

WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**Lyman Hall High School**  
**SUMMER READING**

Dear Families,

Summer provides a wonderful opportunity for students and families to enjoy great books together! The goal of **The Lyman Hall High School Summer Reading Program** is to foster a love of reading by having students select and read books all summer long that are of the most interest to them. Reading over the summer can help students to maintain or even improve their reading skills. All students should read during the summer to reinforce the skills they have learned throughout the school year, and it will also help to prepare them for the school year ahead. Students should be encouraged to read books that match their level of comprehension and interest.

This year, several faculty members from Lyman Hall High School have selected books to host Summer Reading Book Talks on during Office Hours in the fall. A wide range of topics and themes are represented in the list of titles they have selected. Students are encouraged to select from the list as a part of their summer reading so that they can take part in one of the book talks in the fall. Knowing that students have a variety of interests, strengths, and reading abilities, we support student choice.

As always, parents play a critical role in helping their child to choose books that are best suited for them. [Common Sense Media](#) is an excellent resource for families to help them understand the nature of the content in the novels that their children are reading. Titles on the list selected that contain content appropriate for more mature readers are noted with a \*\*\*. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with any book choice that may contain a \*\*\* as these selections contain content appropriate for more mature readers.

Students are encouraged to use strategies to help them to engage in what they are reading, such as keeping a reading journal or using sticky notes to annotate the book. Students may also benefit from reading the same title as a friend or family member and engaging in ongoing discussions about the book. Summer reading books should be selected according to interest and independent reading ability. If your child is struggling with a book, please consider trying another text that more comfortably fits his or her independent reading level.

***\*\*It is the responsibility of each family to provide a copy of any book their child selects to read.\*\****

***Many titles will be available through the Wallingford Public Library, and digital copies may be available through some of the online digital media sites that can be accessed from the WPL Digital Media Page - <https://www.wallingford.lioninc.org/services/digital-media/>***

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer filled with reading!

<b>Lyman Hall High School SUMMER READING BOOK TALK SELECTIONS</b>			
<p>This year, several faculty members from Lyman Hall High School have selected books to host Summer Reading Book Talks on during Office Hours in the fall. A wide range of topics and themes are represented in the list of titles they have selected. Students are encouraged to select from the list as a part of their summer reading so that they can take part in one of the book talks in the fall.</p>			
<p><i>This list provides a broad range of titles to engage students and families.</i> <i>*** Due to the mature content of some of these titles, please use discretion when choosing a book talk you'd like to join. Information on ratings regarding some of these books can be found at <a href="https://www.commonsemmedia.org/">https://www.commonsemmedia.org/</a> Titles on the list selected that contain content appropriate for more mature readers are noted with a ***.</i> <i>If a book does not appear on the Common Sense Media website, please visit <a href="https://www.amazon.com">Amazon.com</a> or <a href="https://www.goodreads.com">Goodreads</a> for reviews.</i></p>			
<b>Book</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Common Sense Media Review</b>	<b>Teacher</b>

<p><b><i>The Hero With a Thousand Faces</i></b> by Joseph Campbell</p> 	<p><i>The first popular work to combine the spiritual and psychological insights of modern psychoanalysis with the archetypes of world mythology, the book creates a roadmap for navigating the frustrating path of contemporary life. Examining heroic myths in the light of modern psychology, it considers not only the patterns and stages of mythology but also its relevance to our lives today--and to the life of any person seeking a fully realized existence.</i></p> <p><i>Myth, according to Campbell, is the projection of a culture's dreams onto a large screen; Campbell's book, like Star Wars, the film it helped inspire, is an exploration of the big-picture moments from the stage that is our world. It is a must-have resource for both experienced students of mythology and the explorer just beginning to approach myth as a source of knowledge.</i></p>		Mrs. O'Boyle
<p><b><i>The Man in the High Castle</i></b> by Philip K. Dick</p> 	<p><i>It's America in 1962. Slavery is legal once again. The few Jews who still survive hide under assumed names. In San Francisco, the I Ching is as common as the Yellow Pages. All because some twenty years earlier the United States lost a war—and is now occupied by Nazi Germany and Japan.</i></p> <p><i>This harrowing, Hugo Award-winning novel is the work that established Philip K. Dick as an innovator in science fiction while breaking the barrier between science fiction and the serious novel of ideas. In it Dick offers a haunting vision of history as a nightmare from which it may just be possible to wake.</i></p>		Mrs. Provenzano

