



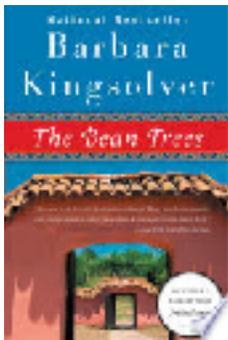
Brandywine High School

English Department

2019 Summer Reading

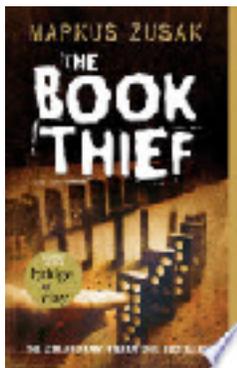
Instructions for ALL GRADES: Select one book from the staff picks below. Read the book this summer and complete the attached "Quote and Theme Analysis" handout. Note: If you are taking an AP English class, please see the teacher for that class for the summer reading assignment.

Ms. Winters:



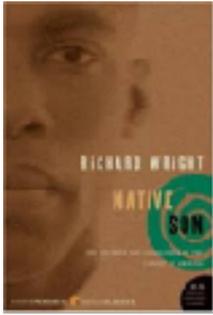
The Bean Trees, Barbara Kingsolver - The charming, engrossing tale of rural Kentucky native Taylor Greer, who only wants to get away from her roots and avoid getting pregnant. As Taylor stops in an Oklahoma town, a woman suddenly approaches, deposits a small child, and leaves with no further explanation. Not knowing what else to do, Taylor decides to care for the 3-year-old Native American little girl whom she names Turtle, and together, from Oklahoma to Tucson, Arizona, Taylor and her charge search for a new life in the West.

Ms. Walker:



The Book Thief, Markus Zusak - In Nazi Germany, the country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier - and will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery. So begins Liesel's love affair with books and words, and soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library . . . wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times, and when Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will ever be the same again.

☆ ALA Best Books for Young Adults, School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, Publishers Weekly Best Children's Book of the Year, and more ☆



Native Son, Richard Wright - Right from the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it was for murder and rape. *Native Son* tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Richard Wright's powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.

Mr. Holman:



A Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess - A dystopian satirical black comedy set in a near-future society that has a youth subculture of extreme violence. The teenage protagonist, Alex, narrates his violent exploits and his experiences with state authorities intent on reforming him.

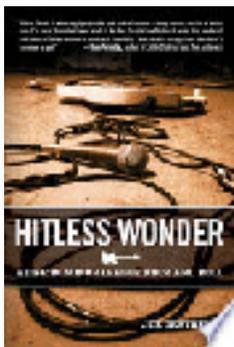
☆ Time Magazine's 100 Best English-language books from 1923-2005 ☆



Ready Player One, Ernest Cline - *Ready Player One* takes place in the not-so-distant future--the world has turned into a very bleak place, but luckily there is OASIS, a virtual reality world that is a vast online utopia. People can plug into OASIS to play, go to school, earn money, and even meet other people (or at least they can meet their avatars), and for protagonist Wade Watts it certainly beats passing the time in his grim, poverty-stricken real life. Along with millions of other world-wide citizens, Wade dreams of finding three keys left behind by James Halliday, the now-deceased creator of OASIS and the richest man to have ever lived. The keys are rumored to be hidden inside OASIS, and whoever finds them will inherit Halliday's fortune.

But Halliday has not made it easy. And there are real dangers in this virtual world.

☆ Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read* ☆



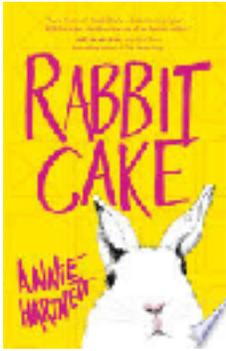
Hitless Wonder: A Life in Minor League Rock, Joe Oestreich - Every band chases a dream. This one can't stop. We all know the price of fame. *Hitless Wonder* measures the price of obscurity. Years after getting signed—and dropped—by Epic Records and watching their more famous peers call it quits, Joe Oestreich and his band, Watershed, keep climbing into the Econoline and touring mop bucket bars. But Joe can't help but

wonder: Are he and his bandmates—torn between the lure of the road and

the call to finally settle down—admirable or pathetic? Successes or failures?

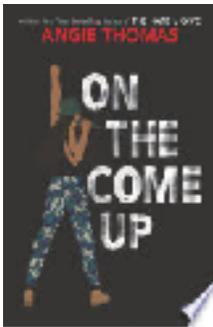
And most importantly, in their quixotic struggle to live out a dream, do they risk losing the people they love?

Ms. Blumenfeld:



Rabbit Cake, Annie Hartnett - Elvis Babbitt has a head for the facts: she knows she should plan to grieve her mother, who has recently drowned while sleepwalking, for exactly eighteen months. But there are things Elvis doesn't yet know—like how to keep her sister Lizzie from poisoning herself while sleep-eating. Elvis investigates the strange circumstances of her mother's death and finds comfort, if not answers, in the people (and animals) of Freedom, Alabama. As hilarious a storyteller as she is heartbreakingly honest, Elvis is a truly original voice in this exploration of grief, family, and the endurance of humor after loss.

