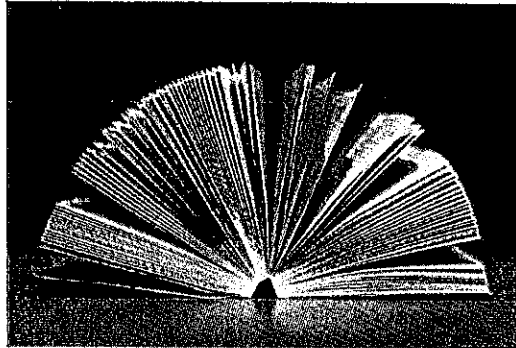


**Kent County High School  
2021 Summer Reading Assignment**



**Directions:**

This year, we would like you to read a book of YOUR choice. Below is a list of suggested book titles. If you aren't sure which one you would like, do some research! Look up the titles below, get suggestions from your peers, parents or guardians, or look up authors you've loved in the past for some ideas. The only requirement is that you cannot choose a book you've already read, or that is in the curriculum from KCPS (it *cannot* be a book you've already read).

**Plan it out:**

We suggest that you get together with a few friends and choose a book after you've read a few summaries or reviews. This way, you can discuss what is going on or any questions you may have as you read. Teachers will also be hosting "book talks" throughout the summer, so if you have a book in mind, email Ms. Walters ([mwalters@kent.k12.md.us](mailto:mwalters@kent.k12.md.us)) to have a talk scheduled with someone.

**What gets turned in?**

After you've chosen a book, and LOVED reading it, you will have one assignment to complete. Attached you will find a Choice Board. You must complete one choice from the board **before school in September.**

## Creative Choices

**After reading a book, choose and complete one of the options below from the choice board. Need help selecting a book? See MANY suggestions below!**

<p>Ever finish a book and wish it ended differently? Now is your chance to change the ending! Write a new last chapter to the book. When writing, remember to mimic the author's style so the chapter feels consistent with the rest of the book.</p>	<p>Create a song playlist that relates to the book. Be sure to put the songs in order of the storyline (exposition, inciting incident, rising action, crisis, climax, falling action, resolution/denouement) and write a brief explanation as to why you chose that song for that particular moment in the book.</p>	<p>Create a game (game board with questions/items that directly relate to characters, events, themes of the novel OR a digital game that relates to the events, themes or characters in the novel)</p>
<p>Create a piece of art that demonstrates one theme of the novel. The artwork can be in any medium (pencil sketch, watercolor, acrylic, collage, paper mache, digital) and must include the book title, author, and a brief theme statement.</p>	<p>Write a poem or song of literary merit that relates to a theme of the novel</p>	<p>The missing chapter - brainstorm, and craft a chapter that you believe should be included in the book. This could be a prologue or epilogue, or a chapter anywhere else in the novel. This does not need to match the length of the actual chapters unless you want to!</p>
<p>Write a book review. Come up with a rating system and assess the book based on how you would score it. Make sure you have detailed explanations about why you've scored it this way.</p>	<p>Comic book-ify your novel. You may draw by hand or use an online site such as <a href="http://www.storyboardthat.com">www.storyboardthat.com</a> or <a href="https://www.canva.com/create/comic-strips/">https://www.canva.com/create/comic-strips/</a>. Make sure to get at least 9 frames in.</p>	<p><b>Write a letter...</b> <b>Ask questions...</b></p>

Here are the directions for accessing online books for free via the Kent County Public Library:

There will be an \* next to the titles that are available for free from the Kent County Public Library's digital collection. There will also be a curbside service for the KCPL throughout the summer in case you would like a hard copy of your book.

Please visit <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>

If you already have an account, login with your email and password. If you do not already have an account, click on 'Get Started Today' to sign up. You will need your Kent County Public Library card number. If you do not already have a library card number, you can sign up for a temporary card online from the library website <http://kentcountylibrary.org/digital/elibrary.php>


Provide an email address and create a password, select the Kent County Public Library in Chestertown, MD as your library, and type in your library card number. You can borrow up to 8 unique titles every month.




List of Book and Author Suggestions:

Again, you are not required to pick any of these titles. We encourage you to read a synopsis prior to your novel for sensitive content.

