

STONEHAM HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST 2021

GRADE 11

A.P. Lang—you will be invited to a Google classroom

Reading and rereading is fun and helps improve fluency and comprehension! Summer reading is required; this list offers suggestions, but feel free to read a book that is not on this list and explore other books, genres, and authors. These books tie into this year’s **Driving Question**: “*What does it mean to be an individual in a diverse America?*” Within the first three weeks of school, students will be offered a menu of options to connect their book to the Driving Question. If a student does not read any book of their choice, they will still participate in the menu of options by discussing current, historical, or personal events that tie into the DQ. The highest possible grade would be a 75.

<p>You can purchase books from our favorite local bookstore, The Book Oasis, on Main Street (in-store and curbside pickup available). Click here for their website.</p>	<p>You can also check books out from the Stoneham Public Library. Click the title of each book to go to the library catalog where you can place a hold. Click here to see a video introducing Rachel, the librarian at the SPL.</p>
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*Easy **Medium ***Challenging

***[Stargirl](#)** by Jerry Spinelli. Leo, a high school junior, falls in love with an unconventional new student, a free spirit and nonconformist. He discovers lessons about loyalty to friends and oneself. Young Adult.

***[They Called Us the Enemy](#)** by George Takai. In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to "relocation centers," and held for years under armed guard. Takei remembers those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future. Graphic Novel/Nonfiction

***[Ghost Boys](#)** by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. May not be a good fit for sensitive readers. Fiction. Historical Fiction.

***[A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor](#)** by Harry Mazer. While fishing with friends off Honolulu on 12-7-41, Adam is caught in Japanese air attack. Through the chaos of the next few days, he tries to find his father who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell. Historical fiction. Series.

***[Esperanza Rising](#)** by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Esperanza always thought she would have a good life on her family’s ranch in Mexico, but a sudden tragedy forces her and her mother to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Set during the Great Depression. Historical fiction.

***[Punching the Air](#)** by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam. This is a powerful novel in verse about a boy who is wrongfully incarcerated. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal’s bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn’t commit and sent to prison. This never should have been his story. But can he change it? Fiction/Verse.

***[Outrun the Moon](#)** by Stacey Lee. In 1906, a historic earthquake rocks San Francisco, destroying Mercy Wong’s home and school. Though fires might rage, and the city may be in shambles, Mercy can’t sit by while they wait for the army to bring help. Historical Fiction.

****They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group** by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. In 1866, six young men stole linens from a friend, pulled pillowcases over their heads, and rode their horses through the streets of Pulaski, Tennessee. Chilling and vivid personal accounts unearthed from oral histories, diaries, and congressional documents describe how a secret terrorist group took root in America. Many visuals. Nonfiction.

****The Running Dream** by Wendelin Van Draanen: Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? Fiction.

****Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury. Guy Montag is a fireman whose job is to burn printed books as well as the houses where they're hidden. When a young neighbor who introduced him to reading disappears, Guy begins hoarding books in his home and questioning the basic precepts of his society. This cannot be tolerated. Dystopian, futuristic.

****No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row** by Susan Kuklin. Inmates sentenced to death as teenagers speak for themselves. In their own voices, raw and uncensored, they talk about their lives in prison and their thoughts and feelings about how they ended up there. Kuklin also gets inside the system, exploring capital punishment and the intricacies and inequities of criminal justice in the U.S. Non-fiction.

****A Death-Struck Year** by Makiia Lucier. A deadly pandemic, a budding romance, and the heartache of loss make for a stunning coming-of-age teen debut about the struggle to survive during the 1918 flu. Historical Fiction.

****Poetry** by any of the following wonderful American writers: [Emily Dickinson](#), [Walt Whitman](#), [Robert Frost](#), [e.e. cummings](#), [Langston Hughes](#), [Theodore Roethke](#), [Mary Oliver](#), [Gwendolyn Brooks](#), [Maya Angelou](#), [Billy Collins](#), [Nikki Giovanni](#), [Countee Cullen](#), [Naomi Shihab Nye](#), and [Juan Felipe Herrera](#). Poetry

*****An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States** by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. The first history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples. Nonfiction

*****Dreamland Burning** by Jennifer Latham. When seventeen-year-old Rowan Chase finds a skeleton on her family's property, she has no idea that investigating the brutal century-old murder will lead to a summer of discoveries about the past, the present, and herself. Fiction.

*****My Beloved World** by Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The first Latinx (Puerto Rican) and third woman appointed to the US Supreme Court, Sotomayor recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey about her extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself. Nonfiction.

*****Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** by Bryan Stevenson. Read this if you are concerned about racism or justice in our legal system. Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. Nonfiction.

*****Between the World and Me** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. In a letter to his adolescent son, Coates looks at our nation's history and current crisis around the idea of 'race' that most heavily impacts black women and men—exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this history and free ourselves from its burden? Memoir.

