Romance)**

Leaving her home in post-World War II Ireland to work as a bookkeeper in Brooklyn, Eilis Lacey discovers a new romance in America with a charming blond Italian man before devastating news threatens her happiness.

***Beautiful Music for Ugly Children* by Kirsten Cronn-Mills (Realistic Fiction/Romance)**

Gabe struggles with romance, friendships, and parents--all while trying to come out as transgendered. His audition for a radio station in Minneapolis looks like his ticket to a better life but his future is threatened when several violent guys find out Gabe, the popular DJ, is also Elizabeth from school.

***Rapture of the Nerds* by Cory Doctorow and Charles Stross (Science Fiction)**

Huw, a misanthropic Welshman living on Earth at the end of the twenty-first century, is selected to sit on a jury assigned to assess new inventions created by overminds consisting of posthuman consciousnesses, and unknowingly must decide whether or not to release cataclysmic technologies.

***Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel* by Sara Farizan (Realistic Fiction)**

Having never developed romantic feelings before her junior year in high school, Persian-American Leila forges deeper bonds with supportive classmates after confiding in them her newfound attachment to a sophisticated girl.

***Foul Trouble* by John Feinstein (Sports)**

College recruiters are clamoring to sign up Terrell Jamerson, the #1 high school basketball player in the country. But not all of these recruiters are straight shooters, and Terrell will have to think fast if he wants to stay in the game.

***Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett (Fantasy/Humor)**

When Agnes Nutter predicts that the end of the world is days away, the demon Crowley and his angel friend, Aziraphale, team up to save humankind.

***Monkey Hunting* by Cristina Garcia (Historical Fiction)**

Chen Pan, having signed a contract in 1857 that takes him from China to Cuba where he is enslaved on a sugar plantation, manages to escape his bonds, find love, and create a life for himself in a foreign land.

***Paper Towns* by John Green (Realistic Fiction)**

One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting girl next door takes him on a midnight adventure...and then mysteriously disappears.

***Oil on Water* by Helen Habila (Mystery/Adventure)**

Two journalists, a young upstart and a disillusioned veteran, are sent to find the missing wife of a British oil executive in the environmentally devastated Nigerian Delta where they must contend with the brutality of government soldiers and militants.

***Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henríquez (Realistic Fiction)**

After their daughter Maribel suffers a near-fatal accident, the Riveras leave México and come to America. But upon settling in Delaware, they discover that Maribel's recovery--the piece of the American Dream on which they've pinned all their hopes--will not be easy. Every task seems to confront them with language, racial, and cultural obstacles.

***I'm with Stupid* by Geoff Herbach (Sports)**

In his senior year of high school, nerd-turned-jock Felton Reinstein tries out different identities in an effort to figure out who he is, which leads to his suspension from the track team, his mother's departure, and a dive in his popularity.

***And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini (Realistic Fiction)**

Hosseini's new novel is about how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations. In this tale revolving around not just parents and children but brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers, Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another. Author of *Kite Runner* and *Thousand Splendid Suns*

***Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro (Science Fiction)**

There's a dark secret at the Hailsham School, where the students live in ordered, idyllic isolation, ignorant of their planned future.

***Amulet: The Stonekeeper* by Kazu Kibuishi (Graphic Novel/Series)**

When Emily and Navin's mother is kidnapped by a tentacle creature on the first night inside their new home, Emily and Navin must figure out how to set things right and save their mother's life.

***Everybody Sees the Ants* by A.S. King (Historical Fiction)**

Overburdened by his parents' bickering and a bully's attacks, Lucky Linderman begins dreaming of being with his grandfather, who went missing during the Vietnam War, but during a visit to Arizona, he finds a new perspective.

***Orphan Train* by Christina Kline** (Historical Fiction)

When seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer is sent to perform community service at elderly Vivian Daly's home in order to avoid juvenile hall, she discovers that the two are very much alike, despite the vast age difference.

***Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok** (Realistic Fiction)

Emigrating with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, Kimberly begins a double life as a schoolgirl by day and sweatshop worker at night, an existence also marked by her first crush and the pressure to save her family from poverty.

***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle** (Classic)

Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, when they set out to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel.

***Dream of Ding Village* by Yan Lianke** (Historical Fiction)

A previously banned work based on a true scandal finds an impoverished village targeted by a blood-selling operation that leads to a catastrophic outbreak of AIDS and decimates an entire community. Based on years of undercover work by Jan Lianke.

