

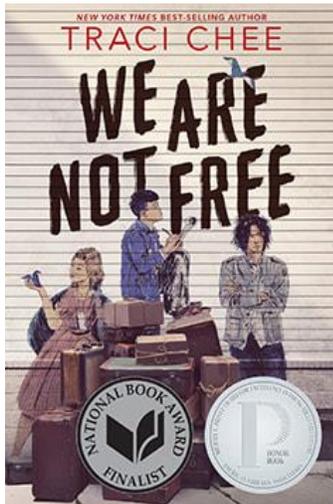
Maryvale Preparatory School

Upper School

Summer Reading – 2021

Please choose a book from the list according to your grade level or class. When you return in the fall you will discuss the book in your Theology class.

9th and 10 Grade may choose any book on the list



We Are Not Free by Traci Chee [We Are Not Free](#)

Kirkus Reviews starred (July 15, 2020)

Young Japanese Americans tell of life during World War II. In San Francisco's Japantown, a group of teens has grown up together and become like family. But life in America after the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor is dangerous for them. They and their families are taken to the Topaz incarceration camp in Utah, where the harsh conditions and injustices they experience turn their worlds upside down. They draw some comfort in being together—however, a government questionnaire causes rifts: Loyalties are questioned, lines are drawn, and anger spills over, threatening to destroy the bonds that once held them together. The teens are forced apart, some enlisting in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team while the No-Nos (those who refuse to serve in the U.S. military and swear allegiance solely to the U.S. government) are relocated to the Tule Lake camp, and others, whose families passed background checks, are allowed to resettle in locations around the country. This is a compelling and transformative story of a tragic period in American history. Written from the 14 young people's intertwining points of view, each character fills in a segment of time between 1942 and 1945. The styles vary,

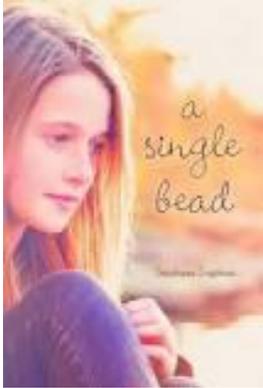
including both first- and second-person narration as well as verse and letters. Each voice is powerful, evoking raw emotions of fear, anger, resentment, uncertainty, grief, pride, and love. Historical photographs and documents enhance the text.



Watch Us Rise by Renee Watson [Watch Us Rise](#)

Booklist (May 15, 2019 (Online))

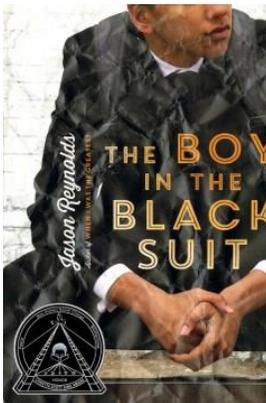
Grades 9-12. This is a refreshingly unapologetic celebration of young women's voices in a format that encompasses poetry, blog posts, essays, and prose. Best friends Jasmine and Chelsea intend to start junior year at their progressive, social-justice-focused high school on a high note in their respective clubs: for Jasmine, the August Wilson Acting Ensemble and for Chelsea, the Peaceful Poets. When both are (ironically) met with resistance to new, more inclusive ideas, they decide to leave their clubs and form a new one focused on elevating women's voices, especially those of activists and people of color. When their blog, Write Like a Girl, goes viral, the school's administration attempts to shut them down. Watson and Hagan keep Jasmine and Chelsea's voices distinct and allow them to resound with authenticity. Despite facing very real hardships like fat-shaming, sexism, and loss of a parent, Jasmine and Chelsea are steadfast in their convictions and relentlessly supportive of both each other and their own emotions. Readers won't be able to help feeling empowered and uplifted by the end of the novel.