**180 Seconds by  
Jessica Park**




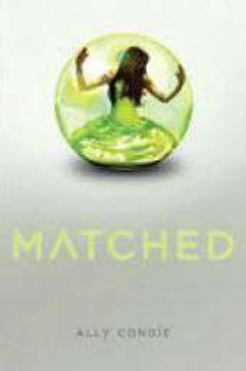
*Some people live their entire lives without changing their perspective. For Allison Dennis, all it takes is 180 seconds...*

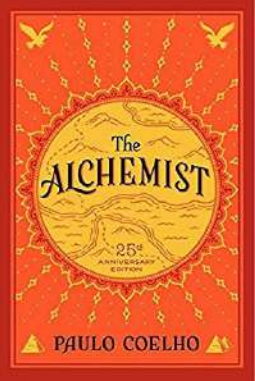
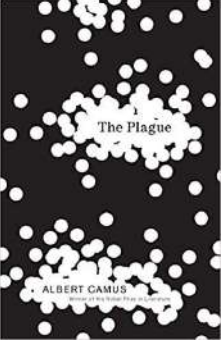
*After a life spent bouncing from one foster home to the next, Allison is determined to keep others at arm's length. Adopted at sixteen, she knows better than to believe in the permanence of anything. But as she begins her third year in college, she finds it increasingly difficult to disappear into the white noise pouring from her earbuds.*

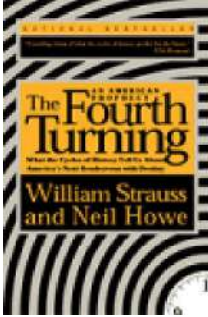

*One unsuspecting afternoon, Allison is roped into a social experiment just off campus. Suddenly, she finds herself in front of a crowd, forced to interact with a complete stranger for 180 seconds. Neither she, nor Esben Baylor, the dreamy social media star seated opposite her, is prepared for the outcome.*

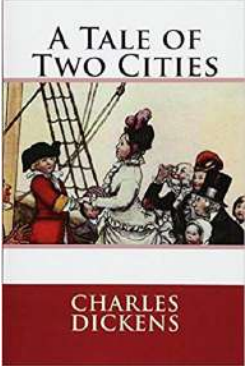
*When time is called, the intensity of the experience overwhelms Allison and Esben in a way that unnerves and electrifies them both. With a push from her oldest friend, Allison embarks on a journey to find out if what she and Esben shared is the real thing—and if she can finally trust in herself, in others, and in love.*

Mrs. Duda

<p><b>American Street by Ibi Zoboi ***</b></p> 	<p>On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find <i>une belle vie</i>—a good life.</p> <p>But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola’s mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit’s west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own.</p> <p>Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?</p>	<p><a href="https://www.common.sensemedia.org/book-reviews/american-street">https://www.common.sensemedia.org/book-reviews/american-street</a></p>	<p>Mrs. Maclean</p>
<p><b>Matched by Ally Condie ***</b></p> 	<p>In the Society, officials decide. Who you love. Where you work. When you die.</p> <p>Cassia has always trusted their choices. It’s hardly any price to pay for a long life, the perfect job, the ideal mate. So when her best friend appears on the Matching screen, Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is the one...until she sees another face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. Now Cassia is faced with impossible choices: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she’s known and a path no one else has ever dared follow—between perfection and passion. shattered.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.common.sensemedia.org/book-reviews/matched">https://www.common.sensemedia.org/book-reviews/matched</a></p>	<p>Mrs. Knickerbocker</p>

