

WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Mark T. Sheehan High School
SUMMER READING

Dear Families,

Summer provides a wonderful opportunity for students and families to enjoy great books together! The goal of **The Sheehan 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 Sheehan High School have selected books to host Summer Reading Book Talks 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!

Mark T. Sheehan High School SUMMER READING BOOK TALK SELECTIONS
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<p>This year, several faculty members from Sheehan 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 https://www.common sense media.org/ 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 Amazon.com or Goodreads for reviews.</i></p>
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Book	Summary	Common Sense Media Review	Teacher
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All American Boys
by
Jason Reynolds
and **Brendan**
Kiely***



That's the sidewalk graffiti that started it all...

Well, no, actually, a lady tripping over Rashad at the store, making him drop a bag of chips, was what started it all. Because it didn't matter what Rashad said next—that it was an accident, that he wasn't stealing—the cop just kept pounding him. Over and over, pummeling him into the pavement. So then Rashad, an ROTC kid with mad art skills, was absent again...and again...stuck in a hospital room. Why? Because it looked like he was stealing. And he was a black kid in baggy clothes. So he must have been stealing.

And that's how it started.

And that's what Quinn, a white kid, saw. He saw his best friend's older brother beating the daylights out of a classmate. At first Quinn doesn't tell a soul...He's not even sure he understands it. And does it matter? The whole thing was caught on camera, anyway. But when the school—and nation—start to divide on what happens, blame spreads like wildfire fed by ugly words like "racism" and "police brutality." Quinn realizes he's got to understand it, because, bystander or not, he's a part of history. He just has to figure out what side of history that will be.

<https://www.common.sensemedia.org/book-reviews/all-american-boys>

Mrs. Maiocco

**Where You Go Is
Not Who You'll Be**
by
Frank Bruni



Where
You Go
Is Not
Who
You'll Be

An Antidote to the College
Admissions Mania

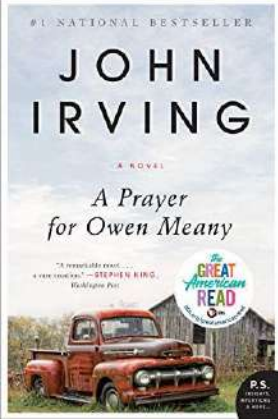
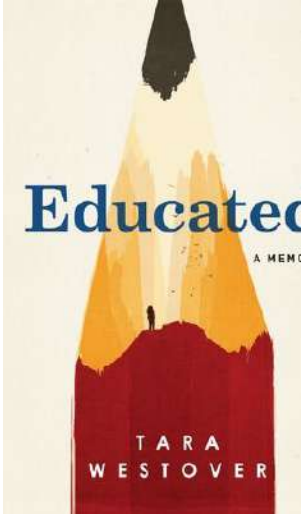
FRANK BRUNI
New York Times Bestselling Author

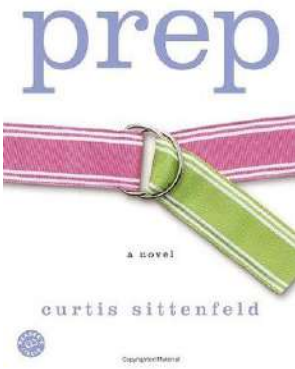
Over the last few decades, Americans have turned college admissions into a terrifying and occasionally devastating process, preceded by test prep, tutors, all sorts of stratagems, all kinds of rankings, and a conviction among too many young people that their futures will be determined and their worth established by which schools say yes and which say no.

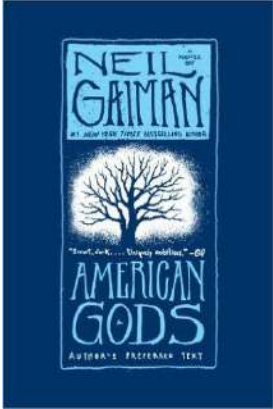
That belief is wrong. It's cruel. In WHERE YOU GO IS NOT WHO YOU'LL BE, Frank Bruni explains why, giving students and their parents a new perspective on this brutal, deeply flawed competition and a path out of the anxiety that it provokes.

