

Summer 2019 Reading Recommendations

The list below is a compilation of summer reading recommendations from your past and future teachers. This list provides you all with the opportunity to get a unique perspective of your teachers, as these are texts that they **LOVE** and want to share with you.

For example, if you like Mr. Clarke then you should read *The Rap Year* by Shea Serrano. It's as simple as that.

If you're into love stories that aren't lame or sappy and want to experience the work of a phenomenal writer and storyteller, you should check out Ms. Smith and Ms. Clark's recommendation, *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

All of these books are available at your local Boston Public Library branch. If you're unsure of where your local branch is located, please see the list below for the address!

If you're already a member of your local BPL branch, you should check out an app called Libby. This app allows you to check out books via your phone or tablet and lets you digitally access whatever you want instantly and for free.

Boston Public Library Branches

Allston/Brighton: 300 N. Harvard St. & 40 Academy Hill Rd & 419 Faneuil St

Charlestown: 179 Main St

Copley Square: 700 Boylston St.

Dorchester: 690 Adams St + 500 Columbia Rd + 1520 Dorchester Ave + 41 Geneva Ave + 27 Richmond St + 690 Washington St

East Boston: 365 Bremen St

Hyde Park: 35 Harvard Ave

Jamaica Plain: 433 Centre St

Mattapan: 1350 Blue Hill Ave

North End: 25 Parmenter St

Roslindale: 4246 Washington St

Roxbury: 2044 Columbus Ave

South Boston: 646 East Broadway

South End: 685 Tremont St

West End: 151 Cambridge St

West Roxbury: 1961 Centre St

Teacher Recommendations

Mr. Clarke, High School Math Teacher

The Rap Yearbook

By Shea Serrano

Why read one of these books?

It's such a good and thoughtful look at a few iconic songs from every year from 1979-2014. The charts and footnotes are all hilarious. It's going to be a TV show on AMC produced by Questlove later this year.

You should read this book if you like...Hip Hop or Laughing or Mr. Clarke.

Ms. Smith, Lower School Principal

Americanah

By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Why read one of these books?

It traces the experience of a young Nigerian woman who discovers what it means to be black when she immigrated to the US. It deals with race, love and finding oneself--great for any high schooler!

You should read this book if you like...love stories that aren't lame and sappy. :)

Ms. GDR, 8th-grade ELA Teacher

We Were Liars

By E. Lockhart

Why read this? Surprise ending!

You should read this book if you like...mysteries on a Martha's Vineyard-type island.

Mr. Manning, 10th-grade English Teacher

All-American Boys

By Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

SlaughterHouse -Five

By Kurt Vonnegut

Why read these books?

All-American Boys: Anything Jason Reynolds writes is gold.

SlaughterHouse-Five: This is the first book I enjoyed reading in high school student. Vonnegut's style is simple; he is the master of deploying dark humor, irony, and the unexpected.

You should read this book if you like...

All-American Boys: if you want to glimpse of the world through another perspective and you want to grapple with and be challenged by contemporary conversations about police brutality.

SlaughterHouse-Five: if you think you're sort of into science-fiction but aren't ready for sci-fi conventions, if you want be unstuck in time, or have a weird sense of humor (like me).

Mr. Quarantello, 10th-grade History Teacher

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History

By Elizabeth Kolbert

Why read one of these books?

It's sick. And it is about the human impact on the environment.

Ms. Haffercamp (formerly Ms. Shipow), 5th-grade ELA Teacher

The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater

Citizen Illegal by Jose Olivarez

Hey, Kiddo by Jarret J. Krosoczka

Darius the Great Is Not Okay by Adib Khorram

The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

Far from the Tree by Robin Benway

Born A Crime by Trevor Noah

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sanchez

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

American Street by Ibi Zoboi

Exit West by Mohsin Hamid

We Are Okay by Nina LaCour

Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson

Why read one of these books?

These books all provide insight to the variety of lives that people lead and their various challenges, insecurities, and triumphs. Across a variety of genres, they all help build empathy for others in some way or another.

You should read this book if you like...to better understand the world around you and the lives of people in it.

Ms. Clark, 9th-grade Student Support Teacher

Americanah

By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Turtles All the Way Down

By John Green

Why read one of these books?

Americanah tells the story of a young woman who immigrated to the US from Nigeria to attend college. Chimimanda Ngozi Adichie, who also grew up in Nigeria, is a phenomenal writer and storyteller.

^Adichie's TED talk: https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en

Turtles All the Way Down is a YA novel by John Green (he also wrote *The Fault in Our Stars*), who follows high schooler Aza on her quest to find a missing billionaire while also dealing with an anxiety disorder.

Ms. Rodriguez, Director of Family and Community Relations

A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America

By Ronald Takaki

Why read this? Upon its first publication, *A Different Mirror* was hailed by critics and academics everywhere as a dramatic new retelling of our nation's past. Beginning with the colonization of the New World, it recounted the history of America in the voice of the non-Anglo peoples of the United States--Native Americans, African Americans, Jews, Irish Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and others--groups who helped create this country's rich mosaic culture.

You should read this book if you like... learning about the contributions of immigrants to our country

Mr. Shea, 7th-grade Science Teacher

The Martian

By Andy Weir

The Boys in the Boat

By Daniel James Brown

Why read these books?

The Martian: A science fiction book which does a tremendous job of explaining the science. In addition to being an awesome way to learn about Mars and survival on a foreign planet, it is also one of the funniest and most gripping books I've read.

The Boys in the Boat: A non-fiction book which tells the incredible story of the US men's rowing team at the 1936 Olympics leading up to WWII. This book teaches important lessons on perseverance and teamwork, as well as the necessary intersection of the two.

You should read this book if you like...

The Martian: space, science, or just laughing out loud at every other page.

The Boys in the Boat: sports, water, or getting the chills reading about people triumphing against all odds.

Mr. Nelson, 10th-grade and 12th-grade Math Teacher

And Then There Were None

By Agatha Christie

David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants

By Malcolm Gladwell

Why read one of these books?

And Then There Were None: It's the book that made me fall in love with reading! It's accessible and really exciting. It's a murder mystery where ten murders are killed sequentially in a mansion on a deserted island.

David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants: I didn't discover engaging nonfiction writing like Malcolm Gladwell until I got to college.

You should read this book if you like...

And Then There Were None: murder mysteries, solving puzzles, and debating ethics!

David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants: underdog stories, history, and science.

Ms. Stebbins, 9th-grade Math Teacher

Girl at War

By Sara Novic

Why read this? Intense and well written historical fiction about a young girl's experience in the Croatian war of independence/ her experiences dealing with the trauma during her college years in NYC.

You should read this book if you like...historical fiction