

**Upper School Independent Reading 2016**  
**Grades 9 and 10**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Genre</i>
<i>American Born Chinese</i>	Yang, Gene	A multinarrative graphic novel about a teenage boy named Jin Wang who struggles to find and accept his cultural identity. Jin is the only Chinese American student at his new school, and all he really wants is to fit in with the rest of the kids, especially Amelia Harris, the pretty American girl with whom he falls in love. But Amelia never notices Jin, and he fades into the background. Soon, Jin is not the only Asian American student in his school—Wei-Chen arrives from Taiwan. But who wants to be friends with an FOB? After countless attempts to fit into the mainstream crowd, Jin settles for Wei-Chen's friendship.	Graphic Novel / Contemporary Fiction
<i>The Bee Keeper's Apprentice</i>	King, Laurie R.	Sherlock Holmes takes on a young, female apprentice in this delightful story. In the early years of WWI, 15-year-old American Mary Russell encounters Holmes, retired in Sussex Downs where Conan Doyle left him raising bees. Mary, an orphan rebelling against her guardian aunt's strictures, impresses the sleuth with her intelligence and acumen. Holmes initiates her into the mysteries of detection, allowing her to participate in a few cases..	Historical Fiction
<i>Belle Epoque</i>	Ross, Elizabeth	When Maude Pichon runs away from provincial Brittany to Paris, her romantic dreams vanish as quickly as her savings. Desperate for work, she answers an unusual ad. The Durandeu Agency provides its clients with a unique service—the beauty foil. Hire a plain friend and become instantly more attractive.	Historical Fiction
<i>Bomb</i>	Sheinkin, Steve	The race to build the first atom bomb involves several stories: the Los Alamos scientists, the Soviet spies stealing our secrets, and the Norwegian saboteurs stopping the Germans.	Non-Fiction
<i>Buddha Boy</i>	Kathe Koja	The kids at school call Jinsen “Buddha Boy”—he wears oversize tie-dyed dragon T- shirts, shaves his head, and always seems to be smiling. Justin is not happy to be paired with him in Science. What matters more: the high school social order or getting to know someone extraordinary?	Contemporary Fiction
<i>Courage Has No Color, The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers</i>	Stone, Tanya	this large-format book offers an informative introduction to the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion. Known as the Triple Nickles, they were America's first black paratrooper unit. Though WWII brought increased racial integration to the military, the pace was painfully slow. This book traces the paratroopers' story through their training and their long wait for orders ..	Non-Fiction

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<i>Game Seven</i>	Volponi, Paul	Since he was ten, Julio has lived in the shadow of his famous father. Not just because Julio Senior is a pitcher for the Miami Marlins, but because he fled Cuba to play professional baseball, leaving his Julio and his mother and sister branded as the family of a traitor. Now sixteen, Julio dreams of playing for Cuba's national team—until he finds out his father's defection may destroy his chances. When he's given the opportunity to flee Cuba, he has to make the toughest choice of his life.	Contemporary Fiction
<i>The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How It Changed Science, Cities...</i>	Johnson, Steven	The book chronicles the outbreak and spread of cholera in London during the summer of 1854 and the efforts of Reverend Henry Whitehead and Dr. John Snow to isolate the disease and put an end to the epidemic.	Science Writing
<i>I'll Give you the Sun</i>	Nelson, Jandy	Talented fraternal twins Jude and Noah are inseparable at age 13 and practically strangers at age 16. In the years that have transpired, a tragic event has torn their family apart, and readers must puzzle through the alternating chapters and time lines to figure out if the siblings' relationship could ever be made whole again. Filled with lyrical prose, swoon-worthy romance, and threads of magical realism, this luminous coming-of-age novel shines.	Contemporary Fiction
<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	Skloot, Rebecca	"HeLa" cells, named after Henrietta Lacks, a poor African American woman born in 1920, were taken from a tumor removed during Lacks' treatment for cervical cancer. While she died from the disease, her cancer cells proved uncommonly robust. Years later, billions of these cells are used in laboratories around the world. A complex and fascinating drama -- a mixture of science and biography with profound themes of racism, ethics, and scientific illiteracy.	Science Writing
<i>The Impossible Rescue; The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure</i>	Sandler, martin	In 1897, whaling in the Arctic waters off Alaska's coast was as dangerous as it was lucrative. And in that particular year, winter blasted early, bringing storms and ice packs that caught eight American whale ships and three hundred sailors off guard. Their ships locked in ice, with no means of escape, the whalers had limited provisions on board, and little hope of surviving until warmer temperatures arrived many months later. Here is the incredible story of three men sent by President McKinley to rescue them	Non-Fiction

