

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Reading and writing in the 21st century classroom is an interdisciplinary effort. Students read and write in all disciplines, but they have particularly extended and frequent opportunities to do so in English, the sciences, and social studies.

Summer reading at the high school level encompasses these three disciplines. Over the duration of each student's high school experience, he or she will select from summer reading lists that encourage reading for enjoyment and education, while addressing some of the "big questions" that surface in these three subjects areas and in adult life.

The books selected for each grade represent a variety of interests and reading levels. Print copies are readily available locally or via online booksellers. In addition to local bookstores, the Thayer Public Library is a valuable (and free) resource. If you need help in selecting books, do not hesitate to ask the librarian!

For those of you planning travel this summer, consider going beyond the bookshelves and print pages to include audio books in your student's experience. While audio books are not a replacement for reading, they are a wonderful supplement, especially when experienced with a copy of the actual book. Audio books are available at the library on CD or on iTunes.

As you explore these opportunities and the "big question" for the summer, remember that summer reading is for pleasure! We hope you and your son or daughter find many enjoyable books and stories to be part of your summer. We look forward to working with you throughout your student's high school career.

Sincerely,

Rock Roberts, Director of English & Reading, rock.roberts@braintreeschools.org
Dr. Gorman Lee, Director of Social Studies, gorman.lee@braintreeschools.org
Dr. Betsey Clifford, Director of Science, betsey.clifford@braintreeschools.org



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Respect & Responsibility
Involvement
Diversity
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Big Question:
How would you define an excellent education?



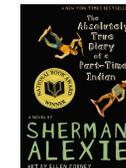
***This Star Won't Go Out* §**
by Ester Earl



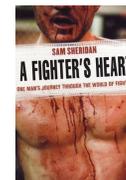
***Flash Boys* §**
by Michael Lewis



Steal Like an Artist
by Austin Kleon

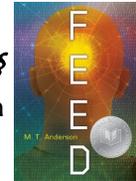


***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* §**
by Sherman Alexie

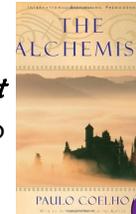


***A Fighter's Heart* §**
by Sam Sheridan

***Feed* §**
by M.T. Anderson



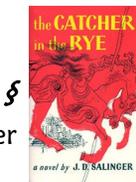
The Alchemist
by Paulo Coelho



My Most Excellent Year
by Steve Kluger



***The Catcher in the Rye* §**
by J.D. Salinger



***The Glass Castle* §**
by Jeannette Walls



Looking for great books? Interested in logging your reading hours for a prize?
Visit thayerpubliclibraryteens.blogspot.com and www.thayerpubliclibrary.org.
§ This book was written for adults or young adults and contains some mature language and/or content.

Steps to a complete summer reading assignment for students entering grade 12*:

- Select one book from the ten choices on the flyer (more details available at www.braintreeschools.org/summer).
- Read it and complete the Note-Taking Chart (below) for the Grade 12 Big Question.

How would you define an excellent education? Is it defined by straight As on a report card? Is it determined by the interests of the student? Is it determined by the knowledge society expects an educated adult to have?

Choose a book from the 12th grade list. As you read, consider the questions above. Copy the chart below and complete it for the book you have selected.

Character/person from the book	His/her educational moment	Was it <u>excellent</u> ? (Y/N)	Why?
1.			
2.			
3.			
Weigh your evidence and answer the question: How would you define an excellent education?			

(You can use a character more than once as you seek three examples from the book.)

- Select any other book (with parent approval).
- Read it and complete the Note-Taking Questions (below). The charts can be printed at www.braintreeschools.org/summer.

1. Select, from your book, five words that are new to you. Copy the words and the sentences or phrases in which they appear. Define each word (using a dictionary, online resource, or your own knowledge of context and roots).

2. List at least five important points, events, or facts from the book, and give a one- or two-sentence explanation of why each is important to the book.

3. Copy or print this chart and complete it to demonstrate connections you've made using your choice reading book.

Text-to-Self Connections: How does a moment, character, or part of this book relate to your own life?	Text-to-Text Connections: How can you connect this book to another book or article you've read?	Text-to-World Connections: How does this book connect to something that happened or is happening in the real world?
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.

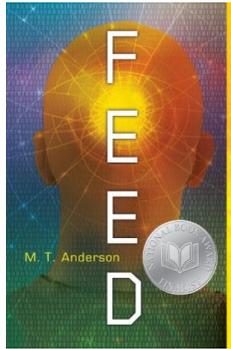
- Turn in your written work to your English teacher in the fall.
- Participate in the summer reading class activity in your English class.
- Your passing or failing mark for summer reading will show via the Aspen X2 Student/Parent Portal.

* Students entering Grade 12 AP English (AP Language or AP Literature) should complete the assigned summer work associated with that course instead of the school-wide assignment.

Feed §

by M.T. Anderson

For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its omnipresent ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. Following in the footsteps of George Orwell, Anthony Burgess, and Kurt Vonnegut Jr., M. T. Anderson has created a not-so-brave new world — and a smart, savage satire that has captivated readers with its view of an imagined future that veers unnervingly close to the here and now.



