

June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Below you will find your child's 2021 Suggested Summer Reading List. We suggest your child read at least one of the novels from this list. They are encouraged to identify significant plot points, symbols, themes and ideas as they read, as well as enjoy the novel and embrace the love of reading. In order to help your child with his/her reading selection we have included a short synopsis of each of the novels.

We encourage students to order the novel online, in keeping with the social distancing rules set forth by Santé Public, yet local bookstores have the novels in stock. If ordering online, please anticipate 2 to 3 weeks for novels to arrive, therefore do not wait until the end of summer to order. If you plan to purchase at a bookstore, look into getting the books at the beginning of summer as it may take 2 to 3 weeks to receive books if they run out of stock. Public libraries are also a good option to find the novels. Online libraries such as Sora are also options.

Please take note that this year your child will NOT have a Summer Reading Test, as this is a Suggested Reading List. However, teachers may reference the novels at some point in the year.

We hope you and your child have a restful summer and we look forward to starting the new school year in September.

English Department Coordinators

Administration

## E.L.A. Secondary 1

### **“Adventures with Waffles”**

by: Maria Parr

Lena is Trille's best friend, even if she is a girl. And there is never an ordinary day when you've got a best friend like Lena.

Hardly a day passes without Trille and Lena inventing some kind of adventure that often ends in trouble. Whether it's coaxing a cow onto a boat or sledding down the steepest and iciest hill with a chicken, there is always a thrill—and sometimes an injury—to be had. Trille loves to share everything with Lena, even Auntie Granny's waffles. But when Lena has to move away and Auntie Granny leaves the world, it sometimes seems like nothing will ever be right again. The warmth of friendship and the support of family suffuse this lightly illustrated novel, proving that when times are tough, a little taste of sweetness can make all the difference.

From: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/249479/adventures-with-waffles-by-maria-parr/>

### **“The Wednesday Wars”**

by: Gary D. Schmidt

In this Newbery Honor-winning novel, Gary D. Schmidt offers an unforgettable antihero. *The Wednesday Wars* is a wonderfully witty and compelling story about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967–68 school year in Long Island, New York.

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.

From: [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/556136.The\\_Wednesday\\_Wars](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/556136.The_Wednesday_Wars)

### **“Ghost Boys”**

By: Jewell Rhode Parker

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing.

Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.

From:

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34647324-ghost-boys?ac=1&from\\_search=true&qid=fd7A87eA4L&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34647324-ghost-boys?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=fd7A87eA4L&rank=1)

---

## E.L.A. Secondary 2

### **“Lost in the Sun”**

by: Lisa Graff

Everyone says that middle school is awful, but Trent knows nothing could be worse than the year he had in fifth grade, when a freak accident on Cedar Lake left one kid dead, and Trent with a brain full of terrible thoughts he can't get rid of. Trent's pretty positive the entire disaster was his fault, so for him middle school feels like a fresh start, a chance to prove to everyone that he's not the horrible screw-up they seem to think he is.

If only Trent could make that fresh start *happen*.

It isn't until Trent gets caught up in the whirlwind that is Fallon Little—the girl with the mysterious scar across her face—that things begin to change. Because fresh starts aren't always easy. Even in baseball, when a fly ball gets lost in the sun, you have to remember to shift your position to find it.

From: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23281891-lost-in-the-sun>

### **“The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise”**

by: Dan Gemeinhart

Five years. That's how long Coyote and her dad, Rodeo, have lived on the road in an old school bus, crisscrossing the nation. It's also how long ago Coyote lost her mom and two sisters in a car crash. Coyote hasn't been home in all that time, but when she learns the park in her old neighborhood is being demolished - the very same park where she, her mom, and her sisters buried a treasured memory box - she devises an elaborate plan to get her dad to drive 3,600 miles back to Washington state in four days...without him realizing it.

Along the way, they'll pick up a strange crew of misfit travelers. Lester has a lady love to meet. Salvador and his mom are looking to start over. Val needs a safe place to be herself. And then there's Gladys.... Over the course of thousands of miles, Coyote will learn that going home can sometimes be the hardest journey of all...but that with friends by her side, she just might be able to turn her “once upon a time” into a “happily ever after”.

From: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/39280558-the-remarkable-journey-of-coyote-sunrise>

### **“Funny You Don’t Look Autistic”**

By: McCreary, Michael

Slaying autism stereotypes with stand-up, one joke at a time. Like many others on the autism spectrum, 20-something stand-up comic Michael McCreary has been told by more than a few well-meaning folks that he doesn't "look" autistic. But, as he's quick to point out in this memoir, autism "looks" different for just about everyone with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) . Diagnosed with ASD at age five, McCreary got hit with the performance bug not much later. During a difficult time in junior high, he started journaling, eventually turning his pain into something empowering--and funny. He scored his first stand-up gig at age 14, and hasn't looked back. An #OwnVoices memoir breaks down what it's like to live with autism for readers on and off the spectrum.

From:

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41005592-funny-you-don-t-look-autistic?ac=1&from\\_search=true&qid=HMGXsXU8fy&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41005592-funny-you-don-t-look-autistic?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=HMGXsXU8fy&rank=1)

---

## E.L.A. Secondary 3

### **“The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian”**

by : Sherman Alexie

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

From: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/interesting-synopsis>

### **“Dear Martin”**

By: Nic Stone

Raw, captivating, and undeniably real, Nic Stone joins industry giants Jason Reynolds and Walter Dean Myers as she boldly tackles American race relations in this stunning debut.

Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.

Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.