<p><b>The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho</b></p> 	<p><i>Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.</i></p>		<p>Ms. Erardi</p>
<p><b>The Plague by Albert Camus</b></p> 	<p><i>A gripping tale of human unrelieved horror, of survival and resilience, and of the ways in which humankind confronts death, The Plague is at once a masterfully crafted novel, eloquently understated and epic in scope, and a parable of ageless moral resonance, profoundly relevant to our times. In Oran, a coastal town in North Africa, the plague begins as a series of portents, unheeded by the people. It gradually becomes an omnipresent reality, obliterating all traces of the past and driving its victims to almost unearthly extremes of suffering, madness, and compassion.</i></p>		<p>Ms. Kupec</p>
<p><b>The Fourth Turning: What Cycles of History Tell Us About America's Next Rendezvous With Destiny by William Strauss and Neil Howe</b></p>	<p><i>The authors look back five hundred years and uncover a distinct pattern: Modern history moves in cycles, each one lasting about the length of a human life, each composed of four eras - or "turnings" - that last about twenty years and that always arrive in the same order. First comes a High, a period of confident expansion as a new order takes root after the old has been swept away. Next comes an Awakening, a time of spiritual exploration and rebellion against the now-established order. Then comes an Unravelling, an increasingly troubled era in which individualism triumphs over</i></p>		<p>Mr. Scalesse</p>

	<p>crumbling institutions. Last comes a Crisis – the Fourth Turning – when society passes through a great and perilous gate in history. Together, the four turnings comprise history's seasonal rhythm of growth, maturation, entropy, and rebirth. By applying the lessons of history, <i>The Fourth Turning</i> makes some bold and hopeful predictions about America's next rendezvous with destiny. It also shows us how we can prepare for what's ahead, both individually and as a nation.</p>		
<p><b><i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas ***</b></p> 	<p>Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.</p> <p>Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.</p> <p>But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.common.sensemedia.org/book-reviews/the-hate-u-give">https://www.common.sensemedia.org/book-reviews/the-hate-u-give</a></p>	<p>Mrs. Roberts</p>

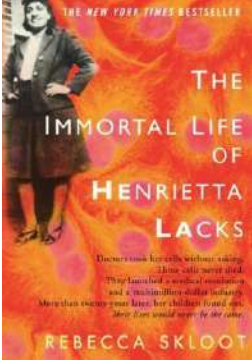
<p><b>A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens ***</b></p> 	<p><i>A Tale of Two Cities (1859) is a novel by Charles Dickens, set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution. With well over 200 million copies sold, it ranks amongst the most famous works in the history of literary fiction. The novel depicts the plight of the French peasantry demoralised by the French aristocracy in the years leading up to the revolution, the corresponding brutality demonstrated by the revolutionaries toward the former aristocrats in the early years of the revolution, and many unflattering social parallels with life in London during the same time period. It follows the lives of several characters through these events.</i></p>	<p><a href="https://www.common SenseMedia.org/book-reviews/a-tale-of-two-cities">https://www.common SenseMedia.org/book-reviews/a-tale-of-two-cities</a></p>	<p>Mr. Genova</p>
<p><b>Scythe by Neal Shusterman ***</b></p> 	<p><i>Thou shalt kill.</i></p> <p>A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery. Humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.</p> <p>Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.common SenseMedia.org/book-reviews/scythe-arc-of-a-scythe-book-1">https://www.common SenseMedia.org/book-reviews/scythe-arc-of-a-scythe-book-1</a></p>	<p>Mrs. Laudadio  (District Humanities Coordinator)</p>
<p><b>Thunderhead: Arc of a Scythe (Book 2) by Neal Shusterman ***</b></p>	<p><i>Rowan has gone rogue, and has taken it upon himself to put the Scythedom through a trial by fire. Literally. In the year since Winter Conclave, he has gone off-grid, and has been striking out against corrupt scythes—not only in MidMerica, but across the entire continent. He is a dark folk hero now—“Scythe Lucifer”—a vigilante taking down corrupt scythes in flames.</i></p> <p><i>Citra, now a junior scythe under Scythe Curie, sees the corruption and wants to</i></p>	<p><a href="https://www.common SenseMedia.org/book-reviews/thunderhead-arc-of-a-scythe-book-2">https://www.common SenseMedia.org/book-reviews/thunderhead-arc-of-a-scythe-book-2</a></p>	<p>Mrs. Charboneau</p>

