



BOOK LIST

In order to avoid “summer slide” we suggest students read self-selected books throughout the summer. The titles on the book list are to be used to complete the photo montage/ collage project. We have included several books with a variety of reading levels and Lexiles so students may find an appropriate book for their age and maturity level. Please keep in mind that some content may be too mature for younger readers and therefore, parental discretion is advised.

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah/ AR RL 5.4, Lexile HL770L

Comedian and author Noah shares his personal journey from his birth in South Africa, where his conception was literally a crime since his father was white and his mother was black, to his job today behind a desk at “The Daily Show.” Spending the first years of his life hidden away from others for fear the government might take him away because of his biracial heritage, Noah struggled to find his place in the world alongside his fearlessly determined mother who would stop at nothing to protect her son. Noah’s “electrifying memoir sparkles with funny stories ... and his candid and compassionate essays deepen our perception of the complexities of race, gender, and class”

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas/ AR RL 3.9, Lexile HL590L

Starr Carter, a 16-year-old black girl, may live in a neighborhood infested with gang violence, but she goes to school at Williamson Prep, a private school miles away. She has a white boyfriend there, and though there is a handful of black students at the school, she still cannot feel like herself in either place. One day she gets a ride home from Khalil, a childhood friend. They are pulled over by a white cop and Khalil, unarmed, is shot and killed. Only Starr knows what really happened in that confrontation, but what she says, or refuses to say, could upend her community and even endanger her family and herself ... “Beautifully written in Starr’s authentic first-person voice, this is a marvel of verisimilitude as it insightfully examines two worlds in collision”

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai/ AR RL 7.1, Lexile 1000L

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.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebeca Skloot/AR RL 8, Lexile 1140L

Depicts the story of Henrietta Lacks, a poor Southern black woman, whose cells were taken from her body without her permission during the 1950s for medical research and continue to be alive and used more than sixty years after her death. Discusses the issues of owning our own bodies and why Henrietta’s family was never informed about her “immortality” for more than twenty years after she died. Includes chapter notes, photographs, and an index.



BOOK LIST (CONTINUED)

Just Mercy-A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson/ AR RL 10.7, Lexile 1130L

As a young Harvard law student, one of author Stevenson's most important assignments was when he was an intern and he was sent to deliver a message to an inmate on death row. That experience inspired Stevenson to found the Equal Justice Initiative to help those falsely condemned and convicted, especially inmates wrongly placed on death row—like in the case of Walter McMillian, who was at a barbecue with family when the murder he was accused of committing took place. Stevenson presents Walter's case and others and discusses ways to make the U.S. justice system more fair and merciful. "A standout choice" (SLJ).

Life of Pi by Yann Martel/ AR RL 5.7, Lexile 830L

Pi Patel explains how he was shipwrecked and travels in a lifeboat with a 450 pound Bengal tiger for 227 days, but when they reach Mexico, the tiger escapes into the jungle, and no one believes the story Pi tells them about the tiger.

There Are No Children Here by Alex Kotlowitz/ AR RL 6.7, Lexile 970L

This is the moving and powerful account of two remarkable boys struggling to survive in Chicago's Henry Horner Homes, a public housing complex disfigured by crime and neglect.

Undocumented-A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League by Dan-el Padilla Peralta/ AR RL 6.6, Lexile 930L

Memoir of Dan-el Padilla and how he grew up as an undocumented, homeless immigrant with his mother and brother, but with the help of a kind art teacher got into a prestigious private school, rose to the top of his class, and attended and graduated Princeton—all without legal immigrant documentation.