A Single Bead by Stephanie Engelman [A Single Bead](#)

From the Publisher

On the anniversary of the plane crash that took the life of her beloved grandmother and threw her own mother into a deep depression, 16-year-old Katelyn Marie Roberts discovers a single bead from her grandmother's rosary--a rosary lost in the crash. A chance encounter with a stranger, who tells Katelyn that a similar bead saved her friend's life, launches Katelyn and her family on a mysterious journey filled with glimmers of hope, mystical events and unexplained graces. (Reading ages 13-17)

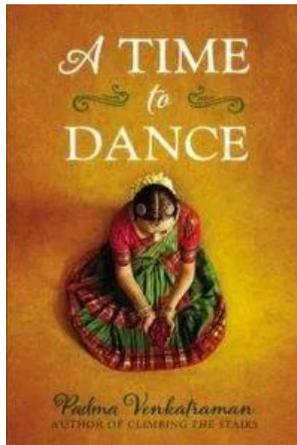


The Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds

Booklist (February 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 11))

Grades 8-12. His mother recently died from breast cancer, and 17-year-old Matt feels his life is backwards and that he has become invisible at school. Then, ironically, he secures a work-study job at the local funeral home, owned by Mr. Ray, a respected fixture in their Bed-Stuy neighborhood, and discovers, to his surprise, that he enjoys attending funerals. "Somehow," he thinks, "it made me feel better knowing my pain isn't only mine." It is at a funeral that he meets a beautiful girl with the improbable name of Lovey and feels an instant attraction. The two become friends and gradually their friendship, rooted in trust, becomes something deeper that may redeem

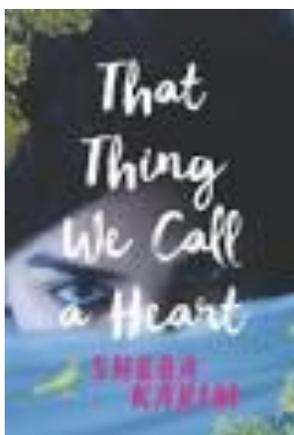
both of them from their losses and loneliness. This quiet story is clearly a winner.



A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatraman [A Time to Dance](#)

Booklist starred (April 15, 2014 (Vol. 110, No. 16))

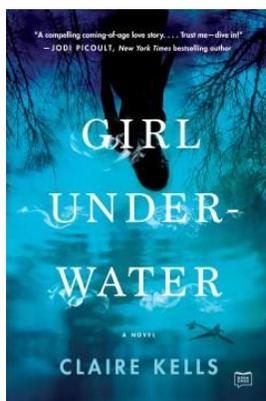
Grades 7-12. Veda lives with her warm, traditional parents and sweet grandmother, Paati. She blissfully expresses herself through dance, even though engineering is her expected career goal. When tragedy strikes, she struggles to find her rhythm using her new, severely diminished physicality. In Venkatraman's delectably scented, sensual world, lyrically told through verse and through Veda, life is illuminated as a beautiful celebration of doing what comes naturally as well as one is able. Veda's awakening of her gift throughout her altered body and revolutionary prosthesis provides a spiritually uplifting premise. As her dance instructor and love interest, Govinda, persuades her, "Our ancient scriptures say the best dancers must have ten talents: balance, agility, steadiness, grace, intelligence, dedication, hard work, the ability to sing well, to speak well, and to see deeply and expressively. You've only lost the first three talents. Only for a while." To even have a passing thought that Veda is disabled, rather than differently abled, would be utter madness. Set amid a cardamom-, melted butter-, and semolina sojji-infused landscape, the novel's emotional expression and accompanying music impel the reader to share Veda's belief that "Shiva dances everywhere. In everyone. In everything."



That Thing We Call a Heart by Sheba Karim [That Thing we Call a Heart](#)

School Library Journal (March 1, 2017)

Gr 9 Up—The summer before college is a fraught one for Shabnam. Although she and Farah were once practically sisters, there's a distance between them now that Farah has chosen to wear a hijab. Shabnam feels uncomfortable with the attention her friend's decision often attracts. Meanwhile, Shabnam falls hard for Jamie, navigates her relationship with her family, and, under her father's guidance, discovers the beauty of Urdu poetry. Beneath Shabnam's snide commentary about herself, her Pakistani and Muslim heritage, and her family lies genuine insecurity, which Karim teases out deftly. Karim has crafted a complex portrait of a young Muslim woman with Farah.

