



# NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

CHARACTER • COMPASSION • CONFIDENCE

## Rising Junior (Not AP or IB) Selections

### ***All For Her: The Autobiography of Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. (A Holy Cross Book)***

On December 18, 2017, Pope Francis declared that Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., lived a life of heroic virtue and gave him the title “venerable,” marking another step closer to sainthood for the “Rosary Priest.” This new edition of Peyton’s biography tells the story of his life and dedication to the Blessed Mother as he discerned his vocation, overcame the obstacles of advanced tuberculosis and lack of education, and became a priest who eventually preached to more than 28 million people worldwide, worked with Hollywood stars, and founded Family Rosary and Family Theater Productions.

### ***Braiding Sweetgrass - Kimmerer (Nonfiction, Botany)***

As a botanist and professor of plant ecology, Robin Wall Kimmerer has spent a career learning how to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. As a Potawatomi woman, she learned from elders, family, and history that the Potawatomi, as well as a majority of other cultures indigenous to this land, consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers.

### ***Breaking Free from Broke: The Ultimate Guide to More Money and Less Stress - Kamel (Nonfiction, Finance)***

Kamel’s book dismantles financial myths and exposes traps, providing a clear path to financial peace. Covering topics from credit cards and loans, investing, and consumerism tactics.

### ***The City of Uncertain Walls - Murakami (Fiction, Fantasy, Translation)***

Listening to his own dreams and premonitions, the man leaves his life in Tokyo behind and ventures to a small mountain town, where he becomes the head librarian, only to learn the mysterious circumstances surrounding the gentleman who had the job before him. As the seasons pass and the man grows more uncertain about the porous boundaries between these two worlds, he meets a strange young boy who helps him to see what he’s been missing all along.

### ***The Dante Club - Matt Pearl - (Historic Fiction, Mystery)***

Boston, 1865 - literary geniuses of the Dante Club—poets and Harvard professors Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, and James Russell Lowell, along with publisher J. T. Fields—are finishing America’s first translation of The Divine Comedy. The powerful Boston Brahmins at Harvard College are fighting to keep Dante in obscurity, believing the infiltration of foreign superstitions to be as corrupting as the immigrants arriving at Boston Harbor. Historical Fiction

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* - Skloot - (Nonfiction, Biography, Science)**

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine: The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, which are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.

***Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* - Ilibagiza (Memoir, World Affairs, Faith)**

For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them. It was during those endless hours of unspeakable terror that Ilibagiza discovered the power of prayer, eventually shedding her fear of death and forging a profound and lasting relationship with God.

***Little Bee* - Cleave (Modern Fiction)**

The lives of a sixteen-year-old Nigerian orphan and a well-off British woman collide in this page-turning #1 *New York Times* bestseller, book club favorite, and “affecting story of human triumph” (*The New York Times Book Review*)

***Maus* - Spiegelman (Historical Fiction, Graphic Novel)**

A brutally moving work of art—widely hailed as the greatest graphic novel ever written—*Maus* recounts the chilling experiences of the author’s father during the Holocaust, with Jews drawn as wide-eyed mice and Nazis as menacing cats.

***The Midnight Library* - Matt Haig (Modern Fiction, Fantasy)**

What if you could read your way into another story of your life? In Matt Haig’s charming fantasy novel, 35-year-old Nora Seed peruses the books in an infinite library and discovers that each magical volume gives her a glimpse into a life she might have led.

***The Nickel Boys* - Whitehead (Historical Fiction)**

In this Pulitzer Prize winner, Colson Whitehead’s main character, Elwood Curtis, experiences firsthand the horrors of a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy—based on the real-life Dozier School for Boys, a now-closed reform school in Florida with a 111-year history of abusing students.

***The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures* - Fadiman (Nonfiction, Sociology, Medicine)**

Lia's parents, Foua and Nao Kao, were part of a large Hmong community in Merced, refugees from the CIA-run "Quiet War" in Laos. The Hmong, traditionally a close-knit and fierce people, have been less amenable to assimilation than most immigrants, adhering steadfastly to the rituals and beliefs of their ancestors. Lia's pediatricians, Neil Ernst and his wife, Peggy Philip, cleaved just as strongly to another

tradition: that of Western medicine. When Lia Lee Entered the American medical system, diagnosed as an epileptic, her story became a tragic case history of cultural miscommunication.

***A Walk in the Park* - Fedarko (Nonfiction, Hiking, Outdoors)**

Two friends, zero preparation, one dream. A few years after quitting his job to follow an ill-advised dream of becoming a guide on the Colorado River, Kevin Fedarko was approached by his best friend, *National Geographic* photographer Pete McBride, with a vision as bold as it was harebrained. Together, they would embark on an end-to-end traverse of the Grand Canyon, a journey that, McBride promised, would be “a walk in the park.”

***Watership Down* - Adams (Fiction, Fantasy, Animals)**

One of the most beloved novels of our time, *Watership Down* is an epic journey, a stirring tale of adventure, courage, and survival. Fiver could sense danger. Something terrible was going to happen to the warren; he felt sure of it. They had to leave immediately. So begins a long and perilous journey of survival for a small band of rabbits.