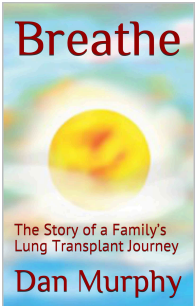


# Books We Are Grateful For

## A Suggested Reading List for Summer 2024



Happy Summer! We are grateful for the opportunity to relax, rejuvenate and read that this season allows! Below is a list of books that we are particularly thankful for. Happy reading!

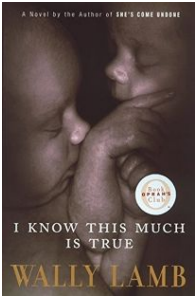


### LHS suggests...

**Title:** *Breathe: The Story of a Family's Lung Transplant Journey*

**Author:** Dan Murphy

**Why we are grateful for this book:** Mr. Murphy is a much loved LHS teacher whose remarkable personal experience is shared in this book. This is the story of his and his family's journey to and through a successful lung transplant in the spring of 2018. We are grateful for his courage, strength and willingness to share his story. Maybe he will autograph your copy!



### Mrs.Newcomb suggests...

**Title:** *I Know This Much Is True*      **Author:** Wally Lamb

**Why I am grateful for this book:** This is the story of twin brothers, Dominick and Thomas. Thomas suffers from paranoid schizophrenia. This multilayered book explores the lives of the brothers as well as Dominick's understanding and acceptance of Thomas' illness. This book confronts many difficult subjects in an honest and genuine way. Despite the difficult and sad aspects of the book, the reader is left with a sense of hope and joy.

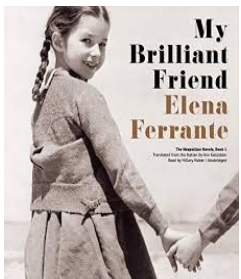


### Mrs. K. McQuaid suggests...

**Title:** *The Red Queen*

**Author:** Victoria Aveyard

**About this book:** The story line moves quickly and is easy to keep interest up. Historically dystopian society stories are a big hit with younger audiences. The characters are not so black and white, and create space for students to talk about the "grey area" between good and evil. Additionally, this book is the first in a series - so it could help influence students to pick up the other novels in the series independently. I would consider it a "G Rated" Game of Thrones, with the competitiveness of The Hunger Games.

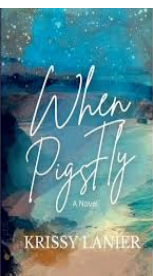


### Mr. Quinn suggests...

**Title:** *My Brilliant Friend*

**Author:** Elena Ferrante

**About this book:** This the first in a series of four books about two extremely intelligent girls - Elena and Lila - who form a close, complicated friendship as they're growing up in a poor neighborhood of Naples, Italy in the 1950s. The book is as much about each girl's relationship to her home as it is about their friendship. Basically, these two characters are trying to figure out what kind of life they want to live, and asking themselves the kinds of questions that all young people have to think about as they transition into adulthood.

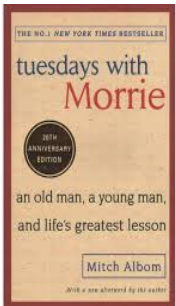


### Dr. Adams suggests...

**Title:** *When Pigs Fly*

**Author:** Krissy Lanier

**About this book:** Krissy is an elementary teacher at the Murkland Elementary School in Lowell. The novel tells the story of Summer James and her life has been anything but easy. The years she spent in foster care have haunted her for as long as she can remember. Now, in her early thirties, she feels light years away from finding a sense of belonging in her world, especially when she is constantly triggered into traumatic memories from her past. Krissy has just finished the sequel, *No Such Thing*, which will be released in June 2024

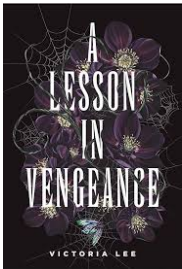


**Mr. Luong suggests...**

**Title:** *Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, A Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson*

**Author:** Mitch Albom

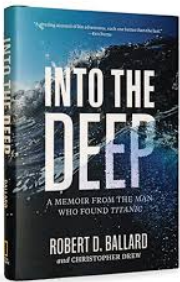
**About this book:** This is a story about a student and a dying professor. The dying professor teaches his student to think and focus on the importance of life. The professor's insight that "death is the final frontier of the topic of the meaning of life." He encourages his students to cherish and honor those who are close to us.



