



# Summer Reading 2019-20



## 9th Grade Selection



**9th GRADE \*\*\* SLEEPING FRESHMEN NEVER LIE by David Lubar:** Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Scott records his first year of bullies, romance, honors, classes, and brotherhood.



# Summer Reading 2019-20



# 10th Grade Selection

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Book:

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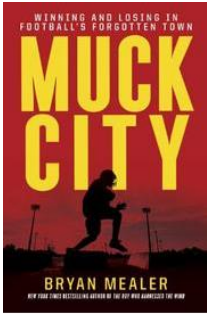
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# Summer Reading 2019-20



## 11th Grade Selections



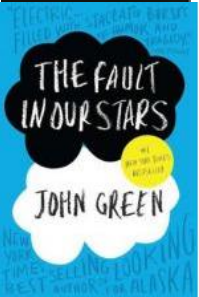
### 11<sup>th</sup> GRADE \*\*\* MUCK CITY by Bryan Mealer

In a town deep in the Florida Everglades, where high school football is the only escape, a haunted quarterback, a returning hero, and a scholar struggle against terrible odds. High school football players and other residents of hardscrabble Belle Glade, Florida, fight for their pride and their lives in this chronicle from veteran reporter Bryan Mealer

The loamy black “muck” that surrounds Belle Glade, Florida once built an empire for Big Sugar and provided much of the nation's vegetables, often on the backs of roving, destitute migrants. Many of these were children who honed their skills along the field rows and started one of the most legendary football programs in America.



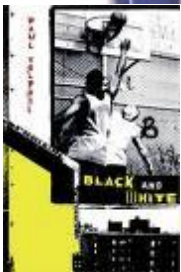
**11<sup>th</sup> GRADE \*\*\* RUNNER by Carl Deuker:** Chance Taylor's father, a Gulf War Veteran and alcoholic, is fired from his job. Chance worries about where they will get the money to pay the mortgage for the run-down sailboat they call home. Running along the Seattle waterfront is an escape from all of his problems. When a marina employee offers to pay him \$250 a week to pick up packages, Chance finds himself in danger and gets a glimpse of the heroic man his father once was.



**11<sup>th</sup> GRADE \*\*\* THE FAULT IN OUR STARS by John Green** Seventeen- year-old Hazel Grace has lung cancer and needs to carry everywhere an oxygen tank. Her mother Frannie encourages her to go to a cancer support group against her will. However, when Hazel meets the eighteen year-old Gus, who lost part of one leg with cancer but apparently is cured, they fall in love with each other. Hazel introduces her favorite novel to Gus and tells that she dreamed of having a conversation with the author, Van Houten, who lives in Amsterdam. Gus contacts him, and Ven Houten invites them to visit him in Amsterdam. They travel to Netherlands with Frannie where Hazel will learn that things are not like they seem to be.



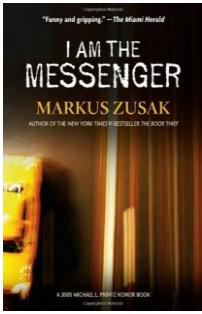
**11<sup>th</sup> GRADE \*\*\* JUST LISTEN by Sara Dessen:** Annabel Greene seems to have it all, but that is not the case. At school, she is shunned because she's hiding secrets about an end-of-the-year party. At home, she's hiding secrets about her sister's anorexia. Her life is changed when she meets Owen Armstrong, the school's loner who is obsessed with music and telling the truth.



**11<sup>th</sup> GRADE \*\*\* BLACK AND WHITE by Paul Volponi:** Two Island City High School basketball stars known as "Black and White" turn to robbery to get easy money for shoes and seniors fees. When the gun goes off during a robbery, Marcus and Eddie tell in alternating chapters what happens to them in the aftermath. Their friendship is challenged as they experience the justice system differently because of race.



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**11<sup>th</sup> GRADE \*\*\* I AM the MESSENGER by Markus Zusak** By the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Book Thief*, this is a cryptic journey filled with laughter, fists, and love. Ed Kennedy is an underage cabdriver without much of a future. He's pathetic at playing cards, hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey, and utterly devoted to his coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first ace arrives in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary) until only one question remains: Who's behind Ed's mission?



