

## Maryvale Preparatory School

### Summer Reading – 2020

Please see summer reading requirements below based on your grade. When you return in the fall you will discuss the book in your Theology class.

#### **ALL 9TH GRADERS READ THIS BOOK**

***The Hate You Give*** by Angie Thomas

***Booklist starred (December 15, 2016 (Vol. 113, No. 8))***

Grades 9-12. Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two very different worlds: one is her home in a poor black urban neighborhood; the other is the tony suburban prep school she attends and the white boy she dates there. Her bifurcated life changes dramatically when she is the only witness to the unprovoked police shooting of her unarmed friend Khalil and is challenged to speak out—though with trepidation—about the injustices being done in the event’s wake. As the case becomes national news, violence erupts in her neighborhood, and Starr finds herself and her family caught in the middle. Difficulties are exacerbated by their encounters with the local drug lord for whom Khalil was dealing to earn money for his impoverished family. If there is to be hope for change, Starr comes to realize, it must be through the exercise of her voice, even if it puts her and her family in harm’s way. Thomas’ debut, both a searing indictment of injustice and a clear-eyed, dramatic examination of the complexities of race in America, invites deep thoughts about our social fabric, ethics, morality, and justice. Beautifully written in Starr’s authentic first-person voice, this is a marvel of verisimilitude as it insightfully examines two worlds in collision. An inarguably important book that demands the widest possible readership.

#### **SOPHOMORES MAY CHOOSE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BOOKS.**

**The theme for discussion is how do events in our lives impact how we live. Does it change our story and how we celebrate?**

***Before I Let Go*** by Marieke Nijkamp

***Booklist starred (November 1, 2017 (Vol. 114, No. 5))***

Grades 9-12. When Corey gets the call that her friend Kyra drowned in an iced-over lake, it’s been seven months since the two of them talked, and Corey drops everything to return to the tiny, isolated town of Lost Creek, Alaska. She expected at least a bit of a warm welcome from the town she grew up in, but instead, she finds chilly demeanors and secret whispers, even from Kyra’s own parents, whom Corey considered family. When Corey starts asking questions about Kyra’s death, first she gets reluctant,

enigmatic answers, and then she finds disturbing clues about Kyra's final days, as her bipolar disorder spiraled out of control. Nijkamp builds a captivatingly creepy atmosphere in her sophomore novel, with well-paced ghostly apparitions, lightly magical occurrences, and an eerie sense that someone's watching Corey at every turn. What's more terrifying, however, is Lost Creek's mistreatment of Kyra, even by her own parents, which is fueled by a twisted quest for hope. The horror trappings are certainly compelling, and they'll keep the pages turning, but at its core, Nijkamp's novel is a harsh rebuke of an all-too-common, troubling trope in many YA novels: fetishizing deeply creative, suicidal teens as "too bright to live." With exceptional handling of everything from mental illness to guilt, and a riveting, magic realist narrative, this well-wrought, haunting novel will stick with readers long after the final page.

### ***Girl Underwater*** by Claire Kells

*School Library Journal* (October 1, 2015)

Avery is the youngest in a family of athletes from Boston. She's a sophomore at Stanford when the plane she's taking home from school crashes in the Rocky Mountains. She is one of the only survivors, along with Colin (a teammate) and three young boys. They spend five days huddled in the wilderness, facing severe cold, snow storms, and a bear attack. Both Avery and Colin are uniquely qualified to survive-Avery's father is an ER doctor who taught her the basics, even taking her along to the ER on Saturdays to work by his side as she was growing up. Colin has a preternatural calm and optimism, as well as strength and a way with kids. But something happens on the fifth day that makes Avery so ashamed she cannot visit the boys or Colin after their rescue. She even lies to the media. Kells's choice to alternate chapters between the event and its aftermath effectively ramps up the suspense concerning the details of the tragedy and Avery's subsequent struggle with PTSD. Avery is a strong, if flawed, character, and teens will love her deeply emotional, at times angsty, story. There is a strong bond between Colin and Avery that brings a will-they or won't-they element to their relationship. Colin is a truly good person, and readers looking for a humble hero will swoon. VERDICT With the pacing of a thriller and the heart of a romance, the novel steers readers through one young woman's survival of a devastating tragedy.-Angela Carstensen, Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York City © Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

***A Heart in a Body in the World* by Deb Caletti**

***Kirkus Reviews starred (June 15, 2018)***

Annabelle Agnelli runs from Seattle to Washington, D.C., in an attempt to outrun a traumatizing incident that occurred less than a year earlier. Eighteen-year-old Seattleite Annabelle is hardworking, pretty, and seemingly has it all: good grades, great friends, and a loving family. Following a tragedy, however, Annabelle is wracked with guilt over a crime she did not commit but feels responsible for, and as a result, she suffers from severe anxiety and PTSD. The only thing she feels she can do now is run. Joined by her Italian immigrant grandfather, Grandpa Ed, in his RV and cheered on by a self-appointed publicity team comprising her 13-year-old brother, Malcolm, and her friends Zach (indicated East Asian by his surname) and Olivia (presumed white), Annabelle runs across the nation in an attempt to come to terms with the event perpetrated by a person whom she dubs The Taker. Written in the present tense, Caletti's (*What's Become of Her*, 2017, etc.) narrative conveys a sense of urgency and immediacy as she presents issues familiar to many young women, including rape culture, violence, and the internalization of guilt and social critique. A timely novel with strong secondary characters that emphasizes the complexities of the heart and doing what is right. (Fiction. 14-adult)