From: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/interesting-synopsis>

### **“Slay”**

By: Brittney Morris

By day, seventeen-year-old Kiera Johnson is an honors student, a math tutor, and one of the only Black kids at Jefferson Academy. But at home, she joins hundreds of thousands of Black gamers who duel worldwide as Nubian personas in the secret multiplayer online role-playing card game, SLAY. No one knows Kiera is the game developer, not her friends, her family, not even her boyfriend, Malcolm, who believes video games are partially responsible for the "downfall of the Black man."

But when a teen in Kansas City is murdered over a dispute in the SLAY world, news of the game reaches mainstream media, and SLAY is labeled a racist, exclusionist, violent hub for thugs and criminals. Even worse, an anonymous troll infiltrates the game, threatening to sue Kiera for "anti-white discrimination."

Driven to save the only world in which she can be herself, Kiera must preserve her secret identity and harness what it means to be unapologetically Black in a world intimidated by Blackness. But can she protect her game without losing herself in the process?

From: [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/43723509-slay?ac=1&from\\_search=true&qid=6T2ettVXEM&rank=4](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/43723509-slay?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=6T2ettVXEM&rank=4)

## E.L.A. Secondary 4

### **“One of Us Is Lying”**

By: Karen M. McManus

**The Breakfast Club meets Pretty Little Liars, One of Us Is Lying is the story of what happens when five strangers walk into detention and only four walk out alive. Everyone is a suspect, and everyone has something to hide.**

Pay close attention and you might solve this.

On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention.

Bronwyn, **the brain**, is Yale-bound and never breaks a rule.

Addy, **the beauty**, is the picture-perfect homecoming princess.

Nate, **the criminal**, is already on probation for dealing.

Cooper, **the athlete**, is the all-star baseball pitcher.

And Simon, **the outcast**, is the creator of Bayview High's notorious gossip app.

Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention, Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Monday, he died. But on Tuesday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they the perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose?

Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you would go to protect them.

From: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/interesting-synopsis>

### **“Wintergirls”**

By: Laurie Halse Anderson

*“Dead girl walking,” the boys say in the halls.*

*“Tell us your secret,” the girls whisper, one toilet to another.*

*I am that girl.*

*I am the space between my thighs, daylight shining through.*

*I am the bones they want, wired on a porcelain frame.*

Lia and Cassie are best friends, wintergirls frozen in matchstick bodies, competitors in a deadly contest to see who can be the skinniest. But what comes after size zero and size double-zero? When Cassie succumbs to the demons within, Lia feels she is being haunted by her friend's restless spirit.

From: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/interesting-synopsis>

## **“The 57 Bus”**

By: Slater, Dashka

One teenager in a skirt.

One teenager with a lighter.

One moment that changes both of their lives forever.

If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

From:

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/33155325-the-57-bus?ac=1&from\\_search=true&qid=trx5qpQDq6&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/33155325-the-57-bus?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=trx5qpQDq6&rank=1)

## E.L.A. Secondary Sec. V

### **"Feed"**

By: Matthew Tobin Anderson

For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon — a chance to party during spring break. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its ever-present ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. M. T. Anderson's not-so-brave new world is a smart, savage satire that has captivated readers with its view of an imagined future that veers unnervingly close to the here and now.

Synopsis from Indigo

### **"Never Fall Down"**

By: Patricia McCormick

This National Book Award nominee from two-time finalist Patricia McCormick is the unforgettable story of Arn Chorn-Pond, who defied the odds to survive the Cambodian genocide of 1975-1979 and the labor camps of the Khmer Rouge.

Based on the true story of Cambodian advocate Arn Chorn-Pond, and authentically told from his point of view as a young boy, this is an achingly raw and powerful historical novel about a child of war who becomes a man of peace. It includes an author's note and acknowledgments from Arn Chorn-Pond himself.

When soldiers arrive in his hometown, Arn is just a normal little boy. But after the soldiers march the entire population into the countryside, his life is changed forever.

Arn is separated from his family and assigned to a labor camp: working in the rice paddies under a blazing sun, he sees the other children dying before his eyes. One day, the soldiers ask if any of the kids can play an instrument. Arn's never played a note in his life, but he volunteers.

This decision will save his life, but it will pull him into the very center of what we know today as the Killing Fields. And just as the country is about to be liberated, Arn is handed a gun and forced to become a soldier.

Synopsis from Indigo

### **"Long Way Down"**

By: Reynolds, Jason

An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is *New York Times* bestseller Jason Reynolds's fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.

A cannon. A strap.

A piece. A biscuit.

A burner. A heater.

A chopper. A gat.

A hammer  
A tool  
for RULE

Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. *Revenge*. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. Buck tells Will to check that the gun is even loaded. And that's when Will sees that one bullet is missing. And the only one who could have fired Shawn's gun was Shawn. Huh. Will didn't know that Shawn had ever actually USED his gun. Bigger huh. BUCK IS DEAD. But Buck's in the elevator? Just as Will's trying to think this through, the door to the next floor opens. A teenage girl gets on, waves away the smoke from Dead Buck's cigarette. Will doesn't know her, but she knew him. Knew. When they were eight. And stray bullets had cut through the playground, and Will had tried to cover her, but she was hit anyway, and so what she wants to know, on that fifth floor elevator stop, is, what if Will, Will with the gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, MISSES.

And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if WILL gets off that elevator.

From:

[https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22552026-long-way-down?from\\_search=true&from\\_srp=true&qid=B69o29iNUV&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22552026-long-way-down?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=B69o29iNUV&rank=1)