

CCHS 2019 Recommendations for Summer Reading

Book blurbs and cover images courtesy of GoodReads

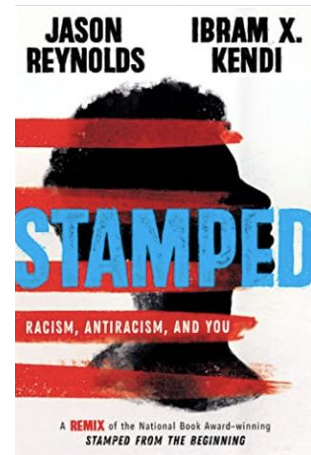
Additional inspiration: [College Board 101 Great Book Recommendations for College-Bound Readers](#)

Featured Summer Suggestion:

[Stamped: Racism, Anti Racism, and You](#),

by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

**A timely, crucial, and empowering exploration of racism
--and antiracism--in America**



This is NOT a history book.

This is a book about the here and now.

A book to help us better understand why we are where we are.

A book about race.

The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited.

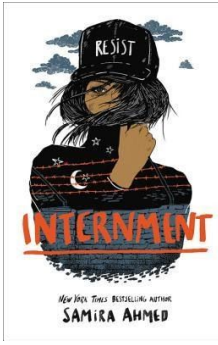
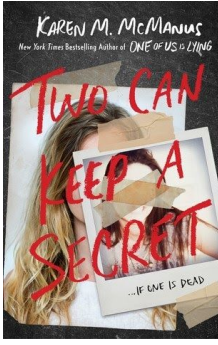
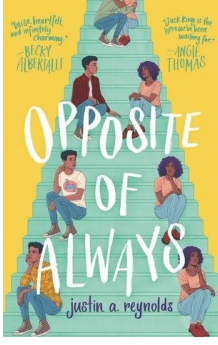
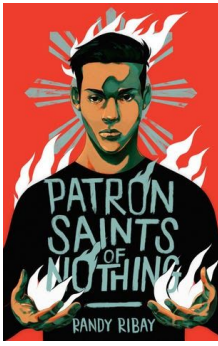
Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

Fiction	
	<p>With the Fire on High, by Elizabeth Acevedo</p> <p>Ever since she got pregnant freshman year, Emoni Santiago's life has been about making the tough decisions—doing what has to be done for her daughter and her Abuela. The one place she can let all that go is in the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness.</p> <p>Even though she dreams of working as a chef after she graduates, Emoni knows that it's not worth her time to pursue the impossible. Yet despite the rules she thinks she has to play by, once Emoni starts cooking, her only choice is to let her talent break free.</p>

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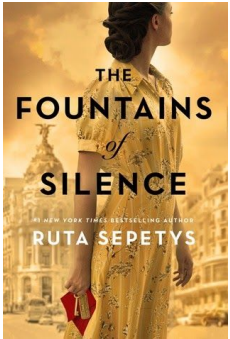
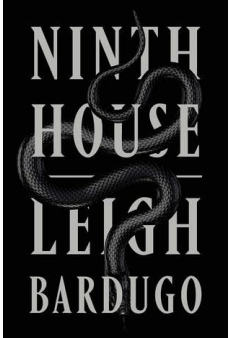
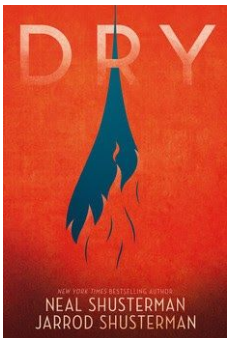
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	<p>Internment, by Samira Ahmed</p> <p>Set in a horrifying near-future United States, seventeen-year-old Layla Amin and her parents are forced into an internment camp for Muslim American citizens. With the help of newly made friends also trapped within the internment camp, her boyfriend on the outside, and an unexpected alliance, Layla begins a journey to fight for freedom, leading a revolution against the camp's Director and his guards. Heart-racing and emotional, <i>Internment</i> challenges readers to fight complicit silence that exists in our society today</p>
	<p>Two Can Keep a Secret, Karen M. McManus</p> <p>Echo Ridge is small-town America. Ellery's never been there, but she's heard all about it. Her aunt went missing there at age seventeen. And only five years ago, a homecoming queen put the town on the map when she was killed. Now Ellery has to move there to live with a grandmother she barely knows. The town is picture-perfect, but it's hiding secrets. And before school even begins for Ellery, someone's declared open season on homecoming, promising to make it as dangerous as it was five years ago. Then, almost as if to prove it, another girl goes missing. Ellery knows all about secrets. Her mother has them; her grandmother does too. And the longer she's in Echo Ridge, the clearer it becomes that everyone there is hiding something. The thing is, secrets are dangerous--and most people aren't good at keeping them. Which is why, in Echo Ridge, it's safest to keep your secrets to yourself.</p>
	<p>Opposite of Always, by Justin A. Reynolds</p> <p>When Jack and Kate meet at a party, bonding until sunrise over their mutual love of Froot Loops and their favorite flicks, Jack knows he's falling—hard. Soon she's meeting his best friends, Jillian and Franny, and Kate wins them over as easily as she did Jack. But then Kate dies. And their story should end there. Yet Kate's death sends Jack back to the beginning, the moment they first meet, and Kate's there again. Healthy, happy, and charming as ever. Jack isn't sure if he's losing his mind. Still, if he has a chance to prevent Kate's death, he'll take it. Even if that means believing in time travel. However, Jack will learn that his actions are not without consequences. And when one choice turns deadly for someone else close to him, he has to figure out what he's willing to do to save the people he loves.</p>
	<p>Patron Saints of Nothing, by Randy Ribay</p> <p>A coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder. Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Juan was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story. Hoping to uncover more about Jun and the events that led to his death, Jay is forced to reckon with the many sides of his cousin before he can face the whole horrible truth -- and the part he played in it.</p>

