

Summer Reading
Grade 10 – Class of 2022
Downers Grove South High School

Dear Class of 2022 (Grade 10) students,

Below you will find a list of books that you can choose from to fulfill your required summer reading. You must choose one of the books from the Class of 2022 list. When you get back to school in August you will be required to complete a graded assignment in your English class related to your reading. In order to help you prepare for that assignment, we would like to give you a reading focus. No matter which level or which teacher you have in the fall, your summer reading assignment will be based on the reading focus below. Though not required, you may choose to annotate and/or take notes in regards to the reading focus to help you with the assignment you will do in class.

If you would like to find more information on the books, we have listed below some sources that you can reference. Not every book will be on every website.

- Barnes & Noble (www.barnesandnoble.com/): offers free access to editorial (professional) reviews for many books.
- Amazon website (www.amazon.com): includes editorial reviews when available and a variety of reader reviews.
- Goodread website (www.goodreads.com/): offers reviews and information about content.
- Common Sense Media website (www.common Sense Media.org/). They do not have every book included, but the ones that are included have a lot of details, including reviews, ratings, and even a section titled, “The parent’s guide to what’s in the book.”

Class of 2022 (Grade 10) Reading Focus:

As you read your selected book from the list, focus on how one of the main characters develops throughout the book and what influences that development. You may want to consider some of the following influences: relationships, adults, peers, events, environments, experiences, moments, obstacles, etc.

Class of 2022 (Grade 10) Book List

***American Panda* by Gloria Chao**

After skipping 4th grade, Mei is one of the youngest freshmen at MIT and is on track to becoming the doctor her Taiwanese parents have always wanted her to be. But, this is not what Mei wants. Not at all. She is squeamish at the sight of blood and really scared of germs. She wants to dance. The only way she finds joy is when she’s dancing. Or with Darren -- the un-Taiwanese and unapproved love interest. This is a story about standing up to others’ expectations. When Gloria Chao wrote this novel, she said she wrote it because she “never felt quite Taiwanese or American enough.” Mei will have to struggle what this means for her while risking relationships with the people she cares most about (her mother, her father, her grandmother, her brother, Darren, and even her Taiwanese culture).

***Solo* by Kwame Alexander**

Blade is the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback. The only thing Blade has in common with Rutherford is the music that lives inside them. But not even the songs that flow through Blade’s soul are enough when he’s faced with a long-held family secret, one that leaves him questioning everything he thought was true. All that remains is a letter and a ticket to Ghana—both of which could bring Blade the freedom and love he’s been searching for, or leave him feeling even more adrift. NOTE: This is a novel in verse.

***Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Abid Khorram**

Darius should be excited to be traveling to Iran for the first time and have the chance to meet his mom’s side of the family but the truth is that he feels he has disappointed everyone- he can barely speak Farsi, he thinks he will never be anything like his dad, deals with his clinical depression, and has no social life. In Iran, he will get to meet a whole new family that opens doors to new adventures and possibilities. He will also meet Sohrab, the boy next door who changes everything. Throughout this journey Darius will discover what it means to be true to yourself.

***The Wrath and the Dawn* by Renée Ahdieh**

Khalid, an eighteen-year old king, takes a new bride each night, and the next morning, she is always found dead. When sixteen-year-old Shahrzad's best friend becomes a victim, she decides to exact vengeance and put an end to these murders. She volunteers to be his next bride and manages to survive night after night by telling Khalid stories that enchant him and leave him wanting more. They grow closer and she discovers she has feelings for him. She resolves to uncover his secrets, but her childhood sweetheart is on the way with troops to free her and kill Khalid. The fate of the kingdom is at stake, and their love could be what brings it down.

***Mosquitoland* by David Arnold**

Upon hearing that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim escapes her father and stepmother in Mississippi, embarking on quite the funny yet touching thousand-mile journey. Beginning with her bus tipping over, the chaotic adventure introduces her to many people who help her get to know the world and herself even better. Her travels take her far across country but also deep within.

***Wolf By Wolf* by Ryan Graudin**

Yael, a former death camp prisoner, embarks on a cross-continental motorcycle race in 1956 when the Third Reich and Imperial Japan rule. As a member of the resistance, Yael must use her skinshift abilities to impersonate Adele Wolfe, the current race champion. Her mission is simple: to win the race and kill Hitler. However, her mission gets complicated when her former love interest and Adele's twin brother enter the race.

***Scythe* by Neal Shusterman**

Humanity has conquered death, hunger, war, disease, and all sources of misery. The world is governed by the Thunderhead, the all-knowing artificial intelligence that oversees everyone - except for the Scythes. The only people who can end a life are the Scythes, whose job is to maintain population control by killing people. Citra and Rowan are both selected to be apprentices to a Scythe - something neither of them chose - and begin to learn how to take a person's life. As they are brought further into the world of the Scythes, they begin to unearth a society of danger and corruption. If they make the wrong move, it could cost them their lives.

***March (Book 1)* by John Lewis**

The inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president was a defining moment in American history. *March* is the story of where it all began - the Civil Rights Movement. This graphic novel tells the story of Civil Rights icon John Lewis and his lifelong struggle for civil and human rights. It follows Lewis from the farm in Alabama where he grew up, to the sit-ins to desegregate lunch counters, to his leadership of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and ultimately the Selma march for voting rights.

***57 Bus* by Dashka Slater**

Sasha, a high school senior, falls asleep on *The 57 Bus* and awakens to find that someone has lit their skirt on fire. Sasha, who is agender, is badly burned and believes that the motivation for setting them on fire is hatred. But Richard, the sixteen-year-old Black boy who sets Sasha's skirt on fire has his own story to tell. Just as Sasha endures challenge, identity formation, and recovery, so must Richard. As the book develops, readers learn that Richard is the only one of his group of friends who is charged, and that during that time, federal lawmakers wanted juveniles prosecuted in adult courts for such serious crimes. Now Richard, like Sasha must fight for visibility in a system that only wants to erase him. This book is written much like a Law and Order episode, where you see the incident on the bus from all angles. Readers get to see texts between friends, arrests, court proceedings, personal testimonies, even Richard's letter of apology. This true story shows its readers that justice, like the human heart, is complex, surprising, and sometimes full of mixed feelings. Prepare to find yourself pulled in many directions on *The 57 Bus*.

***Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo**

When a scientist is taken captive by a hostile, militaristic government and forced to develop a powerful new military drug, six of the worst criminals are hired to break him out. They are the dregs of society: thieves, murderers, and scoundrels. They are the perfect people for the job. Kaz Brekker, a criminal mastermind, assembles a motley crew: a sharpshooter, a demolition expert, a disgraced soldier, a con artist, and a spy/assassin. Each member has a story to tell and their own agenda driving them forward but almost all of them are motivated by money. They will have to find a way to work together to break into one of the most secure prisons in their world. Author Leigh Bardugo weaves a fast-paced, exciting story from the viewpoints of the six characters. Each chapter is told through a different character's eyes and gives their backstory and motivations which gives them a full, three-dimensional feel and helps the reader root for the team. This is the first book in a duology, and the second book does not disappoint.