***In Country of Men* by Hisham Matar** (Historical Fiction)

A novel about the love and relationship between nine-year-old Suleiman and his mother in the midst of the political turmoil of Libya under the dictatorship of Qaddafi in the 1970s.

***The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride** (Historical Fiction)

A powerful, fascinating mix of history, mystery and humor by the author of *The Color of Water*. "You may know the story of John Brown's unsuccessful raid on Harpers Ferry, but author James McBride's retelling of the events leading up to it is so imaginative, you'll race to the finish."—NPR

***Never Fall Down* by Patricia McCormick** (Historical Fiction)

When soldiers arrive in his hometown in Cambodia, Arn Chorn Pond is separated from his family and sent to a labor camp, where he works in the rice paddies until he volunteers to learn to play an instrument--a decision that both saves his life and lands him in battle.

***American Rust* by Philipp Meyer** (Mystery)

This gripping thriller tells the story of the fallout of a murder on a group of connected characters and is set in an economically depressed region of Pennsylvania. Not for the faint of heart.

***I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson** (Realistic Fiction/Romance)

A story of first love and family loss follows the estrangement between daredevil Jude and her loner twin brother, Noah, as a result of a mysterious event that is brought to light by a beautiful, broken boy and a new mentor.

***The Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness** (Science Fiction/Dystopia)

Todd and Viola are pursued by power-hungry Prentiss and mad minister Aaron as they set out across New World, searching for answers about their colony's true past and seeking a way to warn the ship bringing settlers from Old World.

***Animal Farm* by George Orwell** (Classic)

A political satire in which the animals take over running the farm, but find their utopian state turning into a dictatorship and ultimately adopting the ways of their former owner.

***Ball Don't Lie* by Matt de la Pena** (Sports)

Seventeen-year-old Sticky lives to play basketball at school and at Lincoln Rec Center in Los Angeles and is headed for the pros, but he is unaware of the many dangers--including his own past--that threaten his dream.

Boy 21 by Matthew Quick (Realistic Fiction)

When his coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred there from a private school in California, Finley finds that they have a lot in common in spite of their apparent differences

Gabi: A Girl in Pieces by Isabel Quintero (Realistic Fiction)

16-year-old Gabi Hernandez chronicles her senior year in high school as she copes with many issues including her friend Cindy's pregnancy, her friend Sebastian's coming out and her father's meth habit. Gabi uses poetry to help her forge her identity as a Mexican-American -- not Mexican enough for her family, not white enough for Berkeley.

All American Boys by Jason Reynolds (Realistic Fiction)

Sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend.

Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss (Fantasy)

Kvothe spends his life fighting hidden and familiar foes while struggling to master his magical powers and battle ancient evils that threaten his world.

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell (Romance)

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger (Classic)

Story of Holden Caulfield with his idiosyncrasies, penetrating insight, confusion, sensitivity and negativism. Holden, knowing he is to be expelled from school, decides to leave early. He spends three days in New York City and tells the story of what he did and suffered there.

Blindness by Jose Saramago (Science Fiction)

A city is hit by "white blindness", and the blind are confined to a mental hospital, but the criminal element holds everyone captive. One eyewitness to the nightmare guides seven strangers through the streets. A parable of loss and an evocation of the horrors of the 20th century which exposes weaknesses and ultimately exhilarating spirit.

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys (Historical Fiction)

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina and her family are taken from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Historical fiction based on the author's own family.

Boo by Neith Smith (Mystery)

After teenagers Oliver Dalrymple and Johnny Henzel are killed by a school shooter, they find themselves in the afterlife and when they attempt to uncover the circumstances of their deaths, they discover a profound truth about their past lives and their current situation.

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel (Science Fiction)

The sudden death of a Hollywood actor during a production of "King Lear" marks the beginning of the world's dissolution in a story told at various past and future times from the perspectives of the actor and four of his associates.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (Classic)

The compelling story of two outsiders striving to find their place in an unforgiving world. Drifters in search of work, George and his simple-minded friend Lennie have nothing in the world except each other and a dream--a dream that one day they will have some land of their own.

Unwind by Neal Shusterman (Science Fiction)

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs—and, perhaps, save their own lives.

The Assist by Neil Swidey (Sports)

A true basketball story about two African-American players at state champion Charlestown High.