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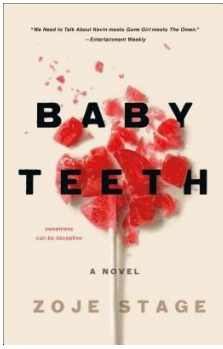
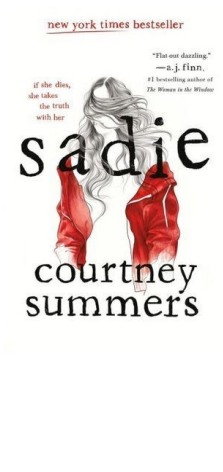
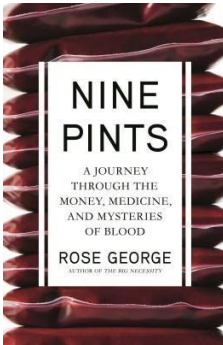
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	<p>The Fountains of Silence, by Ruta Sepetys</p> <p>Madrid, 1957. Under the fascist dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, Spain is hiding a dark secret. Meanwhile, tourists and foreign businessmen flood into Spain under the welcoming promise of sunshine and wine. Among them is eighteen-year-old Daniel Matheson, the son of an oil tycoon, who arrives in Madrid with his parents hoping to connect with the country of his mother's birth through the lens of his camera. Photography--and fate--introduce him to Ana, whose family's interweaving obstacles reveal the lingering grasp of the Spanish Civil War--as well as chilling definitions of fortune and fear. Daniel's photographs leave him with uncomfortable questions amidst shadows of danger. He is backed into a corner of difficult decisions to protect those he loves. Lives and hearts collide, revealing an incredibly dark side to the sunny Spanish city.</p>
<p>Thrillers</p>	
	<p>Ninth House, by Leigh Bardugo</p> <p>Galaxy “Alex” Stern is the most unlikely member of Yale’s freshman class. Raised in the Los Angeles hinterlands by a hippie mom, Alex dropped out of school early and into a world of shady drug dealer boyfriends, dead-end jobs, and much, much worse. By age twenty, in fact, she is the sole survivor of a horrific, unsolved multiple homicide. Some might say she’s thrown her life away. But at her hospital bed, Alex is offered a second chance: to attend one of the world’s most elite universities on a full ride. What’s the catch, and why her?</p> <p>Still searching for answers to this herself, Alex arrives in New Haven tasked by her mysterious benefactors with monitoring the activities of Yale’s secret societies. These eight windowless “tombs” are well-known to be haunts of the future rich and powerful, from high-ranking politicians to Wall Street and Hollywood’s biggest players. But their occult activities are revealed to be more sinister and more extraordinary than any paranoid imagination might conceive.</p>
	<p>Dry, by Neal Shusterman</p> <p>When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family in this harrowing story of survival. The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone’s lives have become an endless list of don’ts: don’t water the lawn, don’t fill up your pool, don’t take long showers. Until the taps run dry.</p> <p>Suddenly, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turn against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don’t return and her life—and the life of her brother—is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she’s going to survive.</p>