**Mrs. Gannon suggests...**

**Title:** *A Lesson in Vengeance*      **Author:** Victoria Lee

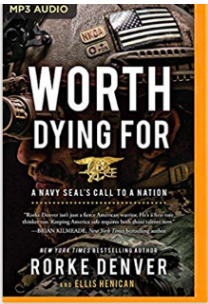
**About this book:** Creepy, thriller, gothic novel that features murder and LGBTQ+ characters. Haunted school with a twisted occult history where students died under unknown circumstances right on school grounds. History starts to repeat itself again when students die in mysterious ways-- ghosts of the past or is it someone else?



**Mrs. Gannon also suggests...**

**Title:** *Into the Deep*      **Author:** Robert Ballard

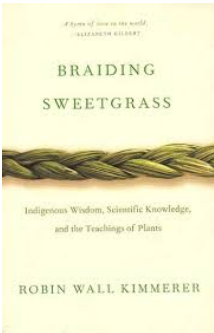
**About this book:** This book is a memoir From The Man Who Found The Titanic This is the life story of an incredible ocean explorer who shares his entire life. This "Underwater Cowboy" shares all the accomplishments, losses and struggles Dr. Ballard went through. His contribution and passion have helped shape our understanding of the world and expand the knowledge for all.



**Mr. Spencer suggests...**

**Title:** *Worth Dying For- A Navy Seal's Call to a Nation*      **Author:** Rorke Denver

**I am grateful for this book because** it explains what it means to be of service, what it means to be a hero and how you can be one in all avenues and how we should hold up our heroes as examples of standards. It is a humbling story and a story that motivates the mind, heart and body.



**Ms. Decardenas suggests...**

**Title:** *Braiding Sweetgrass*      **Author:** RobinWall Krimmer

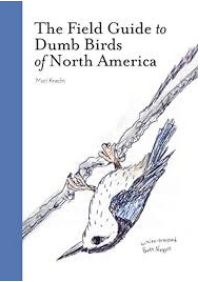
**About this book:** This book touches on everything from cultural lenses & worldviews to consumerism to environmental issues and societal injustices. It has snippets of information to focus on throughout the chapters and beautiful illustrations to emphasize certain topics. The original book, Braiding Sweetgrass, was life changing and so much so that I drove to Maine one day after school to see her give a lecture and Q & A at a university there. She lives not too far from us in NY state. This book leaves a lot of space for deep discussions and evolving perspectives.



**Mr. Oigley suggests...**

**Title:** *White Is for Witching*      **Author:** Helen Oyeyemi

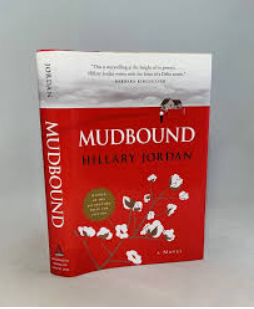
**About this book:** This book addresses the question: "What if a haunted house was racist?" I love the gothic atmosphere that Oyeyemi centers the story around, as well as the unique angle of depicting racism as being this sort of supernatural force. She uses its history to explore themes such as generational trauma as a result of xenophobia. This book changed my perspective on the idea of systemic injustices for the better. It explores the idea that the scars left behind on others by your ancestors aren't going to go away so easily, and that recognizing this is an important step in helping to build a better, more equitable world.



**Mr. Morse suggests...**

**Title:** *The Field Guide to Dumb Birds of North America*     **Author:** Matt Kracht

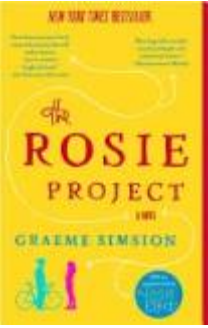
**Why I’m grateful for this book:** I love listening to and looking at birds. This book is written by a lifelong birder who wants to make it seem more fun. Birds are wonderful and smart, but they are also annoying and dumb. This book has fun illustrations and comedic descriptions that will have you rolling on the floor.