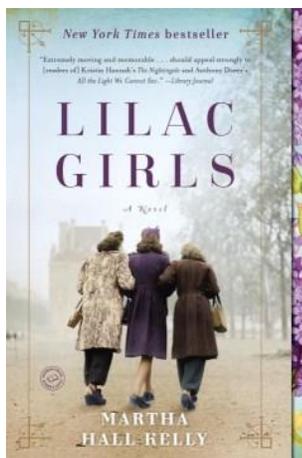


Girl Underwater by Claire Kells

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.



The Lilac Girls: a Novel by Martha Hall Kelly

Booklist starred (May 15, 2016) (Adult)

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

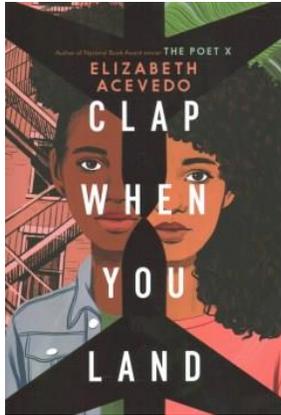
interpersonal relationships make for a gripping read that lingers well after the book ends.



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.

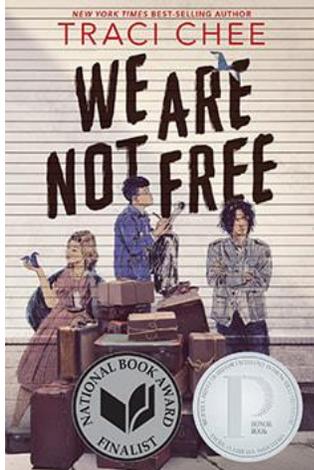


Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo.

School Library Journal Xpress (May 1, 2020)

Gr 9 Up-A deadly plane crash brings secrets to light and families together in this novel told in verse. Camino lives in the Dominican Republic where she spends her days swimming and serving as an apprentice to her aunt, a healer, as she makes house calls. Yahaira is a chess champ and lives in New York with her parents and next door to her girlfriend. Alternating between Camino and Yahaira's perspectives, the story explores the grief of losing a loved one while discovering sisterhood. As details of the plane crash are revealed and arrangements are made for a funeral, Camino and Yahaira realize they are grieving for the same beloved father. Lush imagery and masterful characterization give readers a look at the lives of two 16-year-old girls whose worlds couldn't be further apart, but who long for connection in the face of life-altering tragedy. When the girls come face to face on Camino's home turf their bonds of sisterhood are developed and tested; in an intense standoff with a shady character, Yahaira may be the only person who can help Camino escape with her life.

Catholic Social Teaching and Morality: Read one of these



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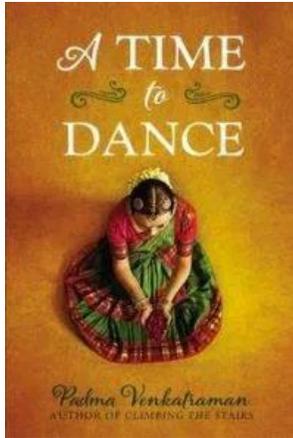


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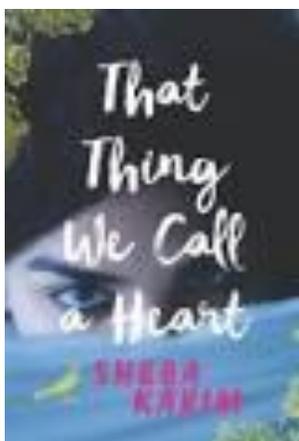
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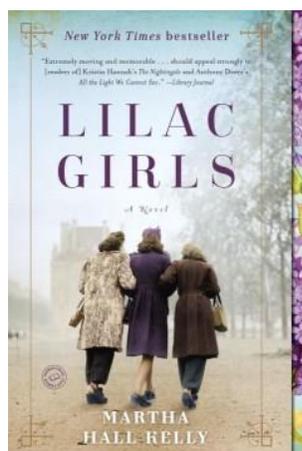
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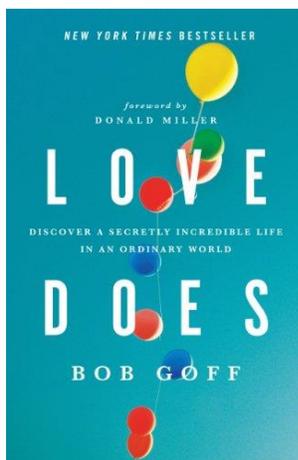
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1804 must choose one of these 3 books