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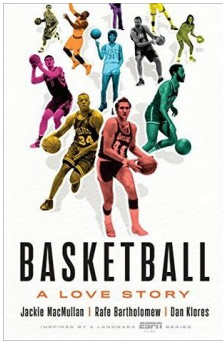
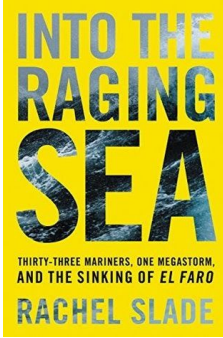
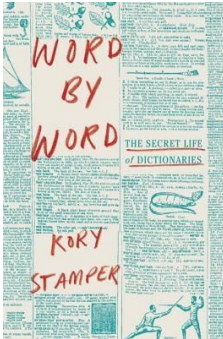
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	<p>Baby Teeth, by Zoje Stage</p> <p>Meet Hanna.</p> <p>She’s the sweet-but-silent angel in the adoring eyes of her Daddy. He’s the only person who understands her, and all Hanna wants is to live happily ever after with him. But Mommy stands in her way, and she’ll try any trick she can think of to get rid of her. Ideally for good.</p> <p>Meet Suzette.</p> <p>She loves her daughter, really, but after years of expulsions and strained homeschooling, her precarious health and sanity are weakening day by day. As Hanna’s tricks become increasingly sophisticated, and Suzette's husband remains blind to the failing family dynamics, Suzette starts to fear that there’s something seriously wrong and that maybe home isn’t the best place for their baby girl after all.</p>
	<p>Sadie, by Courtney Summers</p> <p>A missing girl on a journey of revenge. A <i>Serial</i>—like podcast following the clues she's left behind. And an ending you won't be able to stop talking about.</p> <p>Sadie hasn't had an easy life. Growing up on her own, she's been raising her sister Mattie in an isolated small town, trying her best to provide a normal life and keep their heads above water.</p> <p>But when Mattie is found dead, Sadie's entire world crumbles. After a somewhat botched police investigation, Sadie is determined to bring her sister's killer to justice and hits the road following a few meager clues to find him.</p> <p>When West McCray, a radio personality working on a segment about small, forgotten towns in America, overhears Sadie's story at a local gas station, he becomes obsessed with finding the missing girl. He starts his own podcast as he tracks Sadie's journey, trying to figure out what happened, hoping to find her before it's too late.</p>
<p>Nonfiction</p>	
	<p>Nine Pints, by Rose George</p> <p>An eye-opening exploration of blood, the life giving substance with the power of taboo, the value of diamonds, and the promise of breakthrough science</p> <p>Blood carries life, yet the sight of it makes people faint. It is a waste product and a commodity pricier than oil. It can save lives and transmit deadly infections. Each one of us has roughly nine pints of it, yet many don’t even know their own blood type. And for all its ubiquity, the few tablespoons of blood discharged by 800 million women are still regarded as taboo; menstruation is perhaps the single most demonized biological event.</p>