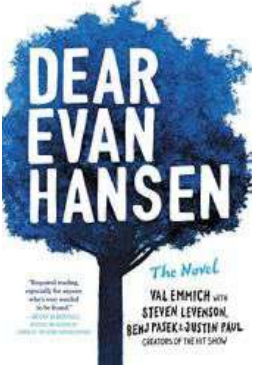
Bruni, a bestselling author and a columnist for the New York Times, shows that the Ivy League has no monopoly on corner offices, governors' mansions, or the most prestigious academic and scientific grants. Through statistics, surveys, and the stories of hugely successful people who didn't attend the most exclusive schools, he demonstrates that many kinds of colleges—large public universities, tiny hideaways in the hinterlands—serve as ideal springboards. And he illuminates how to make the most of them. What matters in the end are a student's efforts in and out of the classroom, not the gleam of his or her diploma.


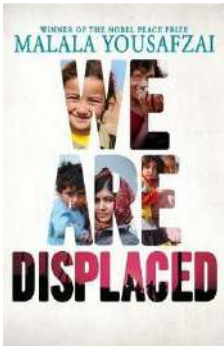
Ms. Distant


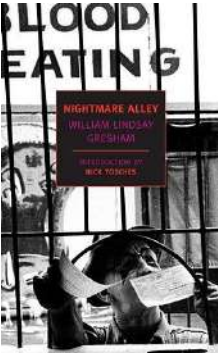
<p>A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving***</p> 	<p>Eleven-year-old Owen Meany, playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire, hits a foul ball and kills his best friend's mother. Owen doesn't believe in accidents; he believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen after that 1953 foul is both extraordinary and terrifying. At moments a comic, self-deluded victim, but in the end the principal, tragic actor in a divine plan, Owen Meany is the most heartbreaking hero John Irving has yet created.</p>	<p>https://www.common.sensemedi.a.org/book-reviews/a-prayer-for-owen-meany</p>	<p>Mr. Wiesen</p>
<p>Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover</p> 	<p>Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard.</p> <p>Her father forbade hospitals, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent.</p> <p>Then, lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she studied history, learning for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the civil rights movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to</p>		<p>Mrs. Whitehouse</p>

	<p>Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.</p> <p><i>Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.</i></p>		
<p>Prep by Curtis Sittenfeld</p> <p><small>Copyright © 2016</small> NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER <small>"This one has an edition in 2016, but it's also a first and a second book of social class, race, and gender politics." —The Author Editor</small></p> <p>prep</p>  <p><small>Copyright © 2016</small></p>	<p>Curtis Sittenfeld's debut novel, <i>Prep</i>, is an insightful, achingly funny coming-of-age story as well as a brilliant dissection of class, race, and gender in a hothouse of adolescent angst and ambition.</p> <p><i>Lee Fiora is an intelligent, observant fourteen-year-old when her father drops her off in front of her dorm at the prestigious Ault School in Massachusetts. She leaves her animated, affectionate family in South Bend, Indiana, at least in part because of the boarding school's glossy brochure, in which boys in sweaters chat in front of old brick buildings, girls in kilts hold lacrosse sticks on pristinely mown athletic fields, and everyone sings hymns in chapel.</i></p> <p><i>As Lee soon learns, Ault is a cloistered world of jaded, attractive teenagers who spend summers on Nantucket and speak in their own clever shorthand. Both intimidated and fascinated by her classmates, Lee becomes a shrewd observer of—and, ultimately, a participant in—their rituals and mores. As a scholarship student, she constantly feels like an outsider and is both drawn to and repelled by other loners. By the time she's a senior, Lee has created a hard-won place for herself at Ault. But when her</i></p>		<p>Ms. Chapman</p>

	<p><i>behavior takes a self-destructive and highly public turn, her carefully crafted identity within the community is shattered.</i></p>		
<p>American Gods by Neil Gaiman</p> 	<p><i>Days before his release from prison, Shadow's wife, Laura, dies in a mysterious car crash. Numbly, he makes his way back home. On the plane, he encounters the enigmatic Mr Wednesday, who claims to be a refugee from a distant war, a former god and the king of America.</i></p> <p><i>Together they embark on a profoundly strange journey across the heart of the USA, whilst all around them a storm of preternatural and epic proportions threatens to break.</i></p> <p><i>Scary, gripping and deeply unsettling, American Gods takes a long, hard look into the soul of America. You'll be surprised by what - and who - it finds there...</i></p>		<p>Mrs. Frank</p>