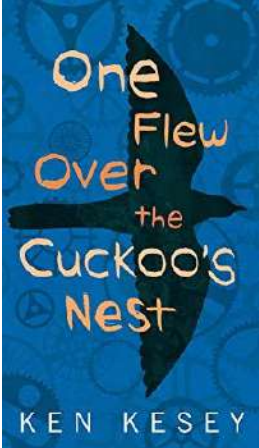
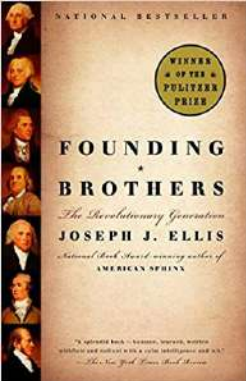


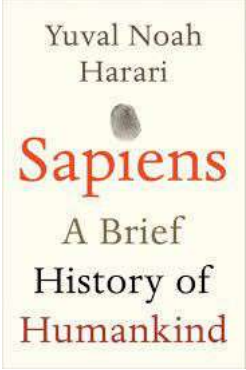
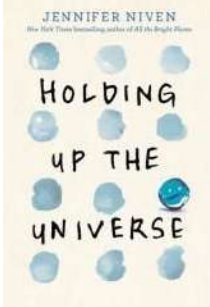


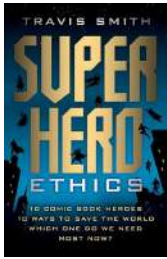
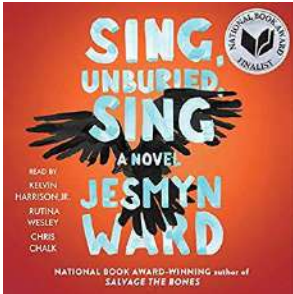
*help change it from the inside out, but is thwarted at every turn, and threatened by the “new order” scythes. Realizing she cannot do this alone—or even with the help of Scythe Curie and Faraday, she does the unthinkable, and risks being “deadish” so she can communicate with the Thunderhead—the only being on earth wise enough to solve the dire problems of a perfect world. But will it help solve those problems, or simply watch as perfection goes into decline?*

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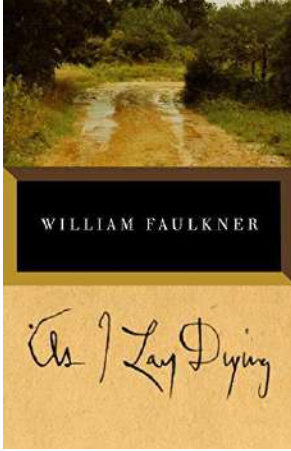
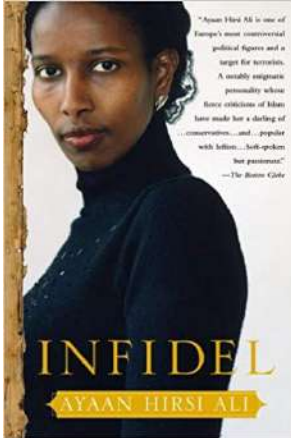
<p><b><i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i></b> by <b>Rebecca Skloot</b></p> 	<p>Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they’d weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.</p> <p>Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.</p> <p>Now Rebecca Skloot takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the “colored” ward of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950s to stark white laboratories with freezers full of HeLa cells; from Henrietta’s small, dying hometown of Clover, Virginia — a land of wooden slave quarters, faith healings, and voodoo — to East Baltimore today, where her children and grandchildren live and struggle with the legacy of her cells.</p>		<p>Ms. Decker-Lawler</p>
<p><b><i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest</i></b> by <b>Ken Kesey ***</b></p>	<p><i>In this classic novel, Ken Kesey’s hero is Randle Patrick McMurphy, a boisterous, brawling, fun-loving rebel who swaggers into the world of a mental hospital and takes over. A lusty, life-affirming fighter, McMurphy rallies the other patients around him by challenging the dictatorship of Nurse Ratched. He promotes gambling in the ward, smuggles in wine and women, and openly defies the rules at every turn.</i></p>	<p><a href="https://www.commonsemedia.org/book-reviews/one-flew-over-the-cuckoos-nest">https://www.commonsemedia.org/book-reviews/one-flew-over-the-cuckoos-nest</a></p>	<p>Ms. Oliveira</p>