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	<p>Basketball: A Love Story, by Jackie MacMullan, Rafe Bartholomew, Dan Klores</p> <p>In an effort to tell the complete story of basketball in all its fascinating dimensions, celebrated journalists Jackie Macmullan and Rafe Bartholomew have compiled nearly a thousand hours' worth of interviews with a staggering number of basketball greats. They've talked to hundreds of legendary players, such as Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, and Magic Johnson, and spoken with renowned coaches, including Phil Jackson and Coach K, as well as numerous executives, commissioners, and journalists. Most impressive was the extraordinary quality of the interviews. Again and again, players spoke candidly about secrets and told stories they'd never before discussed on the record.</p> <p>The book that grew out of those interviews is an extraordinary project and quite possibly the most ambitious basketball book ever written. At once a definitive oral history and something far more literary and intimate, this is the never-before-told story of how basketball came to be, and about what it means to those who've given their lives to the game.</p>
	<p>Into the Raging Sea, by Rachel Slade</p> <p>On October 1, 2015, Hurricane Joaquin barreled into the Bermuda Triangle and swallowed the container ship <i>El Faro</i> whole, resulting in the worst American shipping disaster in thirty-five years. No one could fathom how a vessel equipped with satellite communications, a sophisticated navigation system, and cutting-edge weather forecasting could suddenly vanish—until now.</p> <p>Relying on hundreds of exclusive interviews with family members and maritime experts, as well as the words of the crew members themselves—whose conversations were captured by the ship's data recorder—journalist Rachel Slade unravels the mystery of the sinking of <i>El Faro</i>. As she recounts the final twenty-four hours onboard, Slade vividly depicts the officers' anguish and fear as they struggled to carry out Captain Michael Davidson's increasingly bizarre commands, which, they knew, would steer them straight into the eye of the storm. Taking a hard look at America's aging merchant marine fleet, Slade also reveals the truth about modern shipping—a cut-throat industry plagued by razor-thin profits and ever more violent hurricanes fueled by global warming.</p> <p>A richly reported account of a singular tragedy, <i>Into the Raging Sea</i> takes us into the heart of an age-old American industry, casting new light on the hardworking men and women who paid the ultimate price in the name of profit.</p>
	<p>Word by Word, by Kory Stamper</p> <p>Brimming with intelligence and personality, a vastly entertaining account of how dictionaries are made a must-read for word mavens.</p> <p>While most of us might take dictionaries for granted, the process of writing them is in fact as lively and dynamic as language itself. With sharp wit and irreverence, Kory Stamper cracks open the complex, obsessive world of lexicography--from the agonizing decisions about what and how to define, to the knotty questions of usage in an ever-changing language. She explains why small words are the most difficult to define (have you ever tried to define <i>is</i> ?), how it can take nine months to define a single word, and how our biases about language and pronunciation can have tremendous social influence.</p> <p>Throughout, Stamper brings to life the hallowed halls (and highly idiosyncratic cubicles) of Merriam-Webster, a world inhabited by quirky, erudite individuals who quietly shape</p>

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	<p>the way we communicate. A sure delight for all lovers of words, <i>Word by Word</i> might also quietly improve readers' grasp and use of the English language."</p>
	<p>Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data, and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are, by Seth Stephens-Davidowitz and, Steven Pinker (Foreword)</p> <p>Blending the informed analysis of <i>The Signal and the Noise</i> with the instructive iconoclasm of <i>Think Like a Freak</i>, a fascinating, illuminating, and witty look at what the vast amounts of information now instantly available to us reveals about ourselves and our world—provided we ask the right questions.</p> <p>By the end of an average day in the early twenty-first century, human beings searching the internet will amass eight trillion gigabytes of data. This staggering amount of information—unprecedented in history—can tell us a great deal about who we are—the fears, desires, and behaviors that drive us, and the conscious and unconscious decisions we make. From the profound to the mundane, we can gain astonishing knowledge about the human psyche that less than twenty years ago, seemed unfathomable.</p> <p>Everybody Lies offers fascinating, surprising, and sometimes laugh-out-loud insights into everything from economics to ethics to sports to race to sex, gender and more, all drawn from the world of big data. What percentage of white voters didn't vote for Barack Obama because he's black? Does where you go to school affect how successful you are in life? Do parents secretly favor boy children over girls? Do violent films affect the crime rate? Can you beat the stock market?</p> <p>Drawing on studies and experiments on how we really live and think, he demonstrates in fascinating and often funny ways the extent to which all the world is indeed a lab. With conclusions ranging from strange-but-true to thought-provoking to disturbing, he explores the power of this digital truth serum and its deeper potential—revealing biases deeply embedded within us, information we can use to change our culture, and the questions we're afraid to ask that might be essential to our health—both emotional and physical. All of us are touched by big data everyday, and its influence is multiplying. <i>Everybody Lies</i> challenges us to think differently about how we see it and the world.</p>
	<p>The Impossible Climb: Alex Honnold, El Capitan, and the Climbing Life, by Mark Synnott</p> <p>The climbing community had long considered a "free solo" ascent of El Capitan an impossible feat so far beyond human limits that it was not worth thinking about. When Alex Honnold topped out at 9:28 am on June 3, 2017, having spent fewer than four hours on his historic ascent, the world gave a collective gasp. His friend Tommy Caldwell, who free climbed (with a rope) the nearby Dawn Wall in 2015, called Alex's ascent "the moon landing of free soloing." <i>The New York Times</i> described it as "one of the great athletic feats of any kind, ever." It was "almost unbearable to watch," writes Synnott.</p> <p>This majestic work of personal history delves into a raggedy culture that emerged decades earlier during Yosemite's Golden Age, when pioneering climbers like Royal Robbins and Warren Harding invented the sport that Honnold would turn on its ear. Synnott paints an authentic, wry portrait of climbing history, profiling Yosemite heroes John Bachar, Peter Croft, Dean Potter, and the harlequin tribe of climbers known as the Stonemasters. A veteran of the North Face climbing team and contributor to <i>National Geographic</i>, Synnott weaves in his own amateur and professional experiences with poignant insight and wit. Tensions burst on the mile-high northwest face of Pakistan's Great Trango Tower; photographer/climber Jimmy Chin miraculously persuades an intransigent official in the</p>

