



Upper School Summer Reading 2025

Over the summer, each student should read the books assigned to their class. These books will be provided by the school.

- Class IX** *Fahrenheit 341*, Ray Bradbury [English]
 A History of the World in 100 Objects, Neil MacGregor [History]
- Class X** *Educated*, Tara Westover [English]
 Frankenstein, Mary W. Shelley [History]
- Class XI** *The Contemporary American Essay*, [English]
 Never Caught, Erica Armstrong Dunbar [History]
 The World: A Brief Introduction by Richard Haass [Global Scholars]
- Class XII** [Select one of the following]
 Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë OR
 The Remains of the Day, Kazuo Ishiguro OR
 The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison

Students are asked to avoid reading the following books that are part of the Upper-School English curriculum:

Douglass, Frederick: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
Faulkner, William: *As I Lay Dying*
Fitzgerald, F. Scott: *The Great Gatsby*
Hurston, Zora Neale: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
Jen, Gish: *Typical American*
Kaufman, Moises: *The Laramie Project*
Ibsen, Henrik: *A Doll's House*
Nottage, Lynn: *Sweat*
Proulx, Annie: *Brokeback Mountain*
Rankine, Claudia: *Citizen*
Shakespeare, William: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Sonnets*
Smith, Ali: *Girl Meets Boy*
Wiesel, Elie: *Night*
Woodson, Jacqueline: *Red at the Bone*

Here is a suggested reading list curated by Nightingale's librarians, with recommendations from the professional community and students, arranged by theme. Click [here](#) for the complete annotated list.

New and Noteworthy

The God of the Woods by Liz Moore

Gabriële by Claire and Anne Berest

The Emperor of Gladness by Ocean Vuong

Taking Manhattan: The Extraordinary Events that Created New York and Shaped America by Russell Shorto

The Extraordinary Disappointments of Leopold Berry by Ransom Riggs

The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Everything is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection by John Green

Orbital by Samantha Harvey

Atmosphere: A Love Story by Taylor Jenkins Reid

My Name is Emilia del Valle by Isabel Allende

Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins

Afrofuturism

Black Leopard, Red Wolf by Marlon James

How Long 'Til Black Future Month? By N.K. Jemisin

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna

Binti by Nnedi Okorafor

Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler

Raybearer by Jordan Ifueko

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

Dread Nation by Justina Ireland

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

Lost Ark Dreaming by Suyi Davies Okungbowa

Womb City by Tlotlo Tsamaase

Drama and Poetry

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard

The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler and Jacqueline Woodson

Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen

All My Sons by Arthur Miller

Chekhov's Three Sisters and Woolf's Orlando by Sarah Ruhl

The Tradition by Jericho Brown

Wound is the Origin of Wonder by Maya C. Popa

Eye Level by Jenny Xie

Library of Small Catastrophes by Allison C. Rollins

Gold by Rumi

You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World by Ada Limón

Time Is a Mother by Ocean Vuong

Bluff by Danez Smith

Eco-Literature

Entangled Life by Merlin Sheldrake

Migrations by Charlotte McConaghy

Weather by Jenny Offill

Why Fish Don't Exist by Lulu Miller

The Big Oyster by Mark Kurlansky

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

The Book of Hope by Jane Goodall
The Language of Trees by Katie Holten
The Matter of Everything by Suzie Sheeny
The Overstory by Richard Powers
The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan
Living on Earth by Peter Godfrey-Smith
North Woods by Daniel Mason
Playground by Richard Powers
We Loved It All by Lydia Millet
The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich

Literature of a Life

Empress by Ruby Lal
Orlando by Virginia Woolf
Ordinary Girls by Jaquira Díaz
Orwell's Roses by Rebecca Solnit
Vivian Maier Developed by Ann Marks
Negroland by Margo Jefferson
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X
Buddha by Karen Armstrong
Poet Warrior by Joy Harjo
Lovely One by Ketanji Brown Jackson
Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton
The Rebel Romanov by Helen Rappaport
We Will Be Jaguars by Nemonte Nenquimo; Mitch Anderson
Joan: a Novel of Joan of Arc by Katherine J. Chen

