

# ORRHS 2017 SUMMER READING

<http://bit.ly/orrhsreading17>



## ENTERING GRADES 11 & 12:

### 11A, 11AP, & 12A students

Choose and read ONE book from the provided 11/12 list.

## NON-FICTION

### True Crime

#### **Hurricane: The Miraculous Journey of Rubin Carter** by James S. Hirsch

"Tells the story of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, a black boxer who was wrongly convicted of three murders and spent nearly twenty years in prison."

#### **Killing Pablo** by Mark Bowden

"Reveals the inside story of how U.S. special forces and intelligence agencies led the largest manhunt in history to capture and contain Colombian cocaine cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar, one of the world's most powerful outlaws."

#### **The Lives of Sacco and Vanzetti** by Rick Geary

"Recounts in graphic novel format the crime, surrounding events, and trial of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti." **GN**

#### **My Friend Dahmer** by Derf Backderf

"In graphic novel format, the author offers an account of growing up in the same schools as Jeffrey Dahmer, who went on to become one of the most notorious serial killers and cannibals in United States history." **GN**

### War

#### **Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year-Old GI** by Ryan Smithson

"Ghosts of War is an autobiographical account of Ryan Smithson's time as a soldier in the Iraq War. Smithson was in high school during the September 11th terrorist attacks, and immediately joined the military after graduation. He was assigned many different missions in Iraq, primarily working on rebuilding areas destroyed by homemade bombs and salvaging equipment for other missions. He writes of his personal experiences, the night terrors he suffered through, and his experiences with the Iraqi children."

### War cont.

#### **The Long Walk** by Sławomir Rawicz

"Describes the four-thousand-mile journey across the Gobi Desert and the Himalayas of seven men who escaped from a Siberian prison camp."

#### **No Easy Day** by Mark Owen & Kevin Maurer

"Examines the mission that killed Osama Bin Laden, details the selection and training process for one of the most elite units in the military, and describes previously unreported missions that illustrate the life and work of a SEAL and the evolution of the team after the events of September 11."

#### **Persepolis: the story of a childhood** by

Marjane Satrapi

"The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life." **GN**

#### **Rolling blackouts: dispatches from Turkey, Syria, and Iraq** by Sarah Glidden

"Glidden accompanies her two friends--reporters and founders of the journalistic non-profit The Seattle Globalist--as they research stories on the Iraq War's effect on the Middle East and, specifically, the war's refugees. Joining them is a former Marine and childhood friend of one of the journalists whose deployment to Iraq in 2007 adds an unexpected and sometimes unwelcome viewpoint, both to the people they come across and perhaps even themselves." **GN**

Get **CONNECTED** with a  
**LIBRARY** this **SUMMER** for **FREE!** :D

Key: **GN** = Graphic Novel

### War cont.

#### **Silver Like Dust: One Family's Story of America's Japanese Internment** by Kimi Cunningham Grant

"Relates how the author rejected her Japanese heritage until learning the details of her grandmother's time in a Japanese internment camp along with 112,000 other Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor."

#### **Where Men Win Glory**

by Jon Krakauer **OR ANY BOOK BY THIS AUTHOR**

"Traces the controversial story of NFL player and soldier Pat Tillman, describing the military's efforts to hide the truth about his death by friendly fire, in an account that draws on Tillman's journals and letters as well as interviews with family members and fellow soldiers."

### Sports

#### **The Boys in the Boat** by Daniel James Brown

"The Boys in the Boat describes how a group of working class youths from the University of Washington rowing team emerged from obscurity to defeat a field of elite international rivals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Sports fans who love a good "Cinderella story" will cheer this fast-paced, emotionally charged account of the players' and coaches' struggles set against stark Depression-era realities."

#### **Muck City: Winning and Losing in Football's Forgotten Town** by Bryan Mealer

"Traces the intertwined stories of an orphaned quarterback, a celebrated football coach and an aspiring medical student whose prospects were collectively shaped by the formidable challenges, shameful history and football enthusiasm of their hometown in the Florida Everglades."

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## NON-FICTION

### Humor / Dark Humor

#### **Born a Crime** by Trevor Noah

"The host of "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" traces his wild coming of age during the twilight of apartheid in South Africa and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed, offering insight into the farcical aspects of the political and social systems of today's world."

