

Upper School Summer Reading



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The upper school's summer reading "book club" format has been successful over the past few years; in light of that success, we are following a similar plan this time around. Our summer books were selected by six upper school students; each of these students will lead a book discussion in the fall. The books cover a variety of topics, so we trust that every Hill Top student can find something of interest.

Upper school students will each choose **one** of the books listed in this packet. To ensure that your child will be able to fully participate in a book discussion, he or she will also choose **one** of four assignment options to be submitted on September 12, 2019. The four options--instructions included--are also located in this packet.

Short version: choose a book and an assignment, then read, respond, and create! Due 9/12/19 to your English teacher.

We are very excited about our summer reading program, and we are looking forward to excellent discussions in the fall. If you have any questions, email me at gsedgwick@hilltopprep.org.

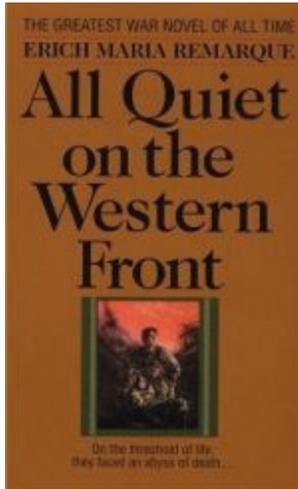
Sincerely,

George Sedgwick
Head of Upper School

Book Choices -- pick one!

All Quiet on the Western Front • By Erich Maria Remarque

-Discussion to be led by Conor Gibson



This is the testament of Paul Bäumer, who enlists with his classmates in the German army of World War I. These young men become enthusiastic soldiers, but their world of duty, culture, and progress breaks into pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches.

Through years of vivid horror, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the hatred that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against one another – if only he can come out of the war alive.

Animal Farm • By George Orwell

-Discussion to be led by Shayne Reynolds

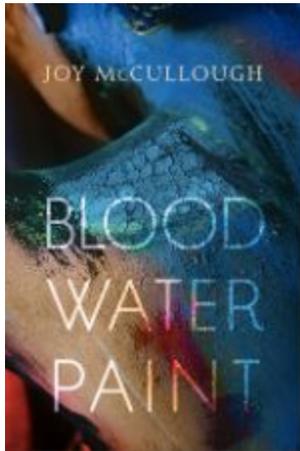
A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned – a razor-edged fairy tale for grown-ups that records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to a totalitarianism just as terrible.

When *Animal Farm* was first published, Stalinist Russia was seen as its target. Today it is devastatingly clear that wherever and whenever freedom is attacked, under whatever banner, the cutting clarity and savage comedy of George Orwell's masterpiece have a meaning and message still ferociously fresh.



Blood Water Paint • By Joy McCullough

-Discussion to be led by Faith Markley



A debut novel based on the true story of the iconic painter, Artemisia Gentileschi.

Her mother died when she was twelve, and suddenly Artemisia Gentileschi had a stark choice: a life as a nun in a convent or a life grinding pigment for her father's paint.

She chose paint.

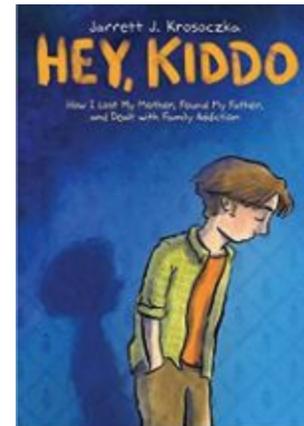
By the time she was seventeen, Artemisia did more than grind pigment. She was one of Rome's most talented painters, even if no one knew her name. But Rome in 1610 was a city where men took what they wanted from women, and in the aftermath of rape Artemisia faced another terrible choice: a life of silence or a life of truth, no matter the cost.

Hey, Kiddo • By Jarrett J. Krosoczka

-Discussion to be led by Bobby DiTore

Hey, Kiddo is the graphic memoir of author-illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Raised by his colorful grandparents, who adopted him because his mother was an incarcerated heroin addict, Krosoczka didn't know his father's name until he saw his birth certificate when registering for a school ski trip.

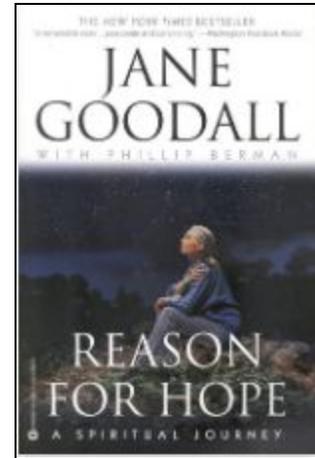
Hey, Kiddo traces Krosoczka's search for his father, his difficult interactions with his mother, his day-to-day life with his grandparents, and his path to becoming an artist. To date, nearly one million people have viewed Krosoczka's TED Talk about his experience. Artwork from his childhood and teen years will be incorporated into the original illustrations for the book.