**Mrs. McCown's Bookshelf:**


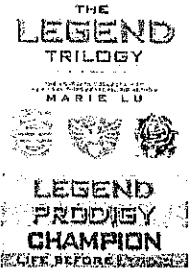

My bookshelf is a reflection of how much I love an allegory. A lot of these choices are characters going on journeys that represent something bigger than themselves or their circumstances. SO if you choose one of these, try to think outside of the box and about how fractured identity plays a role in your understanding of the world around you.

Title, Author	Reason
<p><i>Slaughterhouse Five</i> Kurt Vonnegut</p> 	<p>This one...is a lot. Multiple plot lines and lots of chaos. BUT it's about a man trying to access the most damaged part of himself, and his only way to do that in order to heal is to separate himself any way he can from that trauma of fighting in WWII. This is a deep dive into the ways that our minds can trick us for protection. Also, aliens. Come on.</p>
<p><i>The Brief and Wondrous</i></p>	<p>This is a play on the "hero's journey" allegory, and follows a</p>

<p><i>Life of Oscar Wao</i> by Junot Díaz</p> <p>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</p> <p>Junot Díaz</p>	<p>nerdy, dreaming boy in New Jersey as he navigates his comic-book style world to save his family from a curse. It's hard to tell which pieces of his adventure and quest are real and which are fantasy sometimes, but the winding roads and sacrifices along the way make for an epic story. Honestly, pieces of this are in "Spanglish", and some parts are inappropriate/intense for some, so reading a synopsis is suggested.</p>
<p><i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston</p> 	<p>If you think this is just a story about a woman finding the right man, you might be wrong. Can't be sure. However, when you consider the representation of different ideas from W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington and other prominent black thinkers of this time period, it takes on a whole new meaning. Pay attention to the language choices and dialect each person makes, and it adds to this allegorical flight into where black people can fit into society in the late 1930s.</p>
<p><i>Obviously</i> by Akilah Hughes</p> 	<p>A funny memoir if you're looking for something light. Hughes' journey into who she is now and what shaped her: raccoons falling through ceilings and Disneyland summer jobs to racist encounters and health scares. Her perseverance and writing style engage you through a fast read that is overall very hopeful.</p>
<p><i>Interior Chinatown</i> by Charles Yu</p> 	<p>A look into the world of Asian-American stereotypes that perpetuate in every aspect of media, society and identity. This book plays with genres and styles of writing, and makes it a fast read that reflects the shifting nature of the characters. If you're a fan of "the movies", nostalgia, and how people are perceived versus how they identify, this book is for you. Also kung fu. Come on.</p>

**Mrs. Anderson's Bookshelf:**

My bookshelf is a mix of genres due to the fact that I try to read a variety of fiction. My first love is historical fiction and I definitely gravitate to books based in the WWII era. However in the past few years I have listened to my students or teacher friends and have read a few different titles. Thanks to everyone who has suggested such compelling novels!

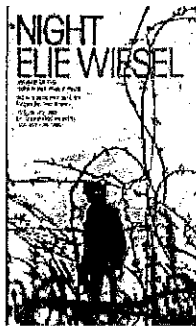
Title and author	Quick synopsis
 <p><i>The Nightingale</i> by Kristin Hannah</p>	<p><b>Historical fiction - WWII - Women's resistance:</b>            "With courage, grace, and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. <i>The Nightingale</i> tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women" (Amazon).</p>
 <p><i>The Legend</i> trilogy by Marie Lu</p>	<p><b>Dystopian fiction:</b>            "Set in a dark, futuristic Los Angeles, the western United States has become home to the warring Republic. A young government prodigy, June, and the infamous, most-wanted criminal, Day, cross paths in this thrilling, romantic young adult series from the bestselling author Marie Lu" (Goodreads).            (Thanks Jessica R. for suggesting this to me!)</p>
 <p><i>The Island of the Sea Women</i> by Lisa See</p>	<p><b>Historical fiction - WWII and beyond:</b>            "Set on the Korean island of Jeju, <i>The Island of Sea Women</i> follows Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls from very different backgrounds, as they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective. Over many decades—through the Japanese colonialism of the 1930s and 1940s, World War II, the Korean War, and the era of cellphones and wet suits for the women divers—Mi-ja and Young-sook develop the closest of bonds. Nevertheless, their differences are impossible to ignore..." (Goodreads)</p>



*Tears of a Tiger* by Sharon M. Draper

**Realistic fiction (YA):**

Basketball, relationships and senior year, oh my. This is a story of a horrible mistake that caused pain for so many. Each chapter is written in a variety of formats, anything from a news article, a conversation, a diary entry and even school assignments. You won't want to put this one down.



