

Deerfield Academy

Summer Reading 2021

Reading remains one of life's great pleasures and an important means of broadening our horizons of knowledge and experience. This list includes books of diverse cultural perspectives for readers with varying interests and abilities. Enjoy your reading discoveries.

All students must read **FOUR** books, **one** of which is designated. **Three** other choices from the list are left to you to make when and as you wish.

We recommend you choose and enjoy one book in June, choose and enjoy a second and third in July, and **then complete the required read for your grade level or senior elective in August. You must bring the required book with you to campus at the start of the Fall Term.**

Electronic texts are permissible. If, for any reason, you cannot obtain the required book online or from your local bookstore or library, please call Deerfield's Campus Store (Hitchcock House) at 413-774-1513 to arrange a shipment. You can also email caustin@deerfield.edu. He will help you resolve the difficulty.

June

Adichie, Chimamanda. **Half of a Yellow Sun**—In post-colonial Nigeria, three children of different backgrounds experience the ravages of civil war and relief of union.

Akhtar, Ayad. **Homeland Elegies**—A sharp, insightful novel about Muslim immigrants and their families experiencing post-2016 America.

Barr, Damian. **You Will Be Safe Here**—Two mothers in South Africa—a century apart—commit to saving their sons from the forces confining the boys.

Camus, Albert. **The Plague**—Still timely, this existential novel studies the human condition and its meaning in the face of a deadly virus that sweeps through Algiers.

Cusk, Rachel. **Outline**—This inventive novel is the first in a trilogy that follows a British novelist's experience of being a woman in the world of contemporary literature.

Davies, Peter Ho. **The Fortunes**—Chinese-American families strive to repair lives fractured or frayed by their immigrant experiences.

Erpenbeck, Jenny. **Go, Went, Gone**—A retired classics professor in Germany finds a new field of study that awakens his compassion—the plight of African refugees in Europe.

Hargrave, Kiran Millwood. **The Mercies**—Historical fiction and witchcraft intertwine in this novel about a Norwegian village where all the men have died.

Howarth, Paul. **Only Killers and Thieves**—If you enjoy westerns, you may find this tale of the Australian outback fascinating.

Kolbert, Elizabeth. **The Sixth Extinction**—Kolbert’s reporting may alter the way you see climate change.

Lalami, Laila. **The Other Americans**—The murder of an immigrant in California strains a family’s bonds and reveals the divisions in the nation’s culture.

Macdonald, Helen. **H is for Hawk**—Wrought by grief her father’s death, a woman finds relief in the fierce grace of a goshawk.

Mouawad, Wajdi. **Birds of a Kind**—Contemplate the nature of identity with this new set play amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Okparanta, Chinelo. **Happiness, Like Water**—Whether in their native Nigeria or new homes in the United States, these strong men and women draw on their cultural bonds.

Rooney, Sally. **Normal People**—Two young people from the same Irish town experience the complexities of friendship.

Solnit, Rebecca. **Men Explain Things to Me**—Brilliant and sometimes comic essays on the gender wars.

Urea, Luís Alberto. **The House of Broken Angels**—A Mexican-American family celebrates its history during a memorable weekend.

Vásquez, Juan Gabriel. **The Sound of Things Falling**—Confront the stories behind the violence of the Colombian drug wars.

Wilkerson, Isabel. **The Warmth of Other Suns**—Recounting the lives of three families, Wilkerson traces the great migration northward by African Americans through the middle of the 20th century.

Yu, Charles. **Interior Chinatown**—Willis Wu wants to be more than a prop or a type in the screenplay that reveals his life.

July

Bennett, Brit. **The Vanishing Half**—A striking look at family and passing in America told through the story of twin sisters.

Burgess, Anthony. **A Clockwork Orange**—Alex, the teenager from Hell, having committed unspeakable mayhem in a bleak England, is “programmed” by the state to sin no more.

Danticat, Edwidge. **The Dew Breaker**—A Haitian woman traveling to Florida from New York with her father learns the truth about his life and work in Haiti under the Duvalier dictatorship.

Ellison, Ralph. **Invisible Man**—Nameless, yet real, Ellison's African American protagonist journeys from the rural South to Harlem, discovering himself and his invisibility.

Evaristo, Bernardine. **Girl, Woman, Other**—This Man Booker Prize-winning novel follows the lives of a dozen characters in contemporary Britain.

Ferrante, Elena. **My Brilliant Friend**—First in a quartet of novels tracking a friendship between two women in Naples.

Gyasi, Yaa. **Transcendent Kingdom**—Those who enjoyed **Homegoing** will love this novel about a Ghanaian family taking root in Alabama.

Hill, Nathan. **The Nix**—This surreal social satire targets American cultural trends from the 1960s hippies to the 2017 hipsters.

Hudes, Quiara Alegría. **Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue**—Follow Elliot's return to peacetime after serving in Iraq, as Hudes, who will visit campus this year, begins her trilogy of award-winning plays focused on the Puerto Rican veteran and his family.

Krakauer, Jon. **Missoula**—A journalist exposes the truth about the manner in which one college handled sexual assaults on campus.

Nelson, Maggie. **The Argonauts**—A celebrated prose writer confronts gender through literature, philosophy, and personal narrative.

O'Farrell, Maggie. **Hamnet**—This novel set during the plague years in England will whet your appetite for fiction about Shakespeare.

Phillips, Julia. **Disappearing Earth**—The mystery of two girls who go missing in Kamchatka unfolds through the voices of a number of women whose lives are altered by the disappearances.

Smith, Zadie. **On Beauty**—Race, class, and gender clash on a college campus where life's complications—and beauty—ultimately emerge. A nice companion to E.M. Forster's **Howards End**.

Towles, Amor. **A Gentleman in Moscow**—Reside with Count Rostov, who spends thirty eventful years under house arrest inside the Metropol Hotel as the world outside spins forward.

Vanhoecker, Mark. **Skyfaring: A Pilot's Journey**—From the cockpit of a jumbo jet at 36,000 feet, experience the world.

Verghese, Abraham. **Cutting for Stone**—You'll be swept into this riveting tale about two generations of Indian doctors working in Ethiopia through tumultuous times.

Wray, John. **Godsend**—A California woman seeking purpose goes to Afghanistan and finds herself unprepared for life as a jihadist.

August

Black Women's Writing:

Central Questions:

Creative Nonfiction Workshop:

Butler, Octavia. **Kindred**

Eugenides, Jeffrey. **Middlesex**

Taussig, Rebekah. **Sitting Pretty**

Future Shock:

Matters of Perspective:

Metaphors We Live By:

Mystery, Madness, and Lies:

Poetry Now:

Shakespeare--Forsaken Friends:

Slavery's Literary Legacy:

Writing on the Edge:

Eggers, David. **The Circle**

Winterson, Jeanette. **The Passion**

Berger, John. **Ways of Seeing**

Christie, Agatha. **Witness for the Prosecution & Other Stories**

Burt, Stephen. **Sixty Contemporary American Poems and**

How to Read Them

Winterson, Jeanette. **The Gap of Time**

Butler, Octavia. **Kindred**

Grise, Virginia. **Blu**