	<p><i>But this defiance, which starts as a sport, soon develops into a grim struggle, an all-out war between two relentless opponents: Nurse Ratched, backed by the full power of authority, and McMurphy, who has only his own indomitable will. What happens when Nurse Ratched uses her ultimate weapon against McMurphy provides the story's shocking climax.</i></p>		
<p><b>Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation</b> by Joseph Ellis</p> 	<p><i>In this landmark work of history, the National Book Award—winning author of American Sphinx explores how a group of greatly gifted but deeply flawed individuals—Hamilton, Burr, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, Adams, and Madison—confronted the overwhelming challenges before them to set the course for our nation.</i></p>		<p>Mr. Horton</p>
<p><b>Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind</b> by Yuval Noah Harari</p>	<p><i>100,000 years ago, at least six human species inhabited the earth. Today there is just one. Us. Homo sapiens.</i></p> <p><i>How did our species succeed in the battle for dominance? Why did our foraging ancestors come together to create cities and kingdoms? How did we come to believe in gods, nations and human rights; to trust money, books and laws; and to be enslaved by bureaucracy, timetables and consumerism? And what will our world be like in the millennia to</i></p>		<p>Mr. Sheehan</p>

 <p>Yuval Noah Harari <b>Sapiens</b> A Brief History of Humankind</p>	<p>come?</p> <p><i>In Sapiens, Dr Yuval Noah Harari spans the whole of human history, from the very first humans to walk the earth to the radical – and sometimes devastating – breakthroughs of the Cognitive, Agricultural and Scientific Revolutions. Drawing on insights from biology, anthropology, paleontology and economics, he explores how the currents of history have shaped our human societies, the animals and plants around us, and even our personalities. Have we become happier as history has unfolded? Can we ever free our behaviour from the heritage of our ancestors? And what, if anything, can we do to influence the course of the centuries to come?</i></p>		
<p><b><i>Holding Up the Universe</i> by Jennifer Niven ***</b></p>  <p>JENNIFER NIVEN The New York Times bestselling author of All the Bright Places <b>HOLDING UP THE UNIVERSE</b></p>	<p><i>Everyone thinks they know Libby Strout, the girl once dubbed “America’s Fattest Teen.” But no one’s taken the time to look past her weight to get to know who she really is. Following her mom’s death, she’s been picking up the pieces in the privacy of her home, dealing with her heartbroken father and her own grief. Now, Libby’s ready: for high school, for new friends, for love, and for every possibility life has to offer. In that moment, I know the part I want to play here at MVB High. I want to be the girl who can do anything.</i></p> <p><i>Everyone thinks they know Jack Masselin, too. Yes, he’s got swagger, but he’s also mastered the impossible art of giving people what they want, of fitting in. What no one knows is that Jack has a newly acquired secret: he can’t recognize faces. Even his own brothers are strangers to him. He’s the guy who can re-engineer and rebuild anything, but he can’t understand what’s going on with the inner workings of his brain. So he tells himself to play it cool: Be charming. Be hilarious. Don’t get too close to anyone.</i></p> <p><i>Until he meets Libby. When the two get</i></p>	<p><a href="https://www.commonsemedia.org/book-reviews/holding-up-the-universe">https://www.commonsemedia.org/book-reviews/holding-up-the-universe</a></p>	<p>Mrs. Kennedy</p>