***How We Roll* by Natasha Friend**

***Booklist (May 15, 2018 (Vol. 114, No. 18))***

Grades 7-10. When the McAvoy family moves to Gull's Head, Massachusetts, it's for 14-year-old Quinn's autistic younger brother's education. Quinn, however, is eager to start anew after an alopecia areata totalis diagnosis left her bald as a cue ball and the butt of her classmates' cruel jokes. No one in Gull's Head knows she's wearing a wig, so once freshman year starts, Quinn is thrilled to be welcomed by the hip girls, but the once-popular and promising football player Nick Strout is a tough sell. Unlike Quinn's ability to hide her alopecia under a wig, Nick can't hide the fact that an accident has left him an amputee. Slowly, a friendship blossoms between Quinn and Nick, and they turn each other's messed-up world right-side up. The novel sheds light on unusual but important issues and the effects they have on families. Quinn's fear and Nick's anger are equally genuine and moving. Friend cleverly finds the sweet spot in both characters to help them gain confidence and understanding in a world that neither believes or cares about them.

## **ALL JUNIORS READ THIS BOOK**

***Find Me Unafraid: Love, Loss, and Hope in an African Slum*** by Odede Kennedy  
***Publishers Weekly (June 22, 2015)***

This riveting memoir takes place primarily in Kibera, one of Kenya's worst slums (which range in population from 170,000 to 1 million), and the authors narrate in alternating chapters. Odede, a community organizer in his early 20s, grew up in Kibera, and tells of his childhood of poverty, abuse, and struggle; Posner, a privileged, 20-year-old Wesleyan University student on a semester abroad project, arrived in 2007 hoping to help out with a theater group that Odede runs. Wanting an authentic experience, Posner moves in with Odede in the slum; there the eyes of the Denver-raised American are opened to another world, and she begins to fall under the spell of the charismatic, courageous young man who founded the nonprofit community organization Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) and is known unofficially throughout Kibera as "Mayor." Before long, Odede's dream of building a school for girls (many of whom have been abused and/or raped) is put into motion, and with Posner's help, grants are secured to bring this dream, and others, to life. Self-taught on the writings and work of Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela, Odede is determined to rise above violence and poverty and help his neighbors in the process; in Posner he finds the perfect partner for his quest. Suspenseful and absorbing, this true story of a man and a woman from two different worlds reveals how dramatically circumstances can change. (Oct.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved

## **WORLD RELIGIONS FALL 2020**

### **READ THE LILAC GIRLS OR THE LINES WE CROSS**

***The Lilac Girls: a Novel*** by Martha Hall Kelly

***Booklist starred (May 15, 2016 (Online))***

Spanning more than 20 years in the lives of 3 women and based on real people and events, Kelly's debut brings historical facts to startling life. As the narrative begins in 1939, Caroline Ferraday is a former Broadway actress and New York socialite who works with the French consulate, Herta Oberheuser is an ambitious young German doctor, and Kasia Kuzmerick is a 15-year-old Polish girl just getting involved with the resistance. As WWII progresses and Hitler's army proceeds through Europe, circumstances draw these women together. Caroline's relief work becomes more necessary.

Herta secures a position as camp doctor at Ravensbrück, and Kasia is transported there with her mother and sister after her courier activities are reported. When the war ends and the camp is liberated, the story continues. Caroline pursues reparations and justice for the displaced, Herta is tried and convicted of war crimes, and Kasia attempts to return to a normal existence in now-Communist Poland, marrying and having a baby. Details of fundraising efforts, immigration issues, Reich politics, camp life, and interpersonal relationships make for a gripping read that lingers well after the book ends. Offer this to WWII aficionados, biography fans, and book clubs.

***The Lines we Cross*** by Abdel-Fattah, Randa

***School Library Journal (March 1, 2017)***

Gr 9 Up-Mina, her mother, and her stepfather, Afghani refugees in Sydney, Australia, are moving out of multicultural Auburn into a more homogenous, wealthy neighborhood to open a halal restaurant. Michael is the obedient son of the founder of Aussie Values, an anti-immigration group. The two teens meet at Mina's new school, where she is on scholarship. Michael is immediately smitten with witty, self-possessed, intelligent Mina. He falls hard and has to figure out what he believes, because if he is anti-immigration, he is anti-Mina. Mina struggles with trusting Michael, whose family is clearly no ally to hers and whose best friend is a complete jerk. Told from the protagonists' alternating perspectives, this work presents a multifaceted look at a Muslim teen. Mina and Michael's relationship is threatened by direct attacks perpetrated by Aussie Values on Mina's family's restaurant. Their love develops amid (mostly) well-meaning but flawed family and friends. Abdel-Fattah explores teen nerdiness, sexuality, cruelty, compassion, family pressure, neglect, and loyalty. She is a master at conveying themes of tolerance, working in humor, and weaving multiple emotionally complex points of view. VERDICT A timely and compassionate portrait of the devastating losses of refugees, political conflicts within a family and a nation, and the astounding capacity of young people to identify hate and yet act with empathy and love. A must-purchase for all collections.-Sara Lissa Paulson, City-As-School High School, New York City © Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.