#### **Fun Home: a Family Tragicomic** by Alison

Bechdel

"An unusual memoir done in the form of a graphic novel by a cult favorite comic artist offers a darkly funny family portrait that details her relationship with her father, a historic preservation expert dedicated to restoring the family's Victorian home, funeral home director, high-school English teacher, and closeted homosexual." **GN**

#### **Running with Scissors** by Augusten Burroughs

"The author describes his bizarre coming-of-age years after his adoption by his mother's psychiatrist, during which he witnessed such misadventures as a fake suicide attempt and front-lawn family/patient sleepovers."

### Science

#### **Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries** by Neil deGrasse Tyson

"This is a vibrant collection of essays on the cosmos from the nation's best-known astrophysicist, Neil deGrasse Tyson, renowned for his ability to blend content, accessibility, and humor. Here he covers astral life at the frontiers of astrobiology to the movie industry's feeble efforts to get its night skies right."

#### **The Hot Zone: A Terrifying True Story** by

Richard Preston

"A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure. In a few days 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus. The Hot Zone tells this dramatic story, giving a hair-raising account of the appearance of rare and lethal viruses and their "crashes" into the human race..."

### Science cont.

#### **The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference** by Malcolm Gladwell

"Explains why major changes in society often happen suddenly and unexpectedly. Also describes the personality types who are natural originators of new ideas and trends."

#### **Virtual Unreality: The New Era of Digital Deception** by Charles Seife

"The Internet disseminates facts, opinions, and outright fraud, and its questionable reliability has become a significant concern in public discourse. In Virtual Unreality, journalism professor Charles Seife describes in detail how information on the Internet can be falsified, manipulated, and perpetuated. Providing concrete examples of Internet fakery, Seife serves as an engaging and witty guide through the wilderness of digital information, both reliable and fraudulent."

### Historical

#### **The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century** by Sara Miller

"Examines the Borden murders, using newspaper articles to recreate the events and the trial and acquittal of Lizzie Borden and exploring Lizzie's story to theorize on what may have happened."

#### **Desperate Passage** by Ethan Rarick

"Presents a portrait of the Donner party, a group ninety pioneers who became stranded in the Sierra Nevada mountains during the winter of 1846-47."

#### **In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex**

by Nathaniel Philbrick **OR ANY BOOK BY THIS AUTHOR**

"Recounts the story of the 1820 wreck of the whaleship Essex, which inspired Melville's classic "Moby-Dick," and describes its doomed crew's ninety-day attempt to survive whale attacks and the elements on three tiny lifeboats."

## Audiobooks Are NOT Cheating

Check out the summer reading website for some amazing FREE audiobooks that you can get on your phone right now!

### Historical cont.

#### **Twee: The Gentle Revolution in Music, Books, Television, Fashion, and Film** by Marc Spitz

"This book examines the Twee culture--a softer, gentler look at the world that the author traces back to the 1950s. Unlike many pop culture trends, Twee is said to cross generations and attract everyone from millennials to some baby boomers with its emphasis on the friendly, innocent things of childhood. Examples include Hello Kitty, Charlie Brown and Peanuts, and the works of Dr. Seuss. Twee culture also focuses on indie films and music, and artist-created or locally sourced items."

#### **Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster** by Svetlana Alexievich

"Ten years after the disastrous 1986 explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station, journalist Svetlana Alexievich began conducting hundreds of interviews with people affected by the devastation. She has edited and arranged their oral accounts, which range from a monologue of several pages to collections of paragraphs that are grouped as choruses. Many people interviewed were relocated from the area; some had returned, while still others found Belarus safer than war-torn Tajikistan. This book functions as both a tale of living with catastrophic events and a snapshot of the Soviet Union's last years."

### Autobiographies

#### **Amazing Fantastic Incredible** by Peter David & Stan Lee

"The comic book author and creator of such famous comic-book characters as Spider-Man and the Incredible Hulk describes his early struggles in the comic book industry of the 1940s and 1950s and his emergence as a world famous cartoonist." **GN**

#### **Letter to My Daughter** by Maya Angelou

"Maya Angelou's Letter to My Daughter is a collection of short essays about events in her life that played a major role in making her the well-known poet and author she is today. While Angelou never had a daughter, she dedicates this collection to the young woman she feels would have existed had she had more children. Many of Angelou's vignettes tell tales of her childhood and adolescence. Some entries are embarrassing and honest, while others are humorous and light."

