

2018 BOYS' LATIN HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH SUMMER READING OPTIONS

Instructions:

All students must read one of the books from the selection below. Students in honors sections must select one more book from the last page. Your written work will be assigned and submitted through Google Classroom. Please be sure to remember your BL email login and plan to have internet access (home, public library, school computer lab) at some point in the summer. Contact Ms. List (ilist@boyslatin.org) with any questions.

You may...

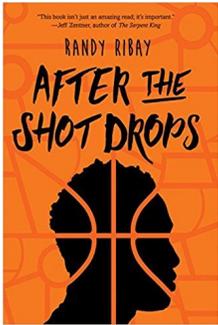
- Purchase your book, borrow it from the public library, or purchase it through the school. To order through Boys' Latin, submit payment to Ms. List by May 30.

You may not...

- Read a book you have read before
- Plagiarize any portion of your written work
- Claim you “didn’t know” about summer reading

***After the Shot Drops* by Randy Ribay**

contemporary teen fiction, 336 pg, \$13

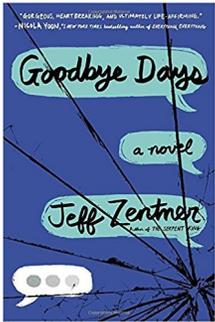


Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. Nasir can't help but wonder why the neighborhood is falling over itself to help Bunny when *Wallace* is in trouble.

When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision—maybe a dangerous one.

***Goodbye Days* by Jeff Zentner**

contemporary teen fiction, 405 pg, \$9



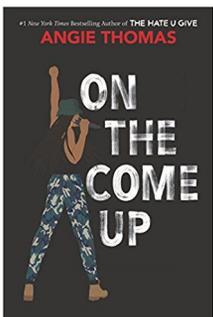
Where are you guys? Text me back. That's the last message Carver Briggs will ever send his three best friends, Mars, Eli, and Blake. He never thought that it would lead to their death.

Now Carver can't stop blaming himself for the accident and even worse, a powerful judge is pressuring the district attorney to open up a criminal investigation.

Luckily, Carver has some unexpected allies, including Blake's grandmother, who asks Carver to spend a “goodbye day” together to share their memories and say a proper farewell. Soon the other families are asking for their own goodbye day with Carver—but he's unsure of their motives. Will they all be able to make peace with their losses, or will these goodbye days bring Carver one step closer to a complete breakdown or—even worse—prison?

***On the Come Up* by Angie Thomas**

contemporary teen fiction, 320 pg, \$17

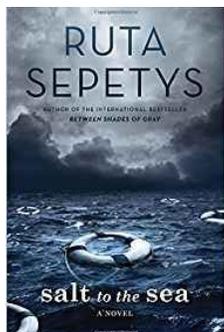


Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least get some streams on her mixtape. As the daughter of an underground rap legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill.

But when her mom unexpectedly loses her job, food banks and shut-off notices become as much a part of her life as beats and rhymes. With bills piling up and homelessness staring her family down, Bri no longer just wants to make it—she *has* to make it.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

historical fiction, 400 pg, \$12

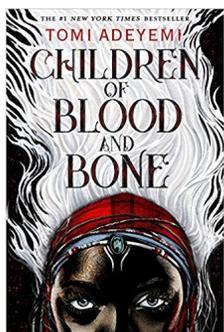


World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety.

Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people—adults and children alike—aboard must fight for the same thing: survival.

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

fantasy teen fiction, 525 pg, \$15



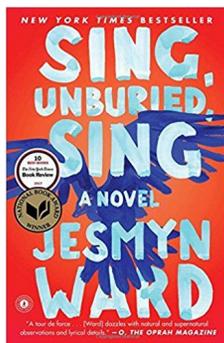
They killed my mother. They took our magic. They tried to bury us. Now we rise.

Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls.

But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good.

