

Maryvale Preparatory School

9th Grade

Summer Reading – 2018

Please choose from one of the books below. 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

***I will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Caitlin Alifirenka**

Publishers Weekly Annex (March 16, 2015)

In 1997, a 12-year old girl from Hatfield, Pa., and a 14-year-old boy from Mutare, Zimbabwe, began a pen-pal relationship. In alternating chapters, Alifirenka and Ganda recount how their mutual curiosity led to an increasingly honest, generous correspondence. Martin loves receiving Caitlin's photo, but when she requests one in return, "My heart went from sprinting to a standstill." He sends her the only photo his family owns. Hearing BBC accounts of Zimbabwe's political and economic turmoil alarms Caitlin, but a letter written on a popsicle wrapper shocks her: "I gasped. My friend was writing me on trash." She begins to send him her babysitting money—which Martin's family uses to buy food and to pay school fees and rent—and Caitlin's family eventually decides to sponsor Martin's education. Sensitively and candidly demonstrating how small actions can result in enormous change, this memoir of two families' transformation through the commitment and affection of long-distance friends will humble and inspire. Ages 12-up. Agent: (for Alifirenka and

Ganda) Sarah Burnes, Gernert Company; (for Welch) Brettne Bloom, Kneerim, Williams & Bloom. (Apr.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Maryvale Preparatory School

10th Grade

Summer Reading - 2018

Please read the book below. 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 – 2018

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

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 aviatrix. 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 - 2018

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

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.

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."

The Sun is also a Star by Nicola Yoon

Booklist starred (August 2016 (Vol. 112, No. 22))

Grades 8-12. On a summer morning in New York City, Daniel and Natasha wake up as strangers. This is a day that could catapult their lives into entirely new directions that neither of them wants to take. Natasha has only hours left to prevent her family's deportation to Jamaica, after a minor legal infraction jeopardizes their stay in the U.S. Daniel dreads sealing his fate with an alumni interview that will pave his way to a career in medicine, as his Korean family expects. Despite a day packed with Natasha's desperate race against time and a tangled system, and Daniel's difficult tug-of-war between familial pressures and autonomy, love finds a way in, takes hold, and changes them both forever. Yoon's sophomore effort (*Everything, Everything*, 2015) is carefully plotted and distinctly narrated in Natasha's and Daniel's voices; yet it also allows space for the lives that are swirling around them, from security guards to waitresses to close relatives. It's lyrical and sweeping, full of hope, heartbreak, fate, and free will. It encompasses the cultural specifics of diverse New York City communities and the universal beating of the human heart. Every day—like every book—begins full of possibility, but this one holds more than others.

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 hyper competitiveness 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