Dystopias and Utopias

Prophet Song by Paul Lynch
Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
We Set the Dark on Fire by Tehlor Kay Mejia
Scythe by Neal Shusterman
The Dispossessed by Ursula K. Leguin
Iron Widow by Xiran Jay Zhao
The Fifth Season by N. K. Jemisin
Sea of Tranquility by Emily St. John Mandel
The Dream Hotel by Laila Lalami
I Cheerfully Refuse by Leif Enger
The Other Valley by Scott Alexander Howard
Service Model by Adrian Tchaikovsky

Read the Signs: Literary Horoscopes

[Aries] *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
 Sword Catcher by Cassandra Clare
[Taurus] *The Murder of Mr. Ma* by John Shen Yen Nee
 The Kamogawa Food Detectives by Hisashi Kashiwai
[Gemini] *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
 One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus
[Cancer] *The Mountains Sing* by Que Mai Phan Nguyen
 The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller
[Leo] *Atonement* by Ian McEwan

Conversations with Friends by Sally Rooney
[Virgo] *Begin Again* by Emma Lord
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
[Libra] *Pretty* by Keith F. Miller
Happy Place by Emily Henry
[Scorpio] *Circe* by Madeline Miller
The Familiar by Leigh Bardugo
[Sagittarius] *A Short Walk Through a Wide World* by Douglas Westerbeke
The Husbands by Holly Gramazio
[Capricorn] *Babel* by R.F. Kuang
The Collectors: Stories by A.S. King (editor)
[Aquarius] *The Waves* by Virginia Woolf
The Three-Body Problem by Cixin Liu; Ken Liu (Translator)
[Pices] *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke
Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

Re-Imaginations

James by Percival Everett
Pride and Premeditation by Tirzah Price
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
John Dollar by Marianne Wiggins
Eurydice by Sarah Ruhl
Bodega Dreams by Ernest Quiñonez
Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie
Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys
These Violent Delights by Chloe Gong
Hester by Laurie Lica Albanese
Hungerstone by Kat Dunn
The Hymn to Dionysus by Natasha Pulley
The River Has Roots by Amal El-Mohtar

Love & Friendship

Yours from the Tower by Sally Nicholls
The Sentence by Louise Erdich
Imogen, Obviously by Becky Albertalli
The Queens of New York by E.L. Shen
The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid
Gwen and Art Are Not In Love by Lex Croucher
Learned By Heart by Emma Donoghue
The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne
Tom Lake by Ann Patchett
My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante
Anita de Monte Laughs Last by Xochitl Gonzalez
Blue Sisters by Coco Mellors
Intermezzo by Sally Rooney
When the World Tips Over by Jandy Nelson

Bite-Sized Reads

Foster by Claire Keegan
Of Woman and Salt by Gabriela Garcia
Clear by Carys Davies
If Beale Street Could Talk by James Baldwin

Recitatif by Toni Morrison
Winter in Sokcho by Elisa Shua Dusapin
Home Home by Lisa Allen-Agostini
Siddhartha by Herman Hesse
Animal Farm by George Orwell
The Friend by Sigrid Nunez
Orbital by Samantha Harvey
The Swimmers by Julie Otsuka
Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

ProCom Recommendations

The Passing Playbook by Isaac Fitzsimons
We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson
Bloodchild and other Stories by Octavia Butler
The Gift by Edith Eva Eger
The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams
Poverty, by America by Matthew Desmond
Pachinko by Min Jin Lee
A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki
Life after Life by Kate Atkinson
Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin
Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver
Trust by Hernan Diaz
A Good Neighborhood by Therese Anne Fowler
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
Home by Marilynne Robinson

LAB Recommendations

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
People We Meet on Vacation by Emily Henry
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune
The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller
The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid
The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs
The Woman in the Window by A.J. Finn
You're Welcome, Universe by Whitney Gardner
Cinder by Marissa Meyer
When Dimple Met Rishi by Sandhya Menon
Pachinko by Min Jin Lee