

*Read to enjoy. Read to travel. Read to eavesdrop. Read to remember.  
Read to hear the music of new and old voices. Read.*

## **Middleborough High School Summer Reading List**

Choose one book from the list below. Take your time reading it carefully - don't rush! Make sure to finish the book before school starts and be ready for a related assessment in the first week of class.

**FYI - AP LIT AND AP LANG STUDENTS HAVE A SEPARATE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT:**  
Please join the [AP Summer Reading Google Classroom page](#). CODE: b5ewmfxd

Available formats are listed in purple below the title. You can use the Sora student reading app (with your student credentials) or Libby app (with your library card) to access titles from the public library.

### **INCOMING GRADE 9 STUDENTS**

***Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, & The Ultimate Cold War Showdown* by Steve Sheinkin - Nonfiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook*

This historical narrative chronicles the intense period of the Cold War, focusing on the arms race, espionage, and the threat of nuclear conflict. The book covers the development of the hydrogen bomb, the space race, and the Cuban Missile Crisis, interweaving the stories of spies, politicians, and everyday citizens caught up in the global conflict.

***The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd\* - Historical Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

After her stand-in mother, a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

***The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins\* - Science Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook*

Readers will be riveted by the world-building in this sometimes bleak but always compelling dystopian science fiction series. Balancing a fast pace with well-developed, complex characters (including a strong female protagonist in several books), the action blends grim tales of survival against a backdrop of social commentary. Adding to the intrigue is an intense romantic quagmire.

***The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak - Historical Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook*

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

***Lord of the Flies* by William Golding - Science Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

The classic study of human nature which depicts the degeneration of a group of schoolboys marooned on a desert island.

***I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys - Historical Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

In a country governed by isolation, fear, and a tyrannical dictator, seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer, but he decides to use his position to try to outwit his handler, undermine the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country.

***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook*

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.

***The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla audiobook*

Belly spends the summer she turns sixteen at the beach just like every other summer of her life, but this time things are very different.

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulson\* - Adventure**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

***Wisteria* by Adeline Grace - Fantasy**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

When she discovers a new side of herself linked to the man she's bound herself to, fiercely independent and strong-willed Blythe Hawthorne must decide if she's willing to let an unexpected spark ignite -- and to discover the truth about who she really is.

**INCOMING GRADE 10 STUDENTS**

***Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds (Required)\* - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

Driven by the secrets and vengeance that mark his street culture, 15-year-old Will contemplates over the course of 60 psychologically suspenseful seconds whether or not he is going to murder the person who killed his brother.

**Additional titles for extended summer reading, if interested:**

***Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand\* - Nonfiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook*

Relates the story of a U.S. airman who survived when his bomber crashed into the sea during World War II, spent forty-seven days adrift in the ocean before being rescued by the Japanese Navy, and was held as a prisoner until the end of the war.

***Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

After staying with their aunt in Nsukka, Nigeria, Kambili and her brother return home changed by their newfound freedom. At home, they deal with their father, a religious fanatic, who has high expectations of them and his wife. And eventually Kambili tries to keep their family together after their mother commits a desperate act.

***The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

Charlie is shy, introspective, intelligent beyond his years yet socially awkward; he is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it. Charlie attempts to navigate his way through the uncharted territory of high school: the world of first dates and mix-tapes, family dramas and new friends. Standing on the fringes of life offers a unique perspective. But there comes a time to see what it looks like from the dance floor.

***Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

An evocative novel in verse follows the experiences of two grieving sisters who navigate the loss of their father and the impact of his death on their relationship.

***The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline - Science Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

In this futuristic dystopian novel for teens, the Indigenous people of North America are on the run in a fight for survival.

***The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury\* - Science Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

Interconnected, chronological stories of Earth's settlement of Mars include tales of human interaction with one another and with the Martians, interplanetary interracial strife, self-doubt, and the metamorphosis of humanity.

***A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah\* - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla audiobook*

A human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army.

***Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

Aza Holmes, a high school student with obsessive-compulsive disorder, becomes focused on searching for a fugitive billionaire.

***The Sun Is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

Natasha, whose family is hours away from being deported, and Daniel, a first generation Korean American who strives to live up to his parents' expectations, unexpectedly fall in love and must determine which path they will choose in order to be together.

***You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson\* - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

A black, underprivileged misfit from a wealthy, prom-obsessed midwestern community carefully plans to attend a prestigious medical college before the unexpected loss of her financial aid forces her to compete for her school's prom-queen scholarship.

## **INCOMING GRADE 11 STUDENTS**

***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah\* - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook,*

Trevor Noah, host of The Daily Show, shares his remarkable story of growing up in South Africa, with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child like him to exist. In a country where racism barred blacks from social, educational, and economic opportunity, Trevor surmounted staggering obstacles and created a promising future for himself, thanks to his mother's unwavering love and indomitable will.

***Paradise Found: A High School Football Team's Rise From the Ashes* by Bill Plaschke - Nonfiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook*

In this comeback story like no other, an L.A. Times columnist follows Coach Prinz and the Paradise High Bobcats as they rose from the ashes after one of the deadliest and most devastating fires in California history.

***Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults)* by Bryan Stevenson\* - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

Details the author's personal experience, challenges, and efforts as a lawyer and social advocate to find justice for America's most marginalized people.

***I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

Documents the educational pursuits of the Nobel Peace Prize nominee who became an international symbol of hope and inspiration when she challenged the traditions of her Pakistan community, offering insight into the influential role of her courageous father.

***They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei - Graphic Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook; Hoopla unlimited ebook*

The iconic actor and activist presents a graphic memoir detailing his experiences as a child prisoner in the Japanese-American internment camps of World War II, reflecting on the hard choices his family made in the face of legalized racism.

***Brain on Fire* by Susannah Calahan - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

An account of the author's struggle with a rare brain-attacking autoimmune disease traces how she woke up in a hospital room with no memory of baffling psychotic symptoms, describing the last-minute intervention by a doctor who identified the source of her illness.

***The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou\* - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

This is a 1969 autobiography about the early years of American writer and poet Maya Angelou. The first in a seven-volume series, it is a coming-of-age story that illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome racism and trauma. Maya transforms from a victim of racism with an inferiority complex into a self-possessed, dignified young woman capable of responding to prejudice.

***Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

The Japanese Breakfast indie pop star presents a full-length account of her viral New Yorker essay to share poignant reflections on her experiences of growing up Korean-American, becoming a professional musician and caring for her terminally ill mother.

***Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook*

At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (whom everyone calls "Daniel") stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. To them he is a dark-skinned, hairy-armed boy with a big butt whose lunch smells funny; who makes things up and talks about poop too much. Like Scheherazade in a hostile classroom, Daniel weaves a tale to save his own life: to stake his claim to the truth.

***The Message* by Ta-Nehisi Coates - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

Ta-Nehisi Coates originally set out to write a book about writing, but found himself grappling with deeper questions about how our stories—our reporting and imaginative narratives and mythmaking—expose and distort our realities. Written at a dramatic moment in American and global life, this work from one of the country's most important writers is about the urgent need to untangle ourselves from the destructive myths that shape our world—and our own souls—and embrace the liberating power of even the most difficult truths.

***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass - Autobiography**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

In addition to the classic African American autobiography and American slave narrative, this edition also includes Frederick Douglass's speech "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July" and his only known work of fiction, *The Heroic Slave*.

**INCOMING GRADE 12 STUDENTS**

***Friday Night Lights* by H.G. Bissinger - Sports Nonfiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook; Hoopla audiobook*

Chronicles a football season in Odessa, Texas, a depressed All-American town that lives and dies with the fortunes of its high school football team.

***There, There* by Tommy Orange\* - Realistic Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

A novel which grapples with the complex history of Native Americans; with an inheritance of profound spirituality; and with a plague of addiction, abuse and suicide, follows 12 characters, each of whom has private reasons for traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow.

***The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig - Science Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. Nora Seed finds herself faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within

herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

***The Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley - Mystery**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla audiobook*

Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, defers attending the University of Michigan to care for her mother and reluctantly becomes involved in the investigation of a series of drug-related deaths.

***1984* by George Orwell\* - Science Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

Portrays life in a future time when a totalitarian government watches over all citizens and directs all activities.

***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver\* - Historical Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook; Hoopla unlimited ebook*

The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives forever transformed over the course of three decades by the political and social upheaval of Africa.

***Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro - Science Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

Waiting to be chosen by a customer, an Artificial Friend programmed with high perception observes the activities of shoppers while exploring fundamental questions about what it means to love.

***The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid - Historical Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook*

When an aging and reclusive Hollywood icon selects an unknown magazine reporter to write her life story, the baffled journalist forges deep ties with the actress during a complicated interview process that exposes their tragic common history.

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood\* - Science Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

The Handmaid's Tale books portray a dystopian near future in a country called Gilead, which previously was the United States. Women's roles have been very narrowly defined and are strictly regulated according to principles based on a particular interpretation of the Bible. Gilead is a totalitarian state ruled by a small number of men

***Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt - Mystery**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook and audiobook; Hoopla unlimited ebook and audiobook*

For fans of A Man Called Ove, a luminous debut novel about a widow's unlikely friendship with a giant Pacific octopus reluctantly residing at the local aquarium-and the truths she finally uncovers about her son's disappearance 30 years ago.

***The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien\* - Historical Fiction**

*Available as print book; Libby/Sora ebook; Hoopla unlimited ebook*

A collection of award-winning and utterly moving stories about the madness of the Vietnam war.

**NOTE TO STUDENTS:**

- Be prepared to discuss and write about your selection when school resumes in September.
- All titles are available at local libraries and major bookstores. \*Your English teacher can sign the starred titles out to you for the summer. Ask your teacher for more information!
- Consider starting a reading journal to track your thoughts and reactions while reading.
- Feel free to read more than one title this summer, if you are so inclined!