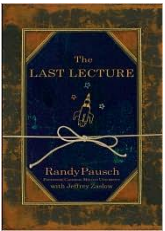
**11<sup>th</sup> GRADE \*\*\* BOOT CAMP by Todd Strasser** In the middle of the night Garrett is taken from his home to Harmony Lake, a boot camp for troubled teens. Maybe some kids deserve to be sent there, but Garrett knows he doesn't. Subjected to brutal physical and psychological abuse, he tries to fight back, but the battle is futile. He won't be allowed to leave until he's admitted his "mistakes" and conformed to Harmony Lake's standards of behavior. And there's no way to fake it. Beaten, humiliated, and stripped of his pride, Garrett's spirit is slowly ebbing away. Then he hears whispers of an escape plot. It's incredibly risky -- if he's caught, the consequences will be unthinkable -- but it may be his only way out.



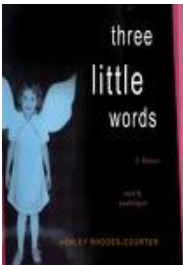
## 12th Grade Selections



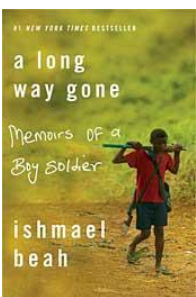
**12th GRADE \*\*\* TO SLEEP WITH THE ANGELS by David Cowan and John Kuenster:**  
 In Chicago on a cold December afternoon in 1958, Our Lady of the Angels School burned ferociously. Within minutes, 92 students and 3 nuns perished. The number of children they found burned or asphyxiated in their second floor classrooms horrified even seasoned firefighters. As a result of this disaster, fire codes across the country were revised to save lives. This is a riveting chronicle of the fire and its aftermath as survivors dealt with physical and emotional scars.



**12th GRADE \*\*\* THE LAST LECTURE by Randy Pausch** When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave—"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"—wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment (because "time is all you have...and you may find one day that you have less than you think"). It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about living.



**12th GRADE \*\*\* THREE LITTLE WORDS by Ashley Rhodes-Courter** In this engrossing memoir, college senior Rhodes-Courter chronicles her hardscrabble childhood in foster care, detailing glitches in the system and infringements of laws that led to a string of unsuitable-and sometimes nightmarish-placements for her and her younger half-brother, Luke. Using a matter-of-fact tone at times laced with bitterness, the author recounts how she was wrenched away from her teenage mother at age three and was later removed from her unstable grandfather's home to live in cramped quarters with strangers. In this inspiring, unforgettable memoir, Ashley finds the courage to succeed - and in doing so, discovers the power of her own voice.



**12th GRADE \*\*\* A LONG WAY GONE, Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah** This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.



**12th GRADE \*\*\* KITE RUNNER by Khaled Hosseini**

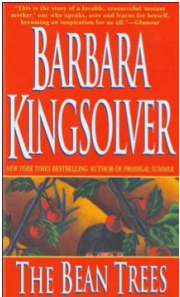
A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years. "I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975." So begins a poignant tale of two motherless boys growing up in Kabul, a city teetering on the brink of destruction at the dawn of the Soviet invasion.

Despite their class differences, Amir, the son of a wealthy businessman, and Hassan, his devoted sidekick and the son of Amir's household servant, play together, cause mischief together, and compete in the annual kite-fighting tournament -- Amir flying the kite, and Hassan running down the kites they fell. But one day, Amir betrays Hassan, and his betrayal grows increasingly devastating as their tale continues. Amir will spend much of his life coming to terms with his initial and subsequent acts of

cowardice, and finally seek to make reparations.



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## 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE \*\*\* THE BEAN TREES by Barbara Kingsolver

Clear-eyed and spirited, Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity for putting down roots. Hers is a story about love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, and the discovery of surprising resources in apparently empty places.



## 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE \*\*\* THE MAZE RUNNER by James Dashner

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. When the lift's doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they've closed tight. And every 30 days a new boy has been delivered in the lift. Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up—the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers. Thomas might be more important than he could ever guess. If only he could unlock the dark secrets buried within his

mind.