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward

contemporary literary fiction, 285 pg, \$15

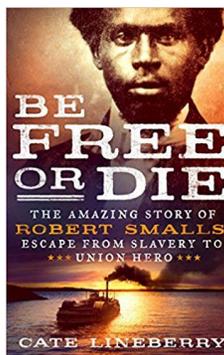


For her third novel, National Book Award winning Jesmyn Ward, tells the story of Jojo, a young black Mississippi boy raised by his grandparents, who is forced to become a man far before he should because his mother is a drug addict, his father is in jail, and his baby sister needs a guardian.

When Jojo's dad is released from prison, Leonie packs Jojo and Kayla in the car, picks up her meth addled friend and drives north. What transpires is a nightmarish journey that weaves in and out of the present – Leonie's meth induced highs, when she dreams of her dead brother who was killed by white hands decades ago, and the past -- when a man named Ritchie served time alongside Jojo's grandfather. *Sing, Unburied, Sing* shimmers with mythic southern memories to tell a story of the drugged and the damned and the fluttering promise of youth.

Be Free or Die by Cate Lineberry

nonfiction biography, 288 pg, \$17



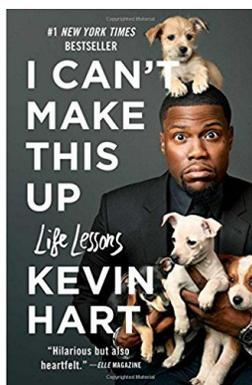
The Amazing Story of Robert Smalls' Escape from Slavery to Union Hero

It was a mild May morning in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1862, the second year of the Civil War, when a twenty-three-year-old slave named Robert Smalls did the unthinkable and boldly seized a Confederate steamer. With his wife and two young children hidden on board, Smalls and a small crew ran a gauntlet of heavily armed fortifications in Charleston Harbor and delivered the valuable vessel and the massive guns it carried to nearby Union forces. To be unsuccessful was a death sentence for all.

Smalls' courageous and ingenious act freed him and his family from slavery and immediately made him a Union hero while simultaneously challenging much of the country's view of what African Americans were willing to do to gain their freedom.

***I Can't Make This Up* by Kevin Hart**

nonfiction autobiography, 400 pg, \$14



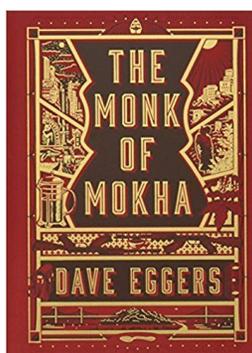
It begins in North Philadelphia. He was born an accident, unwanted by his parents. His father was a drug addict who was in and out of jail. His brother was a crack dealer and petty thief. And his mother was overwhelmingly strict, beating him with belts, frying pans, and his own toys.

The odds, in short, were stacked against our young hero. But Kevin Hart, like Ernest Hemingway, J.K. Rowling, and Chocolate Droppa before him, was able to defy the odds and turn it around. In his literary debut, he takes us on a journey through what his life was, what it is today, and how he's overcome each challenge to become the man he is today.

And that man happens to be the biggest comedian in the world, with tours that sell out football stadiums and films that have collectively grossed over \$3.5 billion.

***The Monk of Mokha* by Dave Eggers**

nonfiction biography, 386 pg, \$17



Mokhtar Alkhanshali is twenty-four and working as a doorman when he discovers the astonishing history of coffee and Yemen's central place in it. He leaves San Francisco and travels deep into his ancestral homeland to tour terraced farms high in the country's rugged mountains and meet beleaguered but determined farmers. But when war engulfs the country and Saudi bombs rain down, Mokhtar has to find a way out of Yemen without sacrificing his dreams or abandoning his people.

***How We Got to Now* by Steven Johnson**

nonfiction history & science, 255 pg, \$13



Innovation starts with a problem whose solution sets in motion all kinds of unexpected discoveries. That's why you can draw a line from pendulums to punching the clock at a factory, from ice blocks to summer movie blockbusters, from clean water to computer chips.