\* Summaries were not written by ORRHs staff members. They were provided by publishers and/or review sites. \*

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## NON-FICTION

### Autobiographies cont.

**On Writing - A Memoir of the Craft** by Stephen King

"In this book (a rare nonfiction work), author Stephen King discusses his career and offers advice to those interested in pursuing writing as a vocation. King reflects back on his early failures and ultimate triumphs, while at the same time crediting his family for much of his success. He also discusses at length his drug and alcohol addiction and the impact that an auto accident had on his life and work. In addition, King provides guidelines, a recommended reading list, and a host of other material for aspiring writers."

**Stitches: A Memoir** by David Small

"The author recounts in graphic novel format his troubled childhood with a radiologist father who subjected him to repeated x-rays and a withholding and tormented mother, an environment he fled at the age of sixteen in the hopes of becoming an artist." **GN**

**Stronger** by Bret Witter & Jeff Bauman

"A survivor of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, who helped to set off one of the biggest manhunts in the country's history, discusses his experiences that day and his ongoing mission to walk again after losing both legs."

### Realistic Fiction

**Almost Perfect** by Brian Katcher

"With his mother working long hours and in pain from a romantic break-up, eighteen-year-old Logan feels alone and unloved until a zany new student arrives at his small-town Missouri high school, keeping a big secret."

**And We Stay** by Jenny Hubbard

"Sent to an Amherst, Massachusetts, boarding school after her ex-boyfriend shoots himself, seventeen-year-old Emily expresses herself through poetry as she relives their relationship, copes with her guilt, and begins to heal."

**Sway** by Kat Spears

"Jesse Alderman, also known as Sway, avoids emotional connection at all costs, but he's ultimately forced to open his heart when he meets the girl of his dreams."

## FICTION

### War

**Barefoot Gen, Vol. 1: A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima**

by Keiji Nakazawa **OR ANY BOOK BY THIS AUTHOR**

"In this graphic depiction of nuclear devastation, three survivors of the bombing of Hiroshima--Gen, his mother, and his baby sister--face rejection, hunger, and humiliation in their search for a place to live." **GN**

**Deogratias, A Tale of Rwanda** by Jean-Philippe Stassen

"Deogratias is just a teenager when he experiences genocide in Rwanda with the tale unfolding only before and after the massacre revealing the madness and horror of one young boy and his country." **GN**

**Girl Singer** by Mick Carton

"1938: eighteen-year-old Avery, aspiring singer, is heard by Lester "Pres" Young, Count Basie's tenor saxophonist. Pres recommends her to Basie, and Avery is whisked into the jazz life. Years later, with several hit records to her credit, Avery settles in Greenwich Village. But her life takes a sharp turn when she meets Karl, a Jewish refugee from Hitler's Germany."

**The Nightingale: A Novel** by Kristin Hannah

"Reunited when the elder's husband is sent to fight in World War II, French sisters Vianne and Isabelle find their bond as well as their respective beliefs tested by a world that changes in horrific ways."

**The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver

"The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives forever transformed over the course of three decades by the political and social upheaval of Africa."

**Terrorist** by Henrik Rehr

"Fictional account of the life of the young Serbian terrorist, Gavrilo Princep, who touched off World War I in 1914 by assassinating the Archduke Franz Ferdinand." **GN**

### Graphic Novels Are Serious Literature

They come in all shapes, sizes, and genres and can be found on our list with **GN**

## Thriller/Suspense/Mystery

**After the Funeral**

by Agatha Christie **OR ANY BOOK BY THIS AUTHOR**

"Richard Abernethie's unscrupulous relatives, interested only in their respective shares of the rich man's estate, become suspects in Hercule Poirot's search for a killer."

**Christine Falls** by Benjamin Black

"Returning to the morgue where he works after an office party, Dublin pathologist Quirke stumbles across a body that should not have been there, as well as his brother-in-law, pediatrician Malachy Griffin, altering a file to cover up the corpse's cause of death."

**Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe** by Edgar Allan Poe

"A complete collection of the writings of Poe, including his mysteries, fantasies, satires, and poems."

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by Mark Haddon

"Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother."

**Dark Places** by Gillian Flynn

"Libby Day was seven when her mother and two sisters were murdered in "The Satan Sacrifice of Kinnakee, Kansas". She escaped and survived to later testify that her 15-year-old brother Ben was the killer. Twenty-five years later she is contacted by "The Kill Club" and pumped for information they hope to use to free Ben. Libby hatches a plan to profit from her tragic past but ends up being chased by a killer."

**Kill My Mother: A Graphic Novel** by Jules Feiffer

"The lives of five women from two different families are forever linked and altered by a drunk private eye during the Depression." **GN**

**The Memory Keeper's Daughter** by Kim Edwards

"In a tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twins during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from their baby daughter's affliction with Down Syndrome, turns her over to a nurse, who secretly raises the child."