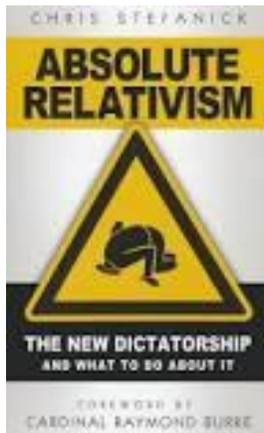


Love Does by Bob Goff

Publishers Weekly (April 9, 2012)

It's not every author who puts his or her phone number in the front of a book, inviting readers to call if any ideas "ping" them. But judging by the breadth of experiences retailed in this volume of autobiographical stories, Goff, a successful lawyer and founder of the international child advocacy group Restore International, has charted his own optimistic and ebullient course for decades without veering anywhere near the beaten track. In a folksy and candid style that sometimes seems to beg for editorial ministrations, the writer spins some fascinating yarns, from the winsome sit-in that won him a place in law school to a family world tour prompted by questions his children sent global leaders after the terrorist attacks of

September 11, 2001. Paired with reflections on God's purposes and faithful living, the stories are engaging and often funny. However, a reader is left satiated, questioning whether perhaps a writer with a wider-angled lens and a tauter style could have tied the various strands together in a way that truly does this eccentric and apparently eternally hopeful man the justice he probably deserves.



Absolute Relativism: The New Dictatorship and What to Do About It
by Chris Stefanick

Welcome to the new tyranny "If it feels good, do it." "That's your opinion, and this is mine."

"I don't want to impose my beliefs on others."

And thus the Dictator of Relativism speaks as he has always spoken to seduce humanity into a false sense of freedom.

Pope Benedict XVI, Christ's personally chosen defender of the Truth is fighting back. He recognized this in his homily on April 18, 2005, "We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires."

Through a down-to-earth, easily accessible Question-and-Answer format, Stefanick's book shows:

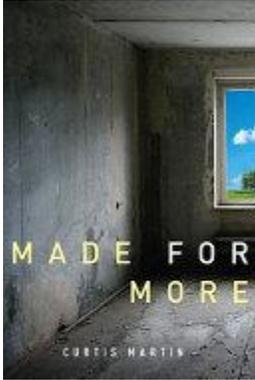
Why relativism inherently contradicts its own claims.

What makes it one of the worst ideas in the history of ideas.

How relativism has a direct influence on the morals and virtues of a nation.

Why relativism doesn't even work "in real life."

How relativism is counterproductive to the true practice of tolerance



Made for More by Curtis Martin

In every young Catholic's heart there is a search for meaning. Yet many of our youth never get beyond the material distractions of the world. In fact, in a recent survey, teenagers were eight times more desirous of being rich and five times more desirous of being famous than pursuing a life of faith. To be young and Catholic in the modern world is no easy task. Entertained and enticed beyond their ability to cope, millions of Catholic teens and college students are drifting through life living without purpose or meaning. They are searching for their own path, but they are ill-equipped at such an impressionable age to discern the direction that leads to everlasting happiness. In this book, renowned Catholic leader Curtis Martin presents the evidence that we have been made for more than just the intoxications of this world sex, partying, and money. We have been made for greatness and we will only reach such heights when we first come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. *Made for More* makes a compelling case that: We have been made for eternal happiness with God in heaven. The secret of happiness lies in following God's plan for our life. Jesus is the Son of God who preached the good news of salvation. Jesus founded a community of believers, the Church, and that being part of this family of God is how we find our direction and purpose and the surest path to eternal life. *Made for More by Curtis Martin*