Bestselling author, Steven Johnson looks at how accidental genius, brilliant mistakes, and unintended consequences shape the way we live in the modern world. Johnson's "long zoom" approach connects history, geography, politics, and scientific advances.

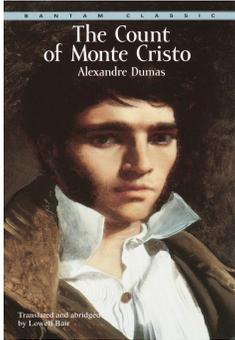
His fascinating account is organized into six topics: glass, cold, sound, clean, time, light. Johnson's fresh exploration of these simple, single-syllable word concepts creates an endlessly absorbing story.

HONORS SELECTIONS

Students placed in honors English next year must ALSO read one of the books below

***The Count of Monte Cristo** by Alexandre Dumas (Bantam classics edition)**

classic adventure, 544 pg, \$7



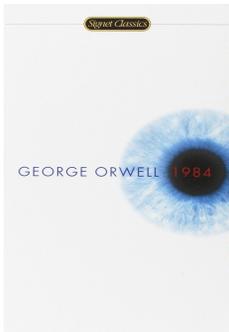
The story takes place in France during the Napoleonic Wars around the year 1815. The story follows a particular character named Edmond Dantes. When Edmond becomes the captain of a ship, three acquaintances of his become very jealous of his successes.

The three create an elaborate plan to get Dantes arrested and out of their lives. They write a letter to a government official claiming Dantes is a supporter of Napoleon. Dantes is arrested on his wedding day and is imprisoned for 7 years. Dantes builds a great hatred towards the four that falsely imprisoned him and swears to get revenge on them. This is his story.

*Make sure to get the Bantam classics abridged edition. The original is 1200 pages!

***1984** by George Orwell**

classic dystopian fiction, 328 pg, \$6



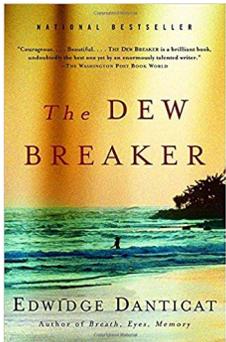
"The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command."

Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...

* We have many copies at school you may borrow. See Ms. List.

***The Dew Breaker* by Edwidge Danticat**

historical fiction, 244 pg, \$11

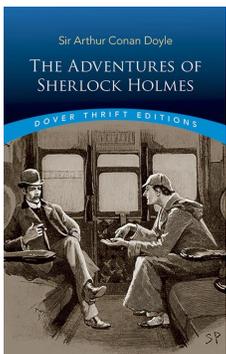


We meet him late in life: a quiet man, a good father and husband, a fixture in his Brooklyn neighborhood, a landlord and barber with a terrifying scar across his face. As the book unfolds, moving seamlessly between Haiti in the 1960s and New York City today, we enter the lives of those around him, and learn that he has also kept a vital, dangerous secret.

Edwidge Danticat's brilliant exploration of the "dew breaker"—or torturer—is an unforgettable story of love, remorse, and hope; of personal and political rebellions.

***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Dover Thrift edition)**

classic mystery, 240 pg, \$6



Venture back in time to Victorian London to join literature's greatest detective team — the brilliant Sherlock Holmes and his devoted assistant, Dr. Watson — as they investigate a dozen of their best-known cases. Originally published in 1892, this is the first and best collection of stories about the legendary sleuth. It's also the least expensive edition available.

Featured tales include several of the author's personal favorites: "A Scandal in Bohemia" — in which a king is blackmailed by a former lover and Holmes matches wits with the only woman to attract his open admiration — plus "The Speckled Band," "The Red-Headed League," and "The Five Orange Pips." Additional mysteries include "The Blue Carbuncle," "The Engineer's Thumb," "The Beryl Coronet," "The Copper Beeches," and four others.