**Ms. Tse suggests ...**

**Title:** *Mudbound*     **Author:** Hillary Jordan

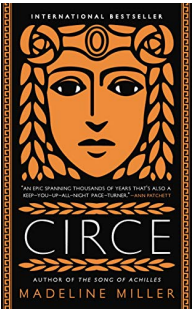
**Why I am grateful for this book:** Not many pieces of literature are capable of immediately capturing my attention, and holding it for its duration. *Mudbound* succeeded in doing just that. Jordan's novel is set in the Mississippi Delta during and after World War II. The story circulates around two families, the McAllans and the Jacksons, who live on a withering and barren farm. Life after the war is a struggle for both parties, but the Jacksons' suffering differs from that of the McAllans since their family is comprised of people of color. Jordan weaves her story around themes having to do with racism, poverty, and social justice with talented ease, prompting the reader to look through two different lenses of the same time in history.



**Ms. Soucy suggests ...**

**Title:** *The Rosie Project*     **Author:** Graeme Simsion

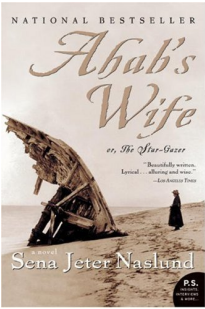
**Why I am grateful for this book:** *The Rosie Project* is a charming love story told by Don Tillman, a genetics professor who is on the autism spectrum. Don's unique way of thinking mixes his logical and methodical approach to life with humor and honesty, making the book both funny and touching. The beauty of *The Rosie Project* is in its exploration of human relationships through the lens of someone who views the world differently. Don's narrative provides a fresh, insightful perspective on love, friendship, and self-discovery, making it a truly memorable read.



**Mrs. Williams suggests...**

**Title:** *Circe*     **Author:** Madeline Miller

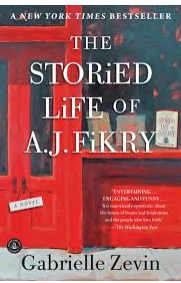
**Why I am grateful for this book:** I’m particularly grateful for my 10th grade student, Anthony, who was reading this book DURING class. I asked him to put it away, but later asked him to tell me about it. It’s based on Greek mythology and tells the origin of story of Circe and her later meeting with Odysseus from her perspective. I love the Odyssey and read it with my 9th graders, so it was really cool hearing about it from her perspective. The language is beautiful (and modern) and the story draws you in. If you are at all interested in Greek mythology you will definitely love this book. Even if you aren’t, you will too.



**Mrs. Hoffman suggests ...**

**Title:** *Ahab’s Wife, Or the Star-Gazer*     **Author:** Sena Jeter Naslund

**Why I am grateful for this book:** So many literary classics have strong, male protagonists -- but what about the women behind them? *Ahab’s Wife* takes on the often unacknowledged female perspective and is the rebuttal to *Moby Dick*. I love this book because it was the first that led me to love historical fiction. Who doesn’t want to hear “the epic story of American women”? I sure do!



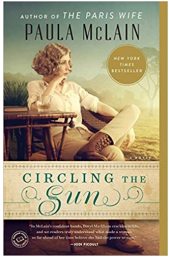
**Mr Francouer suggests...**

**Title:** *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*     **Author:** Gabrielle Zevin

**Reason you are grateful for the book:** Zevin's novel draws on the plot of another great novel, George Eliot's *Silas Marner*, and makes many other entertaining allusions to other great works of literature. However, I am grateful for the novel because I am grateful for children, my own and the children in my classes. In the novel, characters rise above self centeredness and personal challenges to recognize how precious children are and to understand their vital importance as adults in the lives of children.