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<i>Lovely, Dark and Deep</i>	McNamara, Amy	Since the night of the crash, Wren Wells has been running away. Though she lived through the accident that killed her boyfriend Patrick, the girl she used to be didn't survive. Instead of heading off to college as planned, Wren retreats to her father's studio in the far-north woods of Maine. Somewhere she can be alone.	Contemporary Fiction
<i>Luna</i>	Peters, Julie Anne	Regan's brother Liam can't stand the person he is during the day. Like the moon from whom Liam has chosen his female namesake, his true self, Luna, only reveals herself at night. In the secrecy of his basement bedroom Liam transforms himself into the beautiful girl he longs to be. National Book Award	Contemporary Fiction
<i>Monster</i>	Myers, Walter Dean	While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.	Contemporary Fiction
<i>The Night Circus</i>	Morgenstern, Erin	The circus arrives without warning. It is simply there. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. Behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway – duel between two young magicians, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. "A Romeo and Juliet tale drenched in magic realism, <i>The Night Circus</i> defies both genres and expectations. In short, it's a showstopper." -- <i>The Boston Globe</i>	Fantasy
<i>The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism &amp; Treachery</i>	Sheinkin, Steve	Meet the real Arnold: reckless, heroic, and driven. Packed with first-person accounts, astonishing American Revolution battle scenes, and surprising twists, this is a gripping and true adventure tale from history.	Non-Fiction
<i>OK For Now</i>	Schmidt, Gary	Doug struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam.	Contemporary Fiction
<i>Picture Me Gone</i>	Rosoff, Meg	Mila, 12, is something of a mentalist. She can read expressions, sense underlying emotions, and put human puzzles together. When her father's lifelong friend Matthew goes missing, Gil and Mila fly to upstate NY to find him. It's a mystery and so much more. Rosoff shapes this story as much by form and intuitions as by events. In making the choice not to use quotation marks for the dialogue, readers are immediately pushed inside Mila's head. Every conversation is filtered through her observations; even the way she can "read" Matthew's loyal dog.	Contemporary Fiction

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<i>The Red Scarf Girl</i>	Jiang, Ji-Li	This autobiography details the author's experiences as a teenager during the Cultural Revolution. Though wanting to be devoted followers of Chairman Mao, Jiang and her family are subjected to many indignities because her grandfather was once a landlord. Memoirs of the period are usually larded with murders, suicides, mass brainwashing, cruel and unusual bullying, and injustices. Red Scarf Girl is no exception. Where Jiang scores over her comrades is in her lack of self-pity, her naive candor, and the vividness of her writing.	Biography
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	Kidd, Sue Monk	Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was four. Now fourteen, she yearns for her mother, and for forgiveness. Living on a peach farm in South Carolina with her father, she has only one friend: Rosaleen, a black servant whose sharp exterior hides a tender heart. However, South Carolina in the sixties full of segregation. When racial tension explodes one summer afternoon, and Rosaleen is arrested and beaten, Lily is compelled to act.	Historical Fiction
<i>Salt to the Sea</i>	Sepetys, Ruta	World War II is drawing to a close and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation. 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.	Historical Fiction
<i>Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers</i>	Roach, Mary	An oddly compelling, often hilarious exploration of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem. For two thousand years, cadavers have been involved in science's boldest strides and weirdest undertakings. They've tested France's first guillotines, ridden the NASA Space Shuttle, been crucified in a Parisian laboratory, and helped solve the mystery of TWA Flight 800. For every new surgical procedure cadavers have been there alongside surgeons, making history in their quiet way.	Science Writing

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<i>Stormfront</i>	Butcher, Jim	For Harry Dresden, Chicago's only professional wizard, business, to put it mildly, stinks. So when the police bring him in to consult on a grisly double murder committed with black magic, Harry sees dollar signs. But where there's black magic, there's a black mage behind it. And now that mage knows Harry's name. A lively cast of characters populates this story, including gentleman gangster Johnny Marconi, his henchmen, a sexy female werewolf, and Bob, the talking skull.	Science Fiction/Fantasy
<i>Tell the Wolves I'm Home</i>	Brunt, Carol Rifka	Before her Uncle Finn died of an illness people don't want to talk about, 14-year-old June Elbus thought she was the center of his world. A famous and reclusive painter, Finn made her feel uniquely understood, privy to secret knowledge like how to really hear Mozart's <i>Requiem</i> or see the shape of negative space. After his death her family must face the fact of his illness (AIDS) and the life her parents kept secret.	Contemporary Fiction
<i>To All the Boys I've Loved Before</i>	Han, Jenny	Sixteen-year-old Lara Jean Song keeps her love letters in a hatbox her mother gave her. They aren't love letters that anyone else wrote for her; these are ones she's written. One for every boy she's ever loved—five in all. When she writes, she pours out her heart and soul and says all the things she would never say in real life, because her letters are for her eyes only. Until the day her secret letters are mailed, and suddenly, Lara Jean's love life goes from imaginary to out of control.	Contemporary Fiction
<i>Water for Elephants: a Novel</i>	Gruen, Sara	"Lively with historical details and unexpected turns.... <i>Water for Elephants</i> is a rich surprise, a delightful gem springing from a fascinating footnote to history that absolutely deserved to be minded." - <i>The Denver Post</i>	Historical Fiction
<i>What If : Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Scientific Questions</i>	Munroe, Randall	What if you tried to hit a baseball pitched at 90 percent the speed of light? How fast can you hit a speed bump while driving and live? If there was a robot apocalypse, how long would humanity last?	Science Writing