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## FICTION

### Thriller/Suspense/Mystery cont.

**Woman with a Blue Pencil** by Gordon McAlpine  
"With his wife's murder basically ignored by the LAPD, Sam Sumida, a Japanese-American academic, on the eve of Pearl Harbor, launches his own investigation and comes to discover that his life has been erased by the woman with the blue pencil who has written him into existence."

### Fantasy

**Graceling** by Kristin Cashore  
"In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace, and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king."

**The Magicians** by Lev Grossman  
"Harboring secret preoccupations with a magical land he read about in a childhood fantasy series, Quentin Coldwater is unexpectedly admitted into an exclusive college of magic and rigorously educated in modern sorcery."

**The Night Circus** by Erin Morgenstern  
"A fierce competition is underway, a contest between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood to compete in "a game," in which each must use their powers of illusion to best the other. Unbeknownst to them, this game is a duel to the death, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will."

**Norse Mythology** by Neil Gaiman  
In this book, Gaiman turns his attention to the mythology that has inspired some of his work, creating his own versions of traditional Norse myths. Gaiman's retellings introduce the central characters of Norse mythology, which include the high god Odin, his powerful son Thor, and the trickster god Loki. The stories describe the nine worlds that comprise the Norse realm, as well as the gods, giants, and other fantastic beings who inhabit it."

### Dark Humor

**Ant Colony** by Michael DeForge  
"Follows the strange exploits of a handful of black ants in a colony at war with a nearby colony of red ants." **GN**

**The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories** by Elgar Keret  
"In this collection of antic tales, Israeli writer Keret chronicles the bitter ironies that determine his characters' daily lives. Set in contemporary Israel, Keret's brief stories—most are three to five pages long—juxtapose a casual realism with regular flashes of unabashed absurdity, portraying characters on the brink of adulthood forced to confront life's chaotic forces—death, justice, love, betrayal—for the first time."

**A Prayer for Owen Meany** by John Irving  
"Owen Meany hits a foul ball while playing baseball in the summer of 1953 that kills his best friend's mother, an accident that Owen is sure is the result of divine intervention."

### Cultural Identity

**And the Mountains Echoed** by Khaled Hosseini  
"In this book, author Khaled Hosseini examines the relationships that exist within a multicultural, multigenerational family. The story begins in Afghanistan, where a traditional family begins to branch out not only from its culture but also from its home nation to experience new customs and philosophies. The author follows members of this family as they journey from the capital city of Kabul to Paris, France; Greece; and San Francisco, California. Along the way, family members argue, bond, and care for and hate one another but ultimately come together in an example of familial love and understanding."

**The Girl Who Fell From the Sky** by Heidi W. Durrow  
"After a family tragedy orphans her, Rachel, the daughter of a Danish mother and a black G.I., moves into her grandmother's mostly black community in the 1980s, where she must swallow her grief and confront her identity as a biracial woman in a world that wants to see her as either black or white."

## Don't want to buy your book?

Check out the summer reading website to find print and e-books from your local and Boston libraries.

### Historical

**The Kitchen House** by Kathleen Grissom  
"In *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom, a harrowing 1790 sea voyage from Ireland to America claims the life of a woman and leaves her seven-year-old daughter an orphan. When the ship lands, young Lavinia is sent to work on a tobacco plantation. Living with the slaves, the white girl learns the laws of plantation life from the servant girl who was fathered by the master. When Lavinia is moved from the kitchen house, she discovers that the rules in the big house are very different. As she deals with the opium-addicted lady of the house, Lavinia becomes privy to a potentially devastating secret."

**The Museum of Extraordinary Things** by Alice Hoffman  
"The daughter of a Coney Island boardwalk curiosities museum's front man pursues an impassioned love affair with a Russian immigrant photographer who after fleeing his Lower East Side Orthodox community has captured poignant images of the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire."

**Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen  
"Human foibles and early nineteenth-century manners are satirized in this romantic tale of English country family life as Elizabeth Bennet and her four sisters are encouraged to marry well in order to keep the Bennet estate in their family."