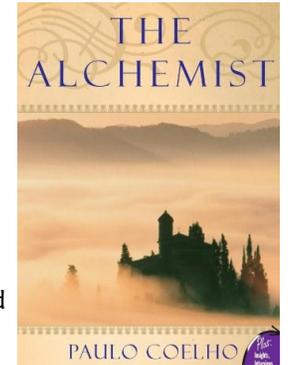
BrainTree High School Summer Reading
for
students
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The Alchemist

by Paulo Coelho,
trans. Alan R. Clarke

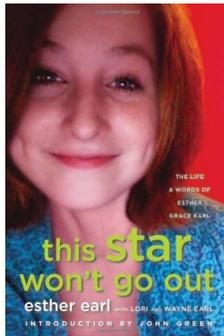
The Alchemist is the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist. Every few decades a book is published that changes the lives of its readers forever. *The Alchemist* is such a book. With over a million and a half copies sold around the world, *The Alchemist* has already established itself as a modern classic, universally admired. Paulo Coelho's charming fable, now available in English for the first time, will enchant and inspire an even wider audience of readers for generations to come.



This Star Won't Go Out §

by Ester Earl

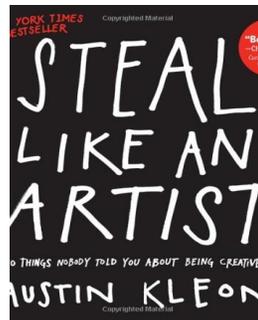
In full color and illustrated with art and photographs, this is a collection of the journals, fiction, letters, and sketches of the late Esther Grace Earl, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 16. Essays by family and friends help to tell Esther's story along with an introduction by award-winning author John Green who dedicated his #1 bestselling novel *The Fault in Our Stars* to her.



Steal Like an Artist

by Austin Kleon

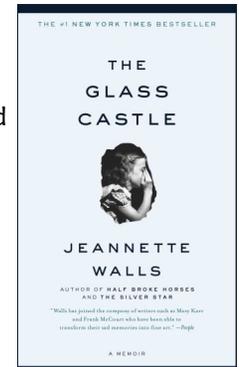
You don't need to be a genius, you just need to be yourself. That's the message from Austin Kleon, a young writer and artist who knows that creativity is everywhere, creativity is for everyone. A manifesto for the digital age, *Steal Like an Artist* is a guide whose positive message, graphic look and illustrations, exercises, and examples will put readers directly in touch with their artistic side.



The Glass Castle §

by Jeannette Walls

Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.



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My Most Excellent Year § by Steve Kluger

Set outside of Boston, this coming-of-age novel introduces the reader to three unforgettable characters: working-class T.C., who has fallen in love with the wealthy daughter of a diplomat; Alejandra, a high-school girl attempting to live a normal life despite her father's high-profile job; and T.C.'s brother

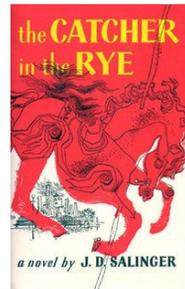
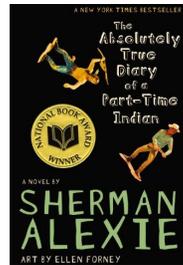
Augie, who is slowly realizing that he, too, has fallen in love, but with a boy. With alternating narration from each character's perspective, this electrifying novel weaves together the most excellent year of three students, incorporating the Boston Red Sox, the truest sense of family, and the belief in something as simple as Mary Poppins, along the way.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian §

by Sherman Alexie

Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he thought he was destined to live.



The Catcher in the Rye § by J.D. Salinger

Holden

narrates the story of a couple of days in his sixteen-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school. His constant wry observations about what he encounters, from teachers to phonies (the two of course are not mutually exclusive) capture the essence of the eternal teenage experience of alienation.

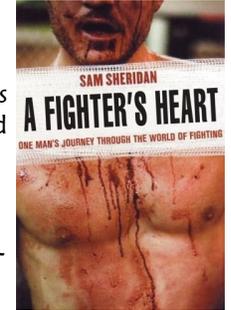
BrainTree High School Summer Reading
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students
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A Fighter's Heart: One Man's Journey through the World of Fighting §

by Sam Sheridan

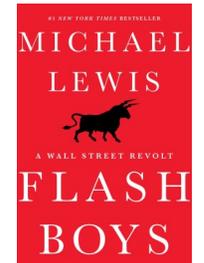
In 1999, after a series of wildly adventurous jobs around the world, Sam Sheridan found himself in Australia, loaded with cash and intent on not working until he'd spent it all. It occurred to him that, without distractions, he could finally indulge a long-dormant obsession: fighting. Within a year, he was in Bangkok training with the greatest fighter in muay Thai (Thai kickboxing) history and stepping through the ropes for a professional bout. That one fight wasn't enough. Sheridan set out to test himself on an epic journey into how and why we fight, facing Olympic boxers, Brazilian jiu-jitsu stars, and Ultimate Fighting champions. Along the way, Sheridan delivers an insightful look at violence as a career and a spectator sport, a behind-the-pageantry glimpse of athletes at the top of their terrifying game. *A Fighter's Heart* is a dizzying first-hand account of what it's like to reach the peak of finely disciplined personal aggression, to hit—and be hit.



Flash Boys §

by Michael Lewis

Flash Boys is about a small group of Wall Street guys who figure out that the U.S. stock market has been rigged for the benefit of insiders and that, post-financial crisis, the markets have become not more free but less, and more controlled by the big Wall Street banks. Working at different firms, they come to this realization separately; but after they discover one another, the flash boys band together and set out to reform the financial markets. This they do by creating an exchange in which high-frequency trading—source of the most intractable problems—will have no advantage whatsoever.



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