Adolf by Osamu Tezuka (Graphic Novel/Series)

Also available as a two-volume edition with the title *Message to Adolf*.

In Berlin in 1936, Japanese journalist Sohei Toge's brother's murder is being covered up by the police, but Toge is determined to find out the truth. Returning to Japan, he gets caught up in the story of three people named Adolf: Adolf Kamil, the son of Jews who have fled to Kobe to escape Nazi persecution; his friend Adolf Kaufman, the half-Japanese son of a German diplomat, who has forbidden his friendship with Adolf Kamil; and Adolf Hitler, the dictator of Nazi Germany.

***Lord of the Rings Trilogy* by J.R.R. Tolkien (Classic/Fantasy)**

The future of civilization rests in the fate of the One Ring, which has been lost for centuries. Powerful forces are unrelenting in their search for it. But fate has placed it in the hands of a young Hobbit named Frodo Baggins, who inherits the Ring and steps into legend.

***Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut (Classic/Science Fiction)**

Kurt Vonnegut's absurdist classic *Slaughterhouse-Five* introduces us to Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes unstuck in time after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore. In a plot-scrambling display of virtuosity, we follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his (and Vonnegut's) shattering experience as an American prisoner of war who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden.

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker (Classic/Historical Fiction)**

Tells the story of two African-American sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the south, in the medium of their letters to each other and in Celie's case, the desperate letters she begins, "Dear God."

***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls (Memoir)**

The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

***The Martian* by Andy Weir (Science Fiction)**

Stranded on Mars by a storm that forced his crew to leave him behind, astronaut Mark Watney struggles to survive in spite of minimal supplies and environmental challenges that test his ingenuity.

***Native Son* by Richard Wright (Classic)**

Trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, a young African American man finds release only in acts of violence.

***The Emperor of Any Place* by Tim Wynne-Jones (Mystery/Historical Fiction)**

When Evan looks into the hand-bound book that his father was reading when he passed away, the diary of a Japanese soldier in World War II, questions about the book and how it relates to Evan begin to multiply.

***The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey (Science Fiction/Series)**

Cassie Sullivan, the survivor of an alien invasion, must rescue her young brother from the enemy with help from a boy who may be one of them.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (Historical Fiction)**

Through the eyes of young Trudi, we witness the growing impact of Nazism on ordinary folk of a German town as they are forced to make choices about prejudice and exclusion.

Non-Fiction

***We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

Adichie offers an updated definition of feminism for the twenty-first century, one rooted in inclusion and awareness.

***Poor Richard's Legacy: American Business Values from Benjamin Franklin to Donald Trump* by Richard Baida**

Chronicles the transformation of American enterprise in the past 250 years.

***Friday Night Lights: A Town, A Team, and A Dream* by H.G. Bissinger**

Follows the 1988 season of the Permian Panthers, a high school football team in Odessa, Texas, exploring the lives of the players and the impact of the championship team on the small town.

***Tommy: The Gun that Changed America* by Karen Blumenthal**

Presents the history of the Thompson submachine gun, discussing its development by John Taliaferro Thompson and its use in World War II and by gangsters including Al Capone and John Dillinger.

***Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel Brown**

Traces the story of an American rowing team from the University of Washington that defeated elite rivals at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics, sharing the experiences of their enigmatic coach, a visionary boat builder, and a homeless teen rower.

***Hard Choices* by Hillary Clinton**

The former Secretary of State, Senator, and First Lady shares candid reflections about the key moments of her service in the Obama Administration as well as her thoughts about how to navigate the challenges of the twenty-first century.

***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

The author presents a history of racial discrimination in the United States and a narrative of his own personal experiences of contemporary race relations, offering possible resolutions for the future.

***The President's First Year: None were prepared, some never learned--why the only school for presidents is the presidency* by Douglas Alan Cohn**

A fascinating new angle on presidential history, assessing the performances of the presidents in their freshman year of the toughest job in the world.

***Terrible Tphoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in American* by Angela Y. Davis**

What happens when a person's reputation has been forever damaged? With archival photographs and text among other primary sources, this riveting biography of Mary Mallon by the Sibert medalist and Newbery Honor winner Susan Bartoletti looks beyond the tabloid scandal of Mary's controversial life.

***\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* by Kathryn J. Edin**

A revelatory assessment of poverty in America examines the survival methods employed by households with virtually no income to illuminate disturbing trends in low-wage labor and income inequality.