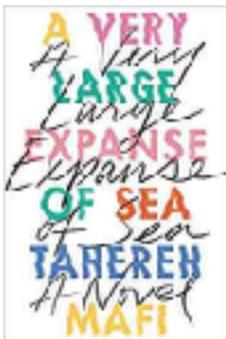
☆ A Best Book of the Year at *Kirkus Reviews*, *Book Riot*, *The Chicago Review of Books*, Minnesota Public Radio, and more ☆



On the Come Up, Angie Thomas - Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least get some streams on her mixtape. As the daughter of an underground rap legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill. But when her mom unexpectedly loses her job, food banks and shut-off notices become as much a part of Bri's life as beats and rhymes. With bills piling up and homelessness staring her family down, Bri no longer just wants to make it - she has to make it.

☆ By the author of *The Hate U Give* ☆

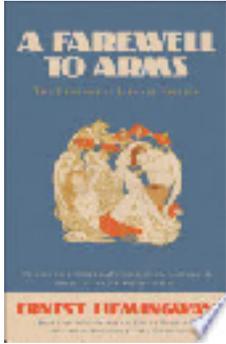
Ms. Winters/Ms. Blumenfeld:



A Very Large Expanse of Sea, Tahereh Mafi - It's 2002, a year after 9/11. It's an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped. She's built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. Instead, she drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother. But then she meets Ocean James, the first person in forever who really seems to want to get to know her. It terrifies her—they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds—and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she's not sure she'll ever be able to let it down.

☆ Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature ☆

Mr. Caldwell:



A Farewell to Arms, Ernest Hemingway - The unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Set against the looming horrors of the battlefield—wary, demoralized men marching in the rain during the German attack on Caporetto; the profound struggle between loyalty and desertion—this gripping, semiautobiographical work captures the harsh realities of war and the pain of lovers caught in its inexorable sweep.

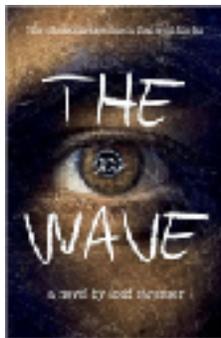
☆ included in the Modern Library 100 Best Novels of the Century and The Novel 100: The 100 Greatest Novels of All Time ☆



Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson - "Speak up for yourself—we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party.

☆ National Book Award Finalist, ALA Best Books for Young Adults, New York Times Best Seller, and more ☆

Mr. Lieux:



The Wave, Todd Strasser - The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. Before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.

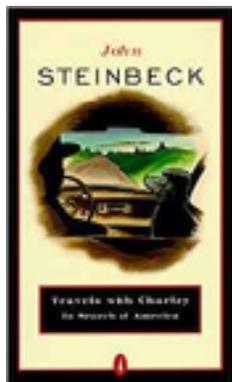
☆ Winner of the Massachusetts Book Award for Young Adult Literature ☆



Krik? Krak!, Edwidge Danticat - Examining the lives of ordinary Haitians, particularly those struggling to survive under the brutal Duvalier regime, Danticat illuminates the distance between people's desires and the stifling reality of their lives. The book is enhanced by an element of suspense—we're never certain, for example, if a rickety boat packed with refugees introduced in the first tale will reach the Florida coast. Spare, elegant and moving, these stories cohere into a superb collection.

☆ National Book Award Finalist ☆

Mr. Guenther:



Travels with Charley, John Steinbeck - In September 1960, John Steinbeck and his poodle, Charley, embarked on a journey across America, from small towns to growing cities to glorious wilderness oases. *Travels with Charley* is animated by Steinbeck's attention to the specific details of the natural world and his sense of how the lives of people are intimately connected to the rhythms of nature-to weather, geography, the cycles of the seasons. His keen ear for the transactions among people is evident, too, as he records the interests and obsessions that preoccupy the Americans he encounters along the way.

☆ By the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature ☆



Notes from the Edge Times, Daniel Pinchbeck - Penetrating articles, and essays that amount to an extraordinary mosaic view of the hopes, nightmares, and signs of breakthrough that mark our present era. Pinchbeck does more than critique present-day questions and conflicts; he provides fresh ideas for living more consciously now, and for constructing our own more enlightened futures, even as the world around us faces profound environmental, social, and spiritual challenges.

(Summaries adapted from Amazon.com descriptions)

BHS Summer Reading--Staff Picks
Quote and Theme Analysis Handout

Directions: You may write your answers by hand on this document or you may create your own digital copy. As you read the book you selected, find quotes in each chapter or section that seem meaningful to a theme that you think the book is exploring. Your goal is **fifteen**, but that is just a guideline--you can have more! Please, work alone on these (without friends or the Internet). These will be due the first day of school. An example from *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding has been done below for you. If you're not sure of a theme at first, write quotes that you think are interesting and maybe you will see themes emerge.

Speaker	Quote (page number)	Related Theme
Ralph	“There was a ship. Out there. You said you’d keep the fire going and you let it go out!”He took a step toward Jack, who turned and faced him.”	Responsibility--Golding (the author) is showing how the children on the island having difficulty following the rules they have created themselves.

