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


§ 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character/person from the book</th>
<th>His/her educational moment</th>
<th>Was it excellent? (Y/N)</th>
<th>Why?</th>
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Weigh your evidence and answer the question: How would you define an excellent education?

- 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.

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

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.

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.

Long Way Down
by Jason Reynolds
An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is National Book Award finalist and New York Times bestseller Jason Reynolds’s fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he’s going to murder the guy who killed his brother.

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.

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.
**The Help**  
by Kathryn Stockett

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who’s always taken orders quietly, but lately she’s unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She’s full of ambition, but without a husband, she’s considered a failure.

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**Where the Crawdads Sing**  
By Delia Owens

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

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**Educated**  
by Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara’s older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she’d traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

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**Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine**  
by Gail Honeyman

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she’s thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond’s big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one.

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**Friday Night Lights**  
by H.G. Bissinger

Socially and racially divided, Odessa isn’t known to be a place big on dreams, but every Friday night from September to December, when the Panthers play football, dreams can come true. With frankness and compassion, H. G. Bissinger unforgettable captures a season in the life of Odessa and shows how single-minded devotion to the team shapes the community and inspires - and sometimes shatters - the teenagers who wear the Panthers’ uniforms.