***The Secret Game : A Wartime Story of Courage, Change, and Basketball's Lost Triumph* by Scott Ellsworth**

A celebration of the ability of sports to transcend social taboos documents the game-changing 1943 basketball competition between the North Carolina College for Negroes and all-white Duke University.

***The Sports Gene* by David Epstein**

Explores the roles of both genetics and training in athletic success, arguing that both are equally necessary components of athletic achievement while considering such topics as race, gender, and genetic testing.

***Diary of a Young Girl* by Ann Frank**

A thirteen-year-old Dutch-Jewish girl records her impressions of the two years she and seven others spent hiding from the Nazis before they were discovered and taken to concentration camps.

***David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits and the Art of Battling Giants* by Malcolm Gladwell**

Uncovers the hidden rules that shape the balance between the weak and the mighty and the powerful and the dispossessed.

***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillebrand**

The inspiring true story of a man who lived through a series of catastrophes almost too incredible to be believed. Louie Zamperini was a juvenile delinquent-turned-Olympic runner-turned-WWII Army hero. During a routine search mission over the Pacific, Louie's plane crashed into the ocean.

***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Philip Hoose**

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not.

***Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* by Mindy Kaling**

The writer and actress from "The Office" shares observations on topics ranging from favorite male archetypes and her hatred of dieting to her relationship with her mother and the haphazard creative process on the show.

***Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer**

The author relates his experience of climbing Mount Everest during its deadliest season and examines what it is about the mountain that makes people willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.

***Half the Sky* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn**

Discusses the oppression of women in the developing world, sharing example stories about victims and survivors who are working to raise awareness, counter abuse, and campaign for women's rights.

***Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out* by Susan Kuklin**

Six teens tell what it is like for them to be members of the transgender community.

***Concussion* by Jeanne Marie Laskas**

Tells the true story of how forensic neuropathologist Bennet Omalu discovered a dangerous secret that the National Football League desperately tried to keep silent.

***The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine* by Michael Lewis**

Chronicles the events leading up to the economic crash in 2008 by following the lives of various individuals, including Steve Eisman, Vincent Daniel, Michael Burry, Greg Lippmann, Gene Park, Howie Hubler, and others.

***Oil on the Brain: Adventures from the Pump to the Pipeline* by Lisa Margonelli**

Looks at the economics of the petroleum industry and traces how crude oil from fields around the world eventually becomes the gasoline for automobiles.

***Prisoners of Geography: ten maps that explain everything about the world* by Tim Marshall**

A journalist uses ten maps of crucial regions to explain the geopolitical strategies of the world powers.

***The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore**

Traces the parallel lives of two youths with the same name in the same community, describing how the author grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar and business leader while his counterpart suffered a life of violence and imprisonment.

***The Only Woman in the Room: Why Science Is Still a Boy's Club* by Eileen Pollack**

The author explains how her abandonment of science despite graduating Yale as one of the university's first women to earn a physics degree reflects the culture of discrimination in the STEM fields.

Reproducing Racism: How Everyday

***Port Chicago 50 : Disaster, Mutiny and the Fight for Civil Rights* by Steve Sheinkin**

This is a dramatic story of prejudice and injustice in America's armed forces during World War II, and a provocative look at a controversial group of young sailors who took a stand that helped change the course of history.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

In 1951, a poor African American woman named Henrietta Lacks dies of cervical cancer, but pieces of the tumor that killed her--taken without her knowledge or consent--live on, first in one lab, then in giant factories churning out polio vaccines, then aboard rocket ships launched into space.

***My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor**

A fascinating memoir by Sotomayor, the first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

***Wild: From Lost and Found on the Pacific Coast Trail* by Cheryl Strayed**

Traces the personal crisis the author endured after the death of her mother and a painful divorce, which prompted her ambition to undertake a dangerous 1,100-mile solo hike that both drove her to rock bottom and helped her to heal.#

***The Emperor of Sound: A Memoir* by Timbaland**

A memoir by the renowned music producer and artist shares uncensored perspectives into his intentionally low-key lifestyle, creative process, and relationships with such artists as Mariah Carey, Justin Timberlake, and Pharrell Williams.

***I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb**

Describes the life of the young Pakistani student who advocated for women's rights and education in the Taliban-controlled Swat Valley, survived an assassination attempt, and became the youngest nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.