

FRIENDSHIP: 2018 Summer Reading Selections Algonquin Regional High School

This summer, start from a place of inner quiet. Read. Think. Enjoy. You'll return to school inspired to share and learn from each other. This year's theme for summer reading is friendship. For many of us friendship is a source of great satisfaction but also a source of stress or even heartbreak. The books we selected illustrate many different elements of friendship.

- ❖ **College Prep students are required to read one book from this list over the summer**
- ❖ **Honors students must read two books from the list over the summer**
- ❖ **A.P. students must read one book from this list along with the additional titles required for each A.P. course listed on the back**

**** Arranged in order from least to most challenging in reading level and subject matter ****

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander. Written as a series of vignettes in verse, this is an engaging story of middle-school twin brothers on a basketball team. Josh and Jordan's passions for basketball take different paths as they struggle to find meaning on the court amidst distractions of school and home life. (Young Adult; 240 pages)

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda with Liz Welch: Alternating between points of view and containing letters, this true story tells the tale of Caitlin and Martin, two students who become pen pals in 1997 through a school assignment. Caitlin lives in Pennsylvania and chooses to write to a pen pal in Zimbabwe. Martin is an ambitious student whose view of America consists of Coca-Cola and wrestlers. They continue to write to each other for six years, in which time they manage to change each other's lives and become best friends. Heart-warming and accessible and recommended to those looking for a lighter, uplifting read. (Young Adult; nonfiction; 416 pages)

The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon. A fast-paced romance novel between two strangers together for less than a day. One is Natasha Kingsley, a Jamaican girl who's about to be deported. The other is Daniel Bae, a Korean-American who doesn't want to be his parents' perfect son. They bump into each other in New York City, and a story about science, poetry, and love at first sight begins. (Young Adult; 348 pages)

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline. Wade Watts' only escape from his desolate life is in the virtual reality utopia OASIS. His luck changes when the inventor of OASIS dies and leaves his entire fortune to whoever can find the elusive Easter Egg within the game. In order to have a chance at finding the egg, he must team up with fellow gamers who have never met in real life but who become vitally important parts of each other's lives. Recommended for all readers, not just gamers. (Young Adult; 374 pages).

One in a Million Boy by Monica Wood. After a sensitive and unique 11-year-old boy mysteriously dies, his estranged father commits to finish his son's volunteer obligation to an 104-year-old Lithuanian immigrant. Through her, he learns about the quirky friendship between his Guinness records-obsessed son and the old woman. It's a simultaneously sad and joyous story of redemption, friendship, and self-acceptance. (Adult Fiction; 336 pages)

Beartown by Frederik Backman. In this novel set in a hockey-obsessed town in rural Sweden, a junior ice hockey team is about to compete in the national semi-finals, and they actually have a shot at winning. All the hopes and dreams of this place now rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys. When a heinous crime is committed, loyalties are formed around the perpetrator and victim with unexpected consequences. *Mature subject matter; recommended for older readers* (Adult Fiction; 422 pages)

Continued on back

The Burning Girl by Claire Messud. Set in a small Massachusetts town, this coming-age story is about two teenage girls, best friends since childhood, struggling to find their way through their school years while also maintaining their friendship. Practically sisters, Julia and Cassie learn together the hardships of growing up female as they navigate pressures of parental relationships, substance abuse, and depression. *Mature subject matter; recommended for older readers* (Adult Fiction; 256 pages)

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving. Owen Meany and John Wheelwright are childhood friends whose friendship is tested after an incident at a baseball game. Owen is a brilliant, disabled boy with poor parents, and John is an athletic boy from a rich family. Despite their vastly different backgrounds, they become lifelong friends as they grow up in the 1950s and 60s, enduring seemingly insurmountable hardships while discovering the meaning of their lives. (Adult Fiction; 617 pages)

COMING IN THE FALL!

ALL STUDENTS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A WRITING CONTEST ON THE SUBJECT OF FRIENDSHIP

A.P. English Language & Composition grade 11: Please read the following books and make sure you stop by H223 or H219 to pick up an AP English Language and Composition summer reading packet, outlining detailed requirements for all works.

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America by Erik Larson

Barron's AP English Language and Composition Workbook 8th Edition, George Ehrenhaft, Ed.D.

Documentary Film: Watch and then write a rhetorical analysis of a documentary film. That is, analyze the purpose of the film, the audience to whom it is geared, and the strategies that are used to reach that audience.

A.P. English Literature & Composition grade12: Please read the following books and make sure you stop by H202, H204 or H209 get a copy of the summer reading assignment, outlining detailed requirements for all works.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
1984 by George Orwell