*Night* by Elie Wiesel

"*Night* is Elie Wiesel's masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant **autobiographical account** of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. This new translation by Marion Wiesel, Elie's wife and frequent translator, presents this seminal memoir in the language and spirit truest to the author's original intent. And in a substantive new preface, Elie reflects on the enduring importance of *Night* and his lifelong, passionate dedication to ensuring that the world never forgets man's capacity for inhumanity to man." (Amazon).

Limiting this list to just 5 was REALLY difficult! Other noteworthy novels in my opinion: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, *Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah, *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom, and of course, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston (thanks Mrs. McCown for adding that one).

**Mrs. Hudson's Bookshelf:**

I've aimed to offer a little bit of something for everyone! I tend to lean towards stories with bright, believable, and dynamic characters, which you'll see reflected in all of the stories below. Several stories are told in interesting formats, like a split narration or vignette format (short stories that weave together), which can shake up our ideas of traditional storytelling. Fun fact, at one point or another, I have used at least pieces of ALL of these stories in my classes!

*I'll Give You the Sun,*  
Jandy Nelson

"This is a tale of friendship and loss, combined with the heady emotions of first love. Nelson's writing is almost cinematic in its



imagery, allowing each character to create themselves in your mind. As the book is split into two narratives - Noah aged thirteen and Jude aged sixteen - the reader is given more of a perspective on their story, enabling us to add another dimension to the words" (*The Guardian*).

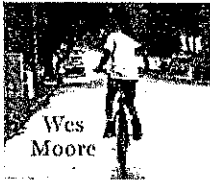
This book is especially for the artists of the world! Jandy Nelson has a vibrant style that bursts with imagery. She has her characters use colors to describe their emotions and surroundings. This has some mystery, some love, some sibling rivalry -- it has a little bit of everything! The shifting perspectives can be a bit jarring, but you'll get to know and love them!

*The Other Wes Moore,*  
Wes Moore

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

*The Other*  
*Wes Moore*

One Name. Two Paths.



"Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world" (Amazon).

This close to home, true story showcases the different paths we can take in the world.

*Fahrenheit 451,*  
Ray Bradbury



"Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known" (Amazon).

A classic text! This piece is dystopian and it can be striking to draw some parallels between the society depicted and our own today.

*The House on Mango*  
*Street,*  
Sandra Cisneros

"*The House on Mango Street* is a *bildungsroman* (coming-of-age story) of a young Chicana (Mexican-American) girl named Esperanza Cordero. The book is told in small vignettes which act as both chapters of a novel and independent short stories or prose poems. The story encompasses a year in Esperanza's life, as she moves to a house on Mango Street in a barrio (Latino neighborhood) of Chicago, Illinois.



The house on Mango Street is an improvement over Esperanza's previous residences, but it is still not the house she or her family dreams of, and throughout the book Esperanza feels that she doesn't belong there. Over the course of the year Esperanza grows emotionally, artistically, and sexually, and the novel meanders through her experiences with her neighbors and classmates" ([LitCharts](#))

*Mango Street* is such an interesting read! It contains some bits of Spanish and Spanglish. This story is a true coming of age tale, but with a fresh perspective and style.

*Cannery Row*,  
John Steinbeck







"First published in 1945, *Cannery Row* focuses on the acceptance of life as it is—both the exuberance of community and the loneliness of the individual. John Steinbeck draws on his memories of the real inhabitants of Monterey, California, and interweaves their stories in this world where only the fittest survive—creating what is at once one of his most humorous and poignant works. In *Cannery Row*, John Steinbeck returns to the setting of *Tortilla Flat* to create another evocative portrait of life as it is lived by those who unabashedly put the highest value on the intangibles—human warmth, camaraderie, and love." ([Amazon](#))


Another vignette style story! This story echoes some of Steinbeck's signature settings and conflicts. It contains larger than life, funny characters that weave odd circumstances for themselves and emphasizes a community mindset.