Reason For Hope • By Jane Goodall

-Discussion to be led by Austin Newbold

Her revolutionary studies of Tanzania's chimpanzees forever altered our definition of "humanity." Now, intriguing as always, Jane Goodall explores her deepest convictions in a heartfelt memoir that takes her from the London Blitz to Louis Leaky's famous excavations in Africa and then into the forests of Gombe. From the unforgettable moment when a wild chimpanzee gently grasps her hand to the terror of a hostage-taking and the sorrow of her husband's death. Here, thoughtfully exploring the challenges of both science and the soul, she offers an inspiring, optimistic message as profound as the knowledge she brought back from the forests, and that gives us all...reason for hope.



2312 • By Kim Stanley Robinson

-Discussion to be led by Will Morrissey



The year is 2312. Scientific and technological advances have opened gateways to an extraordinary future. Earth is no longer humanity's only home; new habitats have been created throughout the solar system on moons, planets, and in between. But in this year, 2312, a sequence of events will force humanity to confront its past, its present, and its future.

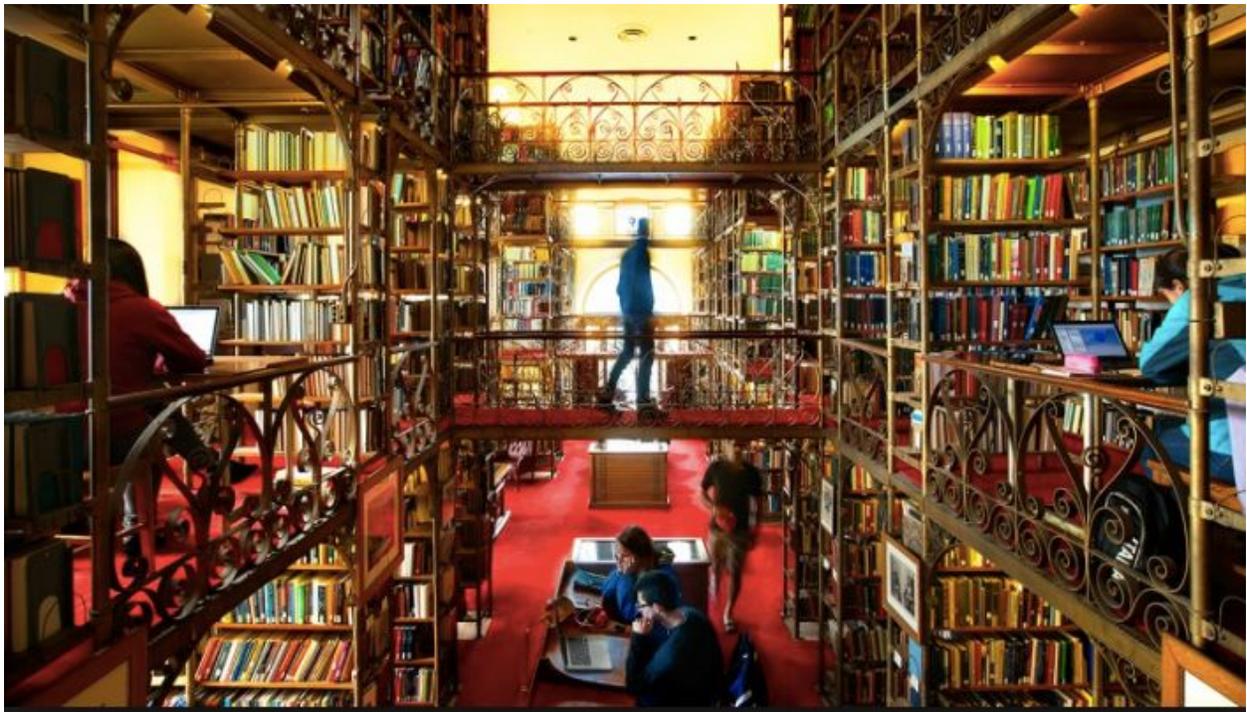
The first event takes place on Mercury, on the city of Terminator, itself a miracle of engineering on an unprecedented scale. It is an unexpected death, but one that might have been foreseen. For Swan Er Hong, it is an event that will change her life. Swan was once a woman who designed worlds. Now she will be led into a plot to destroy them.

Book descriptions and summaries courtesy of Goodreads.com.

