Maryvale Preparatory School

9th Grade

Summer Reading - 2017

Please read the following book during the summer. When you return in the fall, you will discuss the book in your Theology class.

The Running Dream by Van Draanen, Wendelin

Library Media Connection (August/September 2011)

Jessica Carlisle is on track to become a world-class runner, until a devastating bus accident takes the life of a fellow runner and crushes one of Jessica's legs to where it cannot be saved. Jessica's dreams become a reoccurring nightmare where she attempts to run but is no longer able to. Jessica has to come to terms with the reality of being an amputee. Her loving family and friends support her recovery efforts. Her disability causes her to see life differently, especially when she notices Rosa, the special needs girl with cerebral palsy who, to Jessica's good fortune, just happens to be a mathematical genius and a great source of encouragement. Her teammates and the entire community rally behind Jessica by initiating fundraisers to purchase a new, state-of-the-art, running leg. This inspirational story would make a great addition to any library as it brings an awareness to students with disabilities and exemplifies the courage of a young girl overcoming tremendous odds. It is quite an entertaining read. Dionne Fox, Head Librarian, Hampton Roads Academy, Newport News, Virginia [Editor's Note: Available in e-book format.]

RECOMMENDED
Maryvale Preparatory School

10th Grade

Summer Reading - 2017

Please read the following book during the summer. When you return in the fall, you will discuss the book in your Theology class.

**We Were Liars** by E. Lockhart

*School Library Journal (April 1, 2014)*

Gr 9 Up-Cadence Sinclair Easton comes from an old-money family, headed by a patriarch who owns a private island off of Cape Cod. Each summer, the extended family gathers at the various houses on the island, and Cadence, her cousins Johnny and Mirren, and friend Gat (the four "Liars"), have been inseparable since age eight. During their fifteenth summer however, Cadence suffers a mysterious accident. She spends the next two years-and the course of the book-in a haze of amnesia, debilitating migraines, and painkillers, trying to piece together just what happened. Lockhart writes in a somewhat sparse style filled with metaphor and jumps from past to present and back again-rather fitting for a main character struggling with a sudden and unexplainable life change. The story, while lightly touching on issues of class and race, more fully focuses on dysfunctional family drama, a heart-wrenching romance between Cadence and Gat, and, ultimately, the suspense of what happened during that fateful summer. The ending is a stunner that will haunt readers for a long time to come.-Jenny Berggren, formerly at New York Public Library (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Maryvale Preparatory School

11th Grade

Summer Reading - 2017

Please choose from one of the books below. When you return in the fall, you will discuss the book in your Theology class.

Do the Kind Thing: Think Boundlessly, Work Purposefully, Live Passionately

by Daniel Lubetzky (A)

Booklist (March 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 13))

Renowned social entrepreneur Lubetzky grew up in Mexico, the son of a Holocaust-survivor father. He was on the verge of a legal career when he set off for a project in the Middle East to reduce conflict by developing a common economic enterprise. The experience taught him the potential and value of doing good while doing business and is the driving philosophy behind KIND—nutritional snacks that encourage consumers to be kind to their bodies and to others. At the heart of his philosophy is the notion of AND—that we do not have to accept the limitations of the false choices of either/or. Lubetzky declares that accepting AND opens up creative possibilities. He outlines nine themes to his philosophy, including purpose, grit, truth and discipline, and originality. He also shares examples of each from his business and professional life, including the hypercompetitiveness of the food market and lucrative offers to sell. Even as the food market has since become flooded with cause-marketing and healthy snacks, Lubetzky has maintained an anchor on health, taste, and social responsibility.

Between Shades of Gray

by Ruta Sepetys

Library Media Connection (August/September 2011)

As this historical novel opens, Lina and her family are being forcibly removed from their Lithuanian home by the KGB, for unknown reasons. Taken without warning, the family is transported to workers' camps. In 1941, the Soviets deport teachers, preachers, criminals, and other innocents to forced-labor camps with harsh conditions similar to Nazi camps. Told in first person with "before captivity" flashbacks, Lina relays her fifteen-year-old perceptions. As their train stops, talented Lina leaves artwork that may give a clue about where her family has gone. Poignant and compassionate, this story reveals a strong sense of hope, survival,
belief, and family. As Lina describes the pain, cold, and oppression, the reader feels them as well. In the final chapter, the reader sees that Lina has survived, married, returned to Lithuania, and left a legacy of buried journals and drawings. In this compelling first novel, Sepetys portrays an unexplored topic. Sepetys took trips to Lithuania to obtain first-hand knowledge of those who survived. This story will stay with the reader long after the book has been finished, and this novel should be on every high school library shelf. Judith M. Garner, Media Specialist, Rock Hill (South Carolina) High School. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