### Mrs Smith suggests...



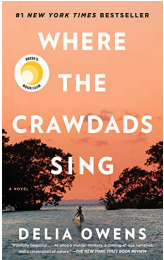
**Title:** *Circling the Sun*

**Author:** Paula McLain

**Why I am grateful for this book...** This historical fiction follows the adventurous life of Beryl Markham. After Markham's mother abandons the family, Markham and her father move from England to Kenya. In Kenya, Markham mingles with both English colonists and tribal Kenyans. In many ways, she was raised with few boundaries and develops into a free spirit, following her passions. She becomes a legendary racehorse trainer and later, a pilot. She was the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west. The story helped me appreciate the unconventional aspects of my own childhood and

remember and value the freedom my parents allowed my siblings and me.

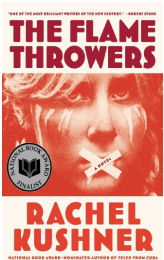
### Mrs. Keefe suggests...



**Title:** *Where the Crawdads Sing*

**Author:** Delia Owens

**Why I am grateful for this book:** I am grateful for the chance this novel gave me to escape into the swamps of North Carolina. This is part coming-of-age story and part mystery. Kya, the young main character, must learn to survive on her own after she is abandoned by her family. A murder investigation unfolds around her and just about everyone is a suspect. The writing is beautiful and the story line is unusual. Get a friend to read this one with you; you'll have a lot to talk about!



**Mr. Northrup suggests...**

**Title:** *The Flamethrowers*

**Author:** Rachel Kushner

**Why I am grateful for this book:** It's a really cool story about artists in late 1970s/early 1980s New York City. The main character is a young photographer/documentarian who winds up in a relationship with an established artist and immersed into the artworld of that time. She also sets a land speed record on a motorcycle and falls in with anarchists in Italy. It's a fun book. Kushner is a fantastic writer, equally adept at creating suspenseful setpieces and in writing sentences packed full of meaning in a few, precise words.

### Mrs. White suggests...

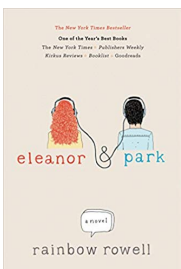


**Title:** *Throne of Glass*

**Author:** Sarah J Maas

**Why I am grateful for this book:** I am grateful for the strong female protagonist in this book and the escape from reality it provides. I also love to read books in a series, and this is the first book in the TOG series. In the novel, Celaena Sardothien is in a predicament that requires her to battle for her life. I don't want to give too much away, but it is full of suspense and characters I either love or love to hate.

### Ms. Keefe suggests

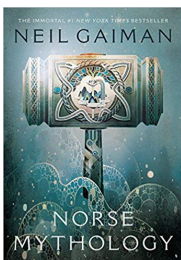


**Title:** *Eleanor and Park*

**Author:** Rainbow Rowell

**I am grateful for this book because** it was my gateway into YA fiction. I was reluctant to read YA books for my own pleasure. Like many of you, I read young adult fiction because I had to do. I picked up this book at the start of one summer vacation and didn't put it down for three days. I was hooked by the characters and really enjoyed the story. It is a quirky and special love story about two people who don't fit it to the norm but can be themselves together. It also has a bit of a cliffhanger ending... Hope you can check it out and tell me what you think happened:)

### Ms. Laughlin suggests...



**Title:** *Norse Mythology*

**Author:** Neil Gaiman

**I am grateful for this book because** it turns the myths of Norse mythology into a cohesive story that becomes a fantastic fantasy narrative. *Norse Mythology* makes myths--which can often be confusing and hard to follow--clear and fascinating. A lot of students are already a little familiar with Norse mythology. I know most of you have seen some Avengers movies! Thor, Odin, and Loki are all over *Norse Mythology*!



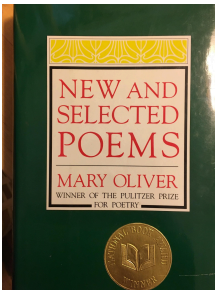
### Miss Beauchesne suggests . . .