Assignments -- pick one!

1. Current Event Tie-in
2. Novel Inventions
3. Soundtrack
4. Storyboard

No matter what book you pick or what assignment you choose, the due dates are the same. Turn in your assignment on **Sept. 12, 2019** to your **English teacher**. The book talks with your group will be on the same day, during Mentor period.



Assignment Option 1: Current Event Tie-in

Consider a current event that is connected to your book.

After finishing your summer reading book, do a little online research ([Google News](#) is a good starting place) and find an article about a current event that relates to a theme or topic in your book.*

(*Examples: *Hey Kiddo* - opioid addiction, *A Reason for Hope* - climate change, *Blood Water Paint* - #metoo)

The article should be from a [reputable news source](#) and should have been published in 2019. Read the article, then answer the questions below.

1. Title of article:
2. Author(s):
3. Name of publication:
4. Publication date:
5. Link/URL to article:
6. What is the article about? **Summarize** in 2-3 sentences.
7. Identify a **theme or topic** in the article, and describe how this theme/topic relates to your summer reading book. **Write a full paragraph.**
8. Imagine you are one of the characters in your book. Share an **opinion** about the article from the perspective of this character. What would this character have to say about the article you chose? **Again, write a full paragraph.**
9. Imagine you are writing a sequel to your book. Identify at least one **fact** from the article to incorporate into your hypothetical sequel. How could this fact help drive the story line? **Answer in a paragraph, of course!**

Assignment Option 2: Novel Inventions

Invent something to help a character.

Almost every character in a book (whether real or fictional) encounters a problem through the course of their narrative. Sometimes it's a small, everyday problem; other times it's a big problem.

Choose a problem that a character in your book faces, whether big or small. **In a well-developed paragraph, describe the problem.** Be specific. Choose examples that plainly illustrate the problem and explain the effect on the character.

Now, think outside the box. Come up with an invention that could help your character deal with/solve/overcome this problem. You have a few options:

1. **Write another paragraph describing the invention.** What does it look like? How big is it? What is it made of? Maybe it's an app? What does the user interface look like?
2. **Create a drawing (by hand or digital) of the invention.** If it's an app, draw the user interface and show a few screenshots.
3. **Create a small scale model of your invention.**

Write one more paragraph describing how this invention (or app) helps solve your character's problem and makes their life easier/better. Be specific. Refer back to the examples you used in your first paragraph.

Assignment Option 3: Soundtrack

Find songs to match five scenes in the book.

Students will consider key moments in a character's journey over the course of the novel and come up with a soundtrack to accompany these episodes. Here are the necessary components:

1. Select **five different moments** in a character's journey that are important to understanding the character and the overall story. These need to be significant and specific scenes in the novel. For example, don't pick when a moment when someone is simply walking the streets of a city; instead, choose when a character is walking at a certain time, for an important reason, to a particular destination.
2. Reflect on the mood, setting, and tone of the selected scenes and choose songs that match--analyze what the character is thinking, feeling, and/or experiencing and what is happening in the story overall, and then try to match a song to that moment in the character's life
3. **Students will write a single paragraph for each scene and song choice.** Explain the scene, the song selection, and why the scene and song fit together. Perhaps begin each paragraph with "When character x is _____, the song _____ by _____ should be on the soundtrack," and then explain.
4. Be creative, but use good judgment in the selection of songs: no profanity or inappropriate subject matter in lyrics

Assignment Option 4: Storyboard

Create storyboards for your chosen book.

Storyboards are simple comics that are used in the performing arts to plan the movement in plays, the shots in films, etc. They are also a great way to summarize your reading.

At four points during your summer reading book, pause to fill in a storyboard. Rules for each storyboard appear below. Draw carefully. Don't forget to include written captions. Add speech and thought bubbles.

A printable pdf of a storyboard is attached for you to fill in, but you may download a different storyboard blank or create your own.

Storyboard 1 Using a copy of the storyboard template, storyboard a scene from the book that introduces the main characters and setting. Remember to add a caption and thought or speech bubbles to help show who your characters really are.

Storyboard 2 Again using the storyboard template, storyboard a scene that explains the major conflict of your book. Your chosen scene should show exactly why the conflict is so intense.

Storyboard 3 Using the storyboard template, storyboard a scene that illustrates the climax of your book. Don't remember what the climax of a book is? Check: <https://literarydevices.net/climax/>

Storyboard 4 Again using the template, storyboard the resolution of the novel, showing whether or not it is a "happy ending." Your caption and thought or speech bubbles should reveal how the characters have developed and how the conflict was resolved. Spoilers are required!