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 the 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, rroberts@braintreema.gov
Dr. Gorman Lee, Director of Social Studies, glee@braintreema.gov
Dr. Betsey Clifford, Director of Science, K-12 bclifford@braintreema.gov

The Big Question:
How should our past experiences shape our common future?

The Audacity of Hope
by Barack Obama

Killing Kennedy
by Bill O’Reilly

Unbroken §
by Laura Hillenbrand

MARCH
by John Lewis

I Am Malala
by Malala Yousafzai
and Christina Lamb

Murder in the High Himalayas §
by Jonathan Green

American Sniper §
by Chris Kyle

Lies My Teacher Told Me
by James W. Lowen

Adventure Capitalist
by Jim Rogers


§ 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 11*:

- **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 11 Big Question.**

  Diverse people, ideas, and experiences have shaped the American identity. How should these past experiences shape our common future?

  Choose a book from the list for 11th graders. As you read, focus on moments and events that should affect our future decisions as people, as a community, and as a nation. Copy the chart below and complete it using the book you selected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events from the book: Choose moments or events that represent the time, place, or culture in the story.</th>
<th>Implications for the future: How do the moments/events you chose affect future actions?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  
  Evaluate your examples and answer the question: How should these past experiences shape our common future?

- **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 Social Studies teacher in the fall.**

- **Participate in the summer reading class activity in your Social Studies class.**

- **Your passing or failing mark for summer reading will show via the Aspen X2 Student/Parent Portal.**

* Students entering Grade 11 AP US History should complete the assigned summer work associated with that course instead of this school-wide assignment.
**The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream**

by Barack Obama

*The Audacity of Hope* is Barack Obama’s call for a new kind of politics that builds upon those shared understandings that pull us together as Americans. Lucid in his vision of America’s place in the world, refreshingly candid about his family life and his time in the Senate, Obama here sets out his political convictions and inspires us to trust in the dogged optimism that has long defined us and that is our best hope going forward.

**Unbroken**

by Laura Hillenbrand

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane’s bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War. Laura Hillenbrand writes with the same rich and vivid narrative voice she displayed in *Seabiscuit*. Telling an unforgettable story of a man’s journey into extremity, *Unbroken* is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.

**Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot**

by Bill O’Reilly & Martin Dugard

A riveting historical narrative of the shocking events surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy. In the midst of a 1963 campaign trip to Texas, Kennedy is gunned down by an erratic young drifter named Lee Harvey Oswald. The former Marine Corps sharpshooter escapes the scene, only to be caught and shot dead while in police custody.

The events leading up to the most notorious crime of the twentieth century are almost as shocking as the assassination itself. *Killing Kennedy* chronicles both the heroism and deceit of Camelot, bringing history to life in ways that will profoundly move the reader.

**MARCH**

by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin & Nate Powell

March is a vivid first-hand account of Lewis’ lifelong struggle for civil and rights, meditating in the modern the distance traveled since the days of Crow and segregation. Rooted in personal story, it also reflects on highs and lows of the broader civil movement. Many years ago, John and other student activists drew inspiration from the 1958 comic book “Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story.” Now, his own comics bring those days to life for a new audience, testifying to a movement whose echoes will be heard for generations.

---

Images and editorial reviews were copied, edited, or adapted from www.amazon.com.

§ This book was written for adults or young adults and contains some mature language and/or content.
I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban
by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb
When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala’s miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Murder in the High Himalaya §
by Jonathan Green
On September 30, 2006 gunfire echoed through the thin air near Advance Base Camp on Cho Oyu Mountain. Frequented by thousands of climbers each year, Cho Oyu lies nineteen miles east of Mt. Everest on the border between Tibet and Nepal. To the elite mountaineering community, it offers a straightforward summit—a warm-up climb to her formidable sister. To Tibetans, Cho Oyu promises a gateway to freedom through a secret glacial path: the Nangpa La. Murder in the High Himalaya is the unforgettable account of the brutal killing of Kelsang Namtso—a seventeen-year-old Tibetan nun fleeing to India—by Chinese border guards. Witnessed by dozens of Western climbers, Kelsang’s death sparked an international debate over China’s savage oppression of Tibet. Adventure reporter Jonathan Green has gained rare entrance into this shadowland at the rooftop of the world. In his affecting portrait of modern Tibet, Green raises enduring questions about morality and the lengths we go to achieve freedom.

American Sniper §
by Chris Kyle, Scott McEwen & Jim DeFelice
Gripping, eye-opening, and powerful, American Sniper is the astonishing autobiography of SEAL Chief Chris Kyle, who is the record-holding sniper in U.S. military history. Kyle has more than 150 officially confirmed kills (the previous American record was 109), though his remarkable career total has not been made public by the Pentagon. In this New York Times bestselling memoir, Kyle shares the true story of his extraordinary decade-long career, including his multiple combat tours in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom) and elsewhere from 1999-2009.

Lies My Teacher Told Me
by James W. Loewen
This updated and revised edition of the American Book Award-winner and national bestseller revitalizes the truth of America’s history, explores how myths continue to be perpetrated, and includes a new chapter on 9/11 and the Iraq War.

Adventure Capitalist
by Jim Rogers
Behind the wheel of a sunburst-yellow, custom-built convertible Mercedes, Rogers and his fiancée, Paige Parker, began their "Millennium Adventure" on January 1, 1999, from Iceland. They traveled through 116 countries, including many where most have rarely ventured, such as Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Angola, Sudan, Congo, Colombia, and East Timor. They drove through war zones, deserts, jungles, epidemics, and blizzards. They had many narrow escapes. They camped with nomads and camels in the western Sahara. They ate silkworms, iguanas, snakes, termites, guinea pigs, porcupines, crocodiles, and grasshoppers. Best of all, they saw the real world from the ground up—the only vantage point from which it can be truly understood—economically, politically, and socially.

Images and editorial reviews were copied, edited, or adapted from www.amazon.com.
§ This book was written for adults or young adults and contains some mature language and/or content.