<p>The Next Person You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom</p> 	<p>In this enchanting sequel to the number one bestseller <i>The Five People You Meet in Heaven</i>, Mitch Albom tells the story of Eddie’s heavenly reunion with Annie—the little girl he saved on earth—in an unforgettable novel of how our lives and losses intersect.</p> <p>Fifteen years ago, in Mitch Albom’s beloved novel, <i>The Five People You Meet in Heaven</i>, the world fell in love with Eddie, a grizzled war veteran-turned-amusement park mechanic who died saving the life of a young girl named Annie. Eddie’s journey to heaven taught him that every life matters. Now, in this magical sequel, Mitch Albom reveals Annie’s story.</p> <p>The accident that killed Eddie left an indelible mark on Annie. It took her left hand, which needed to be surgically reattached. Injured, scarred, and unable to remember why, Annie’s life is forever changed by a guilt-ravaged mother who whisks her away from the world she knew. Bullied by her peers and haunted by something she cannot recall, Annie struggles to find acceptance as she grows. When, as a young woman, she reconnects with Paulo, her childhood love, she believes she has finally found happiness.</p>		Mrs. Miller
<p>Dear Evan Hansen by Val Emmich ***</p> 	<p>Dear Evan Hansen,</p> <p>Today's going to be an amazing day and here's why...</p> <p>When a letter that was never meant to be seen by anyone draws high school senior Evan Hansen into a family's grief over the loss of their son, he is given the chance of a lifetime: to belong. He just has to stick to a lie he never meant to tell, that the notoriously troubled Connor Murphy was his secret best friend.</p> <p>Suddenly, Evan isn't invisible</p>	<p>https://www.common.sensemedia.org/book-reviews/dear-evan-hansen-the-novel</p>	Ms. Kehrhahn

	<p>anymore--even to the girl of his dreams.</p> <p>A simple lie leads to complicated truths in this big-hearted coming-of-age story of grief, authenticity and the struggle to belong in an age of instant connectivity and profound isolation.</p>		
<p>The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas ***</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>https://www.common.sensemedi.a.org/book-reviews/the-hate-u-give</p>	<p>Mrs. Ventura-Clements</p>
<p>We Are Displaced: My Journey & Stories From Refugee Girls Around the World by Malala Yousafzai ***</p> 	<p>Nobel Peace Prize-winner Malala Yousafzai will start with her own story of displacement as an Internally Displaced Person to show what it means to lose your home, your community, and the only world you've ever known. She will also share the personal stories of some of the girls she has met on her various journeys to refugee camps and the cities where refugee girls and their families have settled.</p> <p>In a time of immigration crisis, war, and border conflicts, We Are Displaced is a reminder from one of the world's most famous people who experienced displacement that everyone deserves universal human rights and a home.</p>	<p>https://www.common.sensemedi.a.org/book-reviews/we-are-displaced-my-journey-and-stories-from-refugee-girls-around-the-world</p>	<p>Ms. Rusate</p>

<p>Scythe by Neal Shusterman ***</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>https://www.common.sensemedia.org/book-reviews/scythe-arc-of-a-scythe-book-1</p>	<p>Mrs. Laudadio (District Humanities Coordinator)</p>
<p>Nightmare Alley by William Lindsay Gresham</p> 	<p><i>Nightmare Alley begins with an extraordinary description of a freak-show geek—alcoholic and abject and the object of the voyeuristic crowd’s gleeful disgust and derision—going about his work at a county fair. Young Stan Carlisle is working as a carny, and he wonders how a man could fall so low. There’s no way in hell, he vows, that anything like that will ever happen to him.</i></p> <p><i>And since Stan is clever and ambitious and not without a useful streak of ruthlessness, soon enough he’s going places. Onstage he plays the mentalist with a cute bimbo (before long his harried wife), then he graduates to full-blown spiritualist, catering to the needs of the rich and gullible in their well-upholstered homes. It looks like the world is Stan’s for the taking. William Lindsay Gresham’s novel is a dark jewel, a classic American tale about the varieties of deception and self-deception and the dream of redemption—a dream that is only a nightmare in disguise.</i></p>		<p>Mr. Wodatch</p>