**The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage** by Sydney Padua  
"Padua debut graphic novel transforms the collaboration between Ada Lovelace and Charles Babbage into an inspired, "What If?" story. Lovelace was a talented mathematician and helped translate a paper on Babbage's ideas for an Analytical Engine, the world's first computer. The notes she added to the translation were so cleverly detailed that experts today recognize them as the first example of computer programming. Although Lovelace died a few years later and Babbage was left to tinker with his Analytical Engine until his death, Padua imagines an alternate reality where they build the engine and use it to "have thrilling adventures and fight crime!" **GN**

**Water for Elephants** by Sara Gruen  
"Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope."

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## FICTION

### Science Fiction

**11/22/63**

by Stephen King **OR ANY BOOK BY THIS AUTHOR**

"Receiving a horrific essay from a GED student with a traumatic past, high-school English teacher Jake Epping is enlisted by a friend to travel back in time to prevent the assassination of John F. Kennedy, a mission for which he must befriend troubled loner Lee Harvey Oswald."

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury

"A totalitarian regime has ordered all books to be destroyed, but one of the book burners suddenly realizes their merit."

**Grasshopper Jungle**

by Andrew A. Smith **OR ANY BOOK BY THIS AUTHOR**

"Austin Szerba narrates the end of humanity as he and his best friend Robby accidentally unleash an army of giant, unstoppable bugs and uncover the secrets of a decades-old experiment gone terribly wrong."

**The Illustrated Man** by Ray Bradbury

"The Illustrated Man is Ray Bradbury's classic collection of science-fiction short stories. The book is bound together by the mysterious Illustrated Man, his body a series of tattoos, each of which holds a story that come alive. Most of the stories convey a dark fate for the human race. Using stories about space travel, alien infiltration, and virtual reality, Bradbury weaves together a book of horror and fantasy, where our worst fears come to life."

**Player Piano** by Kurt Vonnegut

"Kurt Vonnegut's first novel spins the chilling tale of engineer Paul Proteus, who must find a way to live in a world dominated by a supercomputer and run completely by machines. Paul's rebellion is vintage Vonnegut: wildly funny, deadly serious, and terrifyingly close to reality."

**Sirens of Titan** by Kurt Vonnegut

"America's wealthiest man gives up his lush lifestyle to board a private spaceship in pursuit of the Sirens of Titan."

Please let us know if you have any books that you think should be on the 2018 Summer Reading List. Thank you!

### Science Fiction cont.

**Station Eleven** by Emily St. John Mandel

"An actor playing King Lear dies onstage just before a cataclysmic event changes the future of everyone on Earth. What will be valued and what will be discarded? Will art have a place in a world that has lost so much? What will make life worth living? These are just some of the issues explored in this beautifully written dystopian novel."

**The Time Traveler's Wife** by Audrey

Niffenegger

"Passionately in love, Clare and Henry vow to hold onto each other and their marriage as they struggle with the effects of Chrono-Displacement Disorder, a condition that casts Henry involuntarily into the world of time travel."

**V for Vendetta** by Alan Moore

"In a near-future Britain ruled by a totalitarian regime, Evey is rescued from certain death by a masked vigilante calling himself "V," a beguiling and charismatic figure who launches a one-man crusade against government tyranny and oppression." **GN**

**The Walking Dead Vol. 1: Days Gone Bye**

by Robert Kirkman

"Police officer Rick Grimes is shot on the job and wakes up a month later to find that the world that he knows is gone. Zombies have taken over and are killing and eating those who are still alive. He sets out toward Atlanta in the hope that his family is still alive and endures many horrors along the way." **GN**

**Watchmen** by Alan Moore

"Moore and Gibbons have crafted what many feel is the ultimate superhero story. In a world where Richard Nixon was never impeached, superheroes were outlawed, with the exception of Dr. Manhattan, a human atomically powered and employed by the government. When Dr. Manhattan disappears, it brings all the "normal" superheroes out of hiding, and humanity must face the ways that superpowered individuals could truly change the world as we know it." **GN**

## JOIN SAILS / BPL THIS SUMMER!

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## REQUIREMENTS

### 11A

All entering grade 11A students will choose and read one book from the list of grades 11th/12th choices or a teacher approved book of their choice.

### STEPS

1. Read a book of your choice from the 11th/12th grade list
2. Complete the assignment

### 11AP

All entering grade 11 AP students will read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, a book of your choice from the 11/12th grade lists, and participate in the New York Times Summer Reading Contest.

### STEPS

1. Read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
2. Complete the assignment for *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
3. Participate in the New York Times Summer Reading Contest
4. Read a book of your choice from the 11th/12th grade list

### 12A

All entering grade 12A students will choose and read one book from the list of grades 11th/12th choices or a teacher approved book of their choice.

### STEPS

1. Read a book of your choice from the 11th/12th grade list
2. Complete the assignment