**The Game of Love and Death** by Martha Brockenbrough

*Booklist starred (April 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 16))*

Grades 9-12. “Stuck as eternal companions, Love and Death never worked as allies.” Instead, they while away the millennia playing a game. Each chooses a player from among humanity. The length of the game is determined by a roll of the dice. The stakes are fatally high: if Death wins, her player dies; if Love wins, both players live. Death always wins. This time, however, Love is confident that he has the edge: the players are twins at heart. Flora is an African American girl, toughened by tragedy, who dreams of being an aviatix. Henry, who has known his own share of misfortune, is white and guaranteed financial success as long as he follows the life mapped out for him by his adoptive family. Flora and Henry’s fight for love in Depression-era Seattle faces so many natural obstacles that the machinations of the immortals almost look like a secondary concern. Almost. This sophisticated novel is filled with breathtaking prose and nuanced characterizations. Secondary characters pulled into the game by virtue of their associations with Henry and Flora are as richly drawn as the lovers. Love and Death, equally enigmatic and maddening, are the moral core of the story, despite the callous premise of their game. This original novel is a thoughtful exploration of courage, love, and the price we pay to live.
Maryvale Preparatory School

12th Grade

Summer Reading - 2017

Please choose from one of the books below. When you return in the fall, you will discuss the book in your Theology class.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot (Adult)

*Library Journal (December 1, 2009)*

This distinctive work skillfully puts a human face on the bioethical questions surrounding the HeLa cell line. Henrietta Lacks, an African American mother of five, was undergoing treatment for cancer at Johns Hopkins University in 1951 when tissue samples were removed without her knowledge or permission and used to create HeLa, the first "immortal" cell line. HeLa has been sold around the world and used in countless medical research applications, including the development of the polio vaccine. Science writer Skloot, who worked on this book for ten years, entwines Lacks's biography, the development of the HeLa cell line, and her own story of building a relationship with Lacks's children. Full of dialog and vivid detail, this reads like a novel, but the science behind the story is also deftly handled. Verdict While there are other titles on this controversy (e.g., Michael Gold's A Conspiracy of Cells: One Woman's Immortal Legacy-and the Medical Scandal It Caused), this is the most compelling account for general readers, especially those interested in questions of medical research ethics. Highly recommended. [See Skloot's essay, p. 126; Prepub Alert, LJ 11/1/09.]-Carla Lee, Univ. of Virginia Lib., Charlottesville Copyright 2009 Reed Business Information.

Revolution by Jennifer Donnelly

*Booklist (October 1, 2010 (Vol. 107, No. 3))*

Grades 8-12. Donnelly follows her Printz Honor Book, A Northern Light (2003), with another gripping, sophisticated story, but this time she pairs historical fiction with a wrenching contemporary plotline. After her little brother's murder and her mother's subsequent breakdown, high-school-senior Andi feels like a ghost. She is furious at her father, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist with a 25-year-old pregnant girlfriend, when he arranges for Andi to join him in Paris: "Sure. My brother's dead. My
mother’s insane. Hey, let’s have a crepe.” In France though, Andi, a passionate musician, discovers a diary written during the French Revolution by a young woman with whom Andi develops an increasing fascination. Donnelly links past and present with distracting contrivances—culminating in time travel—that work against the novel’s great strengths. But the ambitious story, narrated in Andi’s grief-soaked, sardonic voice, will wholly capture patient readers with its sharply articulated, raw emotions and insights into science and art; ambition and love; history’s ever-present influence; and music’s immediate, astonishing power: “It gets inside of you . . . and changes the beat of your heart.”

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

Library Journal (December 1, 2015)

January 1945. The war in Europe is in its end stages as German forces are beaten back by the Allied armies. To escape the Soviet advance on the eastern front, thousands of refugees flee to the Polish coast. In this desperate flight for freedom, four young people—each from very different backgrounds and each with dark secrets—connect as they vie for passage on the Wilhelm Gustloff, a former pleasure cruiser used to evacuate the refugees. Packed to almost ten times its original capacity, the ship is hit by Soviet torpedoes fewer than 12 hours after leaving port. As the ship sinks into the icy waters of the Baltic Sea, what was supposed to be an avenue for escape quickly becomes another fight to survive the randomness of war. VERDICT YA author Sepetys (Between Shades of Gray; Out of the Easy) describes an almost unknown maritime disaster whose nearly 9,000 casualties dwarfed those of both the Titanic and the Lusitania. Told alternately from the perspective of each of the main characters, the novel also highlights the struggle and sacrifices that ordinary people—children—were forced to make. At once beautiful and heart-wrenching, this title will remind readers that there are far more casualties of war than are recorded in history books. Sure to have crossover appeal for adult readers.-Elisabeth Clark, West Florida P.L., Pensacola © Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.