

Clayton High School

Summer Reading Packet 2021

(Incoming Grades 9-12)

This packet will provide you with all of the information you need to complete summer reading this year. Summer reading will be optional this year for College Prep students.

Honors and AP students must still complete the required reading for their upcoming classes. Knowledge of the required reading will be assessed when you return in September.

The following are recommendations for the optional summer reading:

Fiction

The Blossom and the Firefly by Sherri L. Smith

Kirkus Review: Hope and affection bloom between a schoolgirl and a pilot in this bittersweet narrative set in Japan during the final months of World War II. Fifteen-year-old Hana is a member of a youth war group that tends to the tokkō, or special attack pilots, stationed at the Chiran Army Air Force Base. The girls do the pilots' laundry, serve them meals, and line the runway to send them off on their deadly flights. Since nearly being buried alive during an air raid, Hana moves through each day as though already claimed by death—until one afternoon when she hears the sound of a violin for the first time. Seventeen-year-old Taro is a tokkō committed to defending his country at the cost of his own life, but he cannot abandon his love of music and takes comfort in practicing his instrument. Despite the traumas of war and the demands of duty, a chance encounter between the two leads to a connection that tethers them to each other. Smith's (Pasadena, 2016, etc.) thorough research is evident in the details that immerse readers in Hana's and Taro's lives. Their stories unfold at a measured pace; short chapters build readers' anticipation and keep the pages turning. Romanized Japanese words are used throughout the text, grounding the novel in its setting. A pensive depiction of young love and endurance amid wartime uncertainty. (map, author's note, glossary, selected bibliography) (Historical fiction. 13-18)

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling

SLJ review: Gr 5-8-Aven Green has always loved her life in Kansas—hanging out with Emily and Kayla, her best friends since kindergarten; planning pranks; and playing on the school soccer team. Though Aven was born without arms, she has never let her "lack of armage," as she calls it, deter her from doing anything she sets her mind to. But when her father gets a job as the manager of Stagecoach Pass, a rundown Western theme park out in Arizona, the family's move, right after Aven has started eighth grade, presents her toughest challenge yet. Having to deal

with the many stares and questions of new schoolmates, Aven sorely misses her old life back in Kansas. However, her unflinchingly optimistic spirit, accompanied by her infectious and indomitable sense of humor, keeps her looking for the silver linings in her new life in Arizona, such as making friends with the cute but prickly Connor (who has Tourette's syndrome) or enjoying the ability to wear flats all year-round. But the most fascinating thing is the unusual mystery at the heart of Stagecoach Pass: the disappearing tarantulas, a missing photograph, and a secret necklace. Aven is determined to get to the bottom of the secret. She is a perky, hilarious, and inspiring protagonist whose attitude and humor will linger even after the last page has turned. The tale of Stagecoach Pass is just as compelling as the story of Aven, and the setting, like the many colorful characters who people this novel, is so vivid and quirky that it's practically cinematic. VERDICT Charming and memorable. An excellent choice for middle grade collections and classrooms.-Evelyn Khoo Schwartz, Georgetown Day School, Washington, DC © Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Non-fiction

Balcony on the Moon: Coming of Age in Palestine by Ibtisam Barakat

In this follow-up to her first memoir (*Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood*), and beginning where that book left off, Barakat leads readers through her adolescent years in the West Bank during the 1970s and early 1980s. Family and school are central to Ibtisam's life, from sibling relationships to fighting between parents; from striving for the best grades to earning a coveted teaching qualification. The two threads intertwine as Ibtisam's mother decides to return to school, starting high school when her daughter does, and when Ibtisam, on the verge of leaving for college, teaches her illiterate grandmother the alphabet. Although Israeli-Palestinian relations form an inescapable part of life in Ramallah, Barakat presents war and occupation from a young person's perspective, focusing on concrete details (such as checkpoints and the difficulty of sending mail to Arab countries) rather than the larger political conflict. The present-tense narration is jarring at first but allows for vivid, immediate prose ("I think about that house every day, but it is no longer made of stone. Now it is made of memories...") that creates a portrait of an innocent yet engaged young woman.

Upfront Magazine

This is a news and media literacy resource for teens that inspires critical thinking. Go to <https://upfront.scholastic.com/> to access materials. (Available until July 15)

Student Online Access Code: clippeR21

The following are the requirements for Honors/AP summer reading by grade:

9th Grade

Choose one of the following: *I Am the Cheese* by Robert Cormier, *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien, or *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros.

You will complete an essay test on your chosen novel during the first week of school.

10th Grade

Choose one of the following: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, or *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles.

You will complete an essay test on your chosen novel during the first week of school.

11th Grade

Choose one of the following: *Dracula* by Bram Stoker or *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding.

You will complete a test on your chosen novel during the first week of school.

12th Grade

Over the course of the academic year, you will be reading and writing at a rapid pace. Therefore, the summer reading program is designed to keep you active as readers and writers. It is important to have read a wide variety of classical pieces of literature when analyzing literature in the AP class and on the AP exam, so please try to read as much as possible. Please choose a minimum of two of the following books that you haven't read or been exposed to previously to prepare for the AP exam:

Angela's Ashes

Sarah's Key

Taming of the Shrew

A Streetcar Named Desire

The Alchemist

The Awakening

Slaughterhouse-Five

The Color Purple

Jane Eyre

A Tale of Two Cities

As I Lay Dying

Invisible Man

Catch-22

The Bell Jar

Wuthering Heights

The Iliad

Moll Flanders