### Ms. Walters's Bookshelf:

I enjoy all types of reading, from short stories and memoirs to dystopian fiction and young adult. I hate to admit this, but when wandering around a bookstore I am initially pulled in by the cover art. The pro is that I am willing to read all genres! The con is that sometimes I'm not all that interested in the book at first, but at least after reading I can recommend to someone else who might enjoy the reading more. Below is a list of my all time favorites, all for different reasons!



<p><i>Everything Inside</i> by Edwidge Danticat</p> 	<p>Short Stories. <i>I discovered this read during the pandemic and couldn't put it down! My favorite read of 2020.</i></p> <p>Set in locales from Miami and Port-au-Prince to a small unnamed country in the Caribbean and beyond, here are eight emotionally absorbing stories, rich with hard-won wisdom and humanity. At once wide in scope and intimate, <i>Everything Inside</i> explores with quiet power and elegance the forces that pull us together or drive us apart, sometimes in the same searing instant (Amazon).</p>
<p><i>The Power</i> by Naomi Alderman</p> 	<p>Dystopian fiction. <i>Recommended to me by Ms. McCown, this novel is an incredible take on the power of adolescent girls!</i></p> <p>In <i>The Power</i>, the world is a recognizable place: there's a rich Nigerian boy who lounges around the family pool; a foster kid whose religious parents hide their true nature; an ambitious American politician; a tough London girl from a tricky family.</p> <p>But then a vital new force takes root and flourishes, causing their lives to converge with devastating effect. Teenage girls now have immense physical power: they can cause agonizing pain and even death. And, with this small twist of nature, the world drastically resets (Amazon).</p>
<p><i>Native Son</i> by Richard Wright</p> 	<p>Social (Protest) Novel <i>This is my favorite book from High School! Thought provoking, shocking, infuriating- this book will have you questioning what you thought you knew.</i></p> <p>Right from the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it was for murder and rape. <i>Native Son</i> tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Wright's powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.</p>
<p><i>The Glass Castle</i> by Jeannette Walls</p> 	<p>Memoir. <i>This book made me angry. I'm still angry over this book. It's that good.</i></p> <p>Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New</p>

	York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered (Amazon).
<p><i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> by Betty Smith</p> 	<p>Contemporary fiction. <i>This is a timeless tale of family and struggle and going against the odds while growing up and supporting her family in the process.</i></p> <p>Often scorned by neighbors for her family's erratic and eccentric behavior—such as her father Johnny's taste for alcohol and Aunt Sissy's habit of marrying serially without the formality of divorce—no one, least of all Francie, could say that the Nolans' life lacked drama. By turns overwhelming, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the Nolans' daily experiences are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness (Amazon).</p>

Classics	Memoir / Nonfiction
<p><i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> by J.D. Salinger*</p> <p><i>East of Eden</i> by John Steinbeck*</p>	<p><i>It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i> by Trevor Noah*</p> <p><i>Becoming</i> by Michelle Obama*</p>

Contemporary Fiction	Historical Fiction	Dystopian and Science Fiction
<p><i>Heart to Heart</i> by Lurlene McDaniels</p> <p><i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night</i> by Mark Haddon*</p> <p><i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston*</p>	<p><i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak*</p> <p><i>America's First Daughter</i> by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie*</p> <p><i>Code Name Verity</i> by Elizabeth E. Wein</p>	<p><i>1984</i> by George Orwell*</p> <p><i>Dreams of Terror and Death</i> by H.P. Lovecraft*</p> <p><i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> by Kurt Vonnegut *</p> <p><i>The Martian Chronicles</i> by Ray Bradbury *</p> <p><i>Ready Player One</i> by Ernest Cline</p>

