



## 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 451*, 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:

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Douglass, Frederick: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*  
Faulkner, William: *As I Lay Dying*  
Fitzgerald, F. Scott: *The Great Gatsby*  
Hurstun, 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*

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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-Imaginings

*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