

SUMMER READING

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.

The Art Thief - Finkel (Nonfiction, Art, Psychology)

In this spellbinding portrait of obsession and flawed genius, Michael Finkel gives us one of the most remarkable true-crime narratives of our times, a riveting story of art, theft, love, and an insatiable hunger to possess beauty at any cost.

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.

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.

Finding My Way - Yousafzai (Memoir)

Finding My Way is a story of friendship and first love, of anxiety and self-discovery, of trying to stay true to yourself when everyone wants to tell you who you are. In it, Malala traces her path from high school loner to reckless college student to a young woman at peace with her past. Through candid, often messy moments like nearly failing exams, getting ghosted, and meeting the love of her life, Malala reminds us that real role models aren’t perfect—they’re human.

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*)

***March* - Lewis (History, Graphic Novel)**

March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

***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 Psychology of Money: Timeless Lessons on Wealth, Greed, and Happiness* - Housel (Nonfiction, Finance)**

Money—investing, personal finance, and business decisions—is typically taught as a math-based field, where data and formulas tell us exactly what to do. But in the real world, people don't make financial decisions on a spreadsheet. They make them at the dinner table, or in a meeting room, where personal history, your own unique view of the world, ego, pride, marketing, and odd incentives are scrambled together.

***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.

***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.