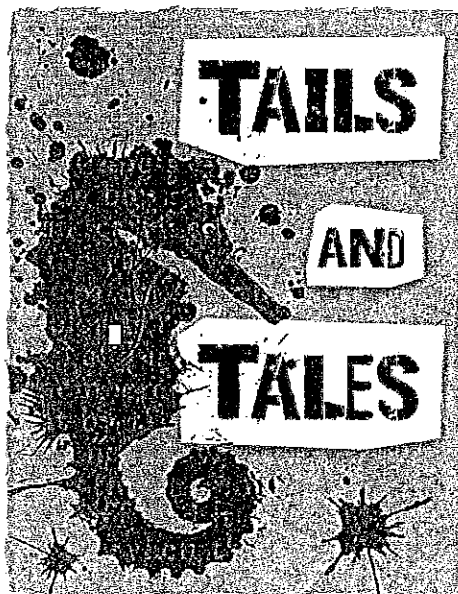
<b>Beach Reads</b>	<b>World Literature</b>	<b>Plays &amp; Scripts</b>
<i>The Summer my Life Began</i> by Shannon Greenland  <i>Bridge of Clay</i> by Mark Zusak *  <i>Two Can Keep a Secret</i> by Karen M. McManus*	<i>Purple Hibiscus,</i> Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie*  <i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (graphic novel)</i>  <i>Hiroshima</i> by John Hersey	<i>War of the Worlds,</i> H.G. Wells*  <i>Fences</i> by August Wilson  <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by Oscar Wilde *
<b>Young Adult</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>The Great Outdoors</b>
<i>All American Boys</i> by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely  <i>The Grace Year</i> by Kim Liggett*  <i>Catherine House</i> by Elizabeth Thomas*  <i>Let Me Hear A Rhyme</i> by Tiffany Jackson *  <i>The Rest of the Story</i> by Sarah Dessen *	<i>Dragon Hoops (graphic novel)</i> by Gene Luen Yang  <i>Game Change</i> by Joseph Monninger *  <i>The Pitcher</i> by Madison Capitano *  <i>Tears of a Tiger</i> by Sharon M. Draper	<i>Navigating Early</i> *  <i>No Summit Out of Sight</i>  <i>A River Runs Through It</i>  <i>A Walk in the Woods</i>

8 hours, 4 books, or 15 minutes a day 5 days a week, however you want to track it, **just keep reading!**

Help the Kent County Public Library reach the summer reading goal of 250,000 minutes read by the community.

See below for more information about the summer reading program for teens and adults at the Kent County Public Library.

# TEEN S



**Read.**

**Collect  
tickets.**

**Win  
prizes.**



## REGISTER

Visit [kentcountylibrary.org](http://kentcountylibrary.org) and sign up for the Teen Challenge in Beanstack.

If you don't have internet access or you want help with registration, please ask!

Sign up by June 18th to be entered in a raffle to win a Chromebook.

## READ

Read whatever interests you.

Graphic novels, audiobooks, magazines, comics, social media, books, or anything else with words – if it has words, it counts!

## TRACK

Keep track of how much time you spend reading and log it via Beanstack by August 19th. You'll earn tickets to enter the raffle drawing based on how many hours you log.

## COLLECT TICKETS

You earn tickets for every hour you read. Each additional hour of reading earns you more tickets than the hour before, so just keep going!

## CELEBRATE

Join us in August to celebrate with prizes, food, fun, and more!

Date and details TBA later this summer.

## THE RULES ARE SIMPLE:

1. Sign up.
2. Read whatever you want to read. Graphic novels, audiobooks, magazines, social media, books – if it has words, it counts!
3. Log the time you spend reading in Beanstack by August 19th.

*Kent County*  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Kent County*  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



**SUMMER READING – IT'S NOT JUST FOR KIDS!**

**A  
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**READ.  
EARN POINTS.  
WIN PRIZES.**

**WANT TO JOIN THE SUMMER  
READING FUN?**

**Great – summer reading is  
truly for all ages this year!**

We're thrilled to be launching a  
summer reading program for adults.

**WHAT WILL YOU READ?  
Whatever you want!**

We've designed a program where  
you can use whatever reading  
you're already doing – books,  
audiobooks, graphic novels, maga-  
zines, captions on films, social  
media, or anything else with words!

Whether you're reading to a kid or  
reading for yourself, it all counts as  
time spent reading.

**INTRIGUED?  
More details are on the back!**