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	<p>Borneo jungle to allow Honnold's first foreign expedition, led by Synnott, to continue; armed bandits accost the same trio at the foot of a tower in the Chad desert . . .</p> <p><i>The Impossible Climb</i> is an emotional drama driven by people exploring the limits of human potential and seeking a perfect, dialed-in dance with nature. They dare beyond the ordinary, but this story of the sublime is really about all of us. Who doesn't need to face down fear and make the most of the time we have?</p>
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Special Recommendations for our new 9th-Graders and anyone looking for a really good book :)

These titles have been chosen because they are fun, high-interest books that have been very popular with CCHS students. We hope you like them, too!

[All American Boys](#), by Jason Reynolds

[Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe](#), by Benjamin Alire Saenz

[Dear Martin](#), by Nic Stone

[Fangirl](#), by Rainbow Rowell

[Long Way Down](#), by Jason Reynolds

[One of Us is Lying](#), by Karen M. McManus

[Outliers: The Story of Success](#), by Malcolm Gladwell

[The Poet X](#), by Elizabeth Acevedo

[Scythe \(Arc Of A Scythe, series\)](#), by Neal Shusterman

[We were liars](#), by E. Lockhart

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Tina Jordan
At Home in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.



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Are you finding it difficult to sit down and read?
You're not alone. Let us help you become a
better reader.

From the New York Times: [6 Steps to Become a Better Reader](#)

1. **Choose the Right Book:** If you want to be a better reader, you first need something to read. Ask yourself some questions:
 - Do you want to read for enjoyment or for knowledge?
 - Are you looking for escapism? (There's nothing wrong with that!)
 - Are you curious about a book that has been atop the best-seller list for months?
2. **Make a Plan:** A reading plan doesn't have to include a schedule — although that's helpful — it should include a goal or promise to yourself that will keep you motivated. (Tip: You should also allow yourself to quit a book: Nothing will derail you faster than books that don't hold your interest.)
3. **Read More Deeply:** To read more deeply, the single most important thing to do is take your time. These tricks will help you slow down:
 - Notice if you start to skim or skip sections. Then, backtrack.
 - Keep a dictionary nearby.
 - Actively reread.
 - Use a highlighter (or sticky notes).

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4. **Read More Critically:** When you are reading deeply and critically, you will find yourself thinking more often about the book you're reading. Stop and ask yourself questions.
 - Consider whether you agree with the book or disagree with it.
 - Think about what makes good writing.

5. **Read More Socially:** Reading may be a solitary endeavor, but once we're done with a book, most of us want to do the same thing: talk to other people about what we loved, what we hated, what we didn't understand. There are many ways to do that:
 - Join an online book club.
 - Find your author on social media.
 - *Sign up for the summer reading program at Concord Free Public Library! Open to all CCHS students!*

6. **Enhance Your Post-Book Experience:** Your experience with a book doesn't need to end when you get to the last page — in fact, in some ways, it's just beginning. Here are some simple steps you can take to stay engaged with books, authors, and the subjects you're learning about.
 - Start a reading journal or reading log.
 - Read for breadth.
 - Read outside your comfort zone.