**Title:** *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* **Author:** T.S. Eliot

**Why I am grateful for this book:** As a young child, this was my introduction to poetry. As a teenager, the musical (*CATS*) based on this book was my introduction to live theatre, and it was magical. There is a recent film based on this book including mega-stars Jennifer Hudson and Taylor Swift, so why not get on board??



**Ms Woo suggests...**

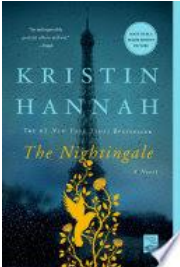


**Title:** *New and Selected Poems*

**Author:** Mary Oliver

**I am grateful for this book because** Mary Oliver writes about topics that interest me a lot: the natural world and human relationships. Her poems are poems that I can nearly always begin to understand right away. I'm an impatient reader often rushing through language to get to the author's point. Reading Mary's poems, however, slows me down and makes me pause, - *I want to pause!* - because I know that the more I take my time reading these poems, the more I will love the life around me.

**Mrs. Haley suggests...**



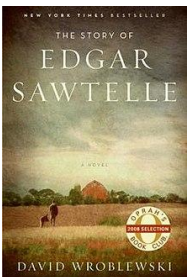
**Title:** *The Nightingale*

**Author:** Kristen Hannah

**Why I am grateful for this book:** I am always grateful for summer days spent on the beach.

On the beach last summer my friend Julie was reading *The Nightingale* by Kristen Hannah and she couldn't put it down. She told me I had to read it next but had no desire to read this because I don't usually like books about WWII and I certainly didn't think I would have any interest in this for a summer read!

I am grateful for Julie for recommending this to me and grateful that I got out of my comfort zone. Not only did the story of the sisters traveling through Germany and France during the war hold my attention and entertain me, but it also taught me so much about this time in history. I remember calling Julie in tears from my beach chair as I read the last page thanking her for telling me to read this. I passed it on to Madison Morneau at the end of the summer and hope she loved it as much as I did.

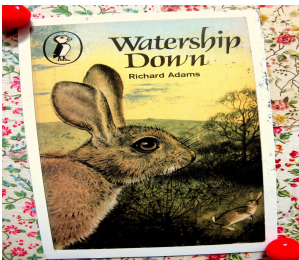


**Mrs. Bienvenue suggests...**

**Title:** *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*

**Author:** David Wroblewski

**Why I am grateful for this book :** This story stays with you a long time. The characters are so well developed that you miss them like an old friend when you finish the book. It is a modern re-make/re-telling of Hamlet with all of the ghosts and angst you can imagine. Sometimes our past good and bad deeds catch up to us; sometimes karma is so real you can almost touch her.... The cruelty and the kindness of family and friends all play a role in this epic read.



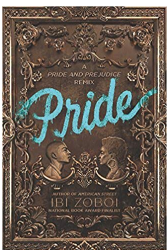
**Mrs. Bienvenue also suggests...**

**Title:** *Watership Down*

**Author:** Richard Adams

**Why I am grateful for this book:** I literally read this book every summer the first week of vacation. It is more than a story about rabbits. It is about good v. evil, democracy v. communism and the lives of those who choose to live together free and wild. The characters of Hazel, Fiver, Bigwig and Kefar are the protagonists in this lyrical work. They risk their lives to save each other and make the warren a better place. I have a picture and quote from the book tattooed on

my upper back. This was one of my late dad's favorite books. Whenever I read this, I feel closer to his spirit.



**Mrs. Melissa Newell, LPS ELA & Literacy Coordinator suggests...**

**Title:** *Pride*

**Author:** Ibi Zoboi

**Why I am grateful for this book:** As a Jane Austen *Pride and Prejudice* fan, I love this modern day love story. The characters connect and are reminiscent of the Bennet girls and Mr. Darcy, but set in Brooklyn, NY with spoken word poetry and new kicks at the core. Despite coming from seemingly different worlds, they manage to connect. I am grateful for this fresh approach and even more grateful that Elizabeth Acevedo, author of *The Poet X* (I highly recommend you check this one out too!) narrates, if you listen to the audio book. I have given this away as gifts many times. Enjoy!