	<p>tangled up in a cruel high school game—which lands them in group counseling and community service—Libby and Jack are both pissed, and then surprised. Because the more time they spend together, the less alone they feel. Because sometimes when you meet someone, it changes the world, theirs and yours.</p>		
<p><b>Superhero Ethics: 10 Comic Book Heroes; 10 Ways to Save the World; Which One Do We Need Most Now? By Travis Smith</b></p> 	<p>Whether in comic books or on movie screens, superhero stories are where many people first encounter questions about how they should conduct their lives. Although these outlandish figures—in their capes, masks, and tights, with their unbelievable origins and preternatural powers—are often dismissed as juvenile amusements, they really are profound metaphors for different approaches to shaping one’s character and facing the challenges of life. But, given the choice, which superhero should we follow today? Who is most worthy of our admiration? Whose goals are most noble? Whose ethics should we strive to emulate? To decide, Travis Smith takes ten top superheroes and pits them one against another, chapter by chapter. The hero who better exemplifies how we ought to live advances to the final round. By the end of the book, a single superhero emerges victorious and is crowned most exemplary for our times.</p>		<p>Mr. Harris</p>
<p><b>Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward</b></p> 	<p>An intimate portrait of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle, <i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> journeys through Mississippi's past and present, examining the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power - and limitations - of family bonds.</p> <p>Jojo is 13 years old and trying to understand what it means to be a man. He doesn't lack in fathers to study, chief among them his black grandfather, Pop. But there are other men who complicate his understanding: his absent white father,</p>		<p>Ms. Castelli</p>

	<p><i>Michael, who is being released from prison; his absent white grandfather, Big Joseph, who won't acknowledge his existence; and the memories of his dead uncle, Given, who died as a teenager.</i></p> <p><i>When the children's father is released from prison, Leonie packs her kids and a friend into her car and drives north to the heart of Mississippi and Parchman Farm, the state penitentiary. At Parchman, there is another 13-year-old boy, the ghost of a dead inmate who carries all of the ugly history of the South with him in his wandering. He, too, has something to teach Jojo about fathers and sons, about legacies, about violence, about love.</i></p>		
<p><b>Look Me in the Eye: My Life With Asperger's by John Elder Robison</b></p> 	<p><i>From the time he was three or four years old, John Elder Robison realised that he was different from other people. He was unable to make eye contact or connect with other children, and by the time he was a teenager his odd habits - an inclination to blurt out non-sequiturs, obsessively dismantle radios or dig five-foot holes (and stick his younger brother in them) - had earned him the label 'social deviant'. It didn't help that his mother conversed with light fixtures and his father spent evenings pickling himself in sherry. Look Me in the Eye is his story of growing up with Asperger's syndrome - a form of autism - at a time when the diagnosis simply didn't exist. Along the way it also tells the story of two brothers born eight years apart yet devoted to each other: the author and his younger brother Chris, who would grow up to become bestselling author Augusten Burroughs. This book is a rare fusion of inspiration, dark comedy and insight into the workings of the human mind. For someone who has struggled all his life to connect with other people, Robison proves to be an extraordinary storyteller.</i></p>		Mrs. Babineau
<p><b>As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner</b></p>	<p><i>As I Lay Dying is Faulkner's harrowing account of the Bundren family's odyssey</i></p>		Mr. Pannone

	<p><i>across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Narrated in turn by each of the family members—including Addie herself—as well as others the novel ranges in mood, from dark comedy to the deepest pathos.</i></p>		
<p><b><i>Infidel</i> by Ayaan Hirsi Ali</b></p> 	<p><i>Ayaan Hirsi Ali recounts the story of her life, from her traditional Muslim childhood in Somalia and escape from a forced marriage to her efforts to promote women's rights while surviving numerous threats to her safety.</i></p>		<p>Mrs. Bernstein</p>