

Parents/Guardians: Please contact Mrs. Molly Maloof at molly.maloof@bishophartley.org if you'd like to discuss selecting an alternate book for your child.

CP English 9

Discovering Wes Moore. Wes Moore (Young Adult Adaptation). ISBN-13: 978-0385741682

The story of ‘the other Wes Moore’ is one that the author couldn’t get out of his mind, not since he learned that another boy with his name—just two years his senior—grew up in the same Baltimore neighborhood. He wrote that boy—now a man—a letter, not expecting to receive a reply. But a reply came, and a friendship grew, as letters turned into visits and the two men got to know each other. Eventually, that friendship became the inspiration for *Discovering Wes Moore*, a moving and cautionary tale examining the factors that contribute to success and failure—and the choices that make all the difference.

Two men. One overcame adversity. The other suffered the indignities of poverty. Their stories are chronicled in *Discovering Wes Moore*, a book for young people based on Wes Moore’s bestselling adult memoir, *The Other Wes Moore*.” (Amazon.com)

Praise for Discovering Wes Moore:

“Moore wisely opens the door for teens to contemplate their own answers and beliefs, while laying out his own experiences honestly and openly.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“He argues earnestly and convincingly that young people can overcome the obstacles in their lives when they make the right choices and accept the support of caring adults.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

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Honors English 9

***Salt to the Sea*. Ruta Sepetys ISBN-13: 978-0142423622**

Winter 1945. WWII. Four refugees. Four stories.

Each one born of a different homeland; each one hunted, and haunted, by tragedy, lies, war. As thousands desperately flock to the coast in the midst of a Soviet advance, four paths converge, vying for passage aboard the Wilhelm Gustloff, a ship that promises safety and freedom. But not all promises can be kept . . . (Amazon.com)

Awards and Praise for *Salt to the Sea*:

#1 *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the Carnegie Medal!

"A superlative novel . . . masterfully crafted."--*The Wall Street Journal*

Based on "the forgotten tragedy that was six times deadlier than the *Titanic*."--*Time*"

"Ruta Sepetys acts as champion of the interstitial people so often ignored — whole populations lost in the cracks of history."—*The New York Times*

"Superlative...masterfully crafted...[a] powerful work of historical fiction."—*The Wall Street Journal*

[Sepetys is] a master of YA fiction...she once again anchors a panoramic view of epic tragedy in perspectives that feel deeply textured and immediate."—*Entertainment Weekly*

"[A] riveting novel . . . Sepetys skillfully weaves history into her story, here grounding her nuanced characters in the events of winter 1945. Vivid details punctuate the spare prose."—*The Washington Post*

Honors English 9, continued

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CP English 10

***Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust.* Immaculee Ilibagiza. ISBN-13: 978-1401908966**

Immaculee Ilibagiza grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family she cherished. But in 1994 her idyllic world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide. Immaculee's family was brutally murdered during a killing spree that lasted three months and claimed the lives of nearly a million Rwandans. Incredibly, Immaculee survived the slaughter. For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them. It was during those endless hours of unspeakable terror that Immaculee discovered the power of prayer, eventually shedding her fear of death and forging a profound and lasting relationship with God. She emerged from her bathroom hideout having discovered the meaning of truly unconditional love—a love so strong she was able seek out and forgive her family's killers. The triumphant story of this remarkable young woman's journey through the darkness of genocide will inspire anyone whose life has been touched by fear, suffering, and loss.

Awards and Praise for *Left to Tell*:

"In 1994, Rwandan native Ilibagiza was [24] years old and home from college to spend Easter with her devout Catholic family when the death of Rwanda's Hutu president sparked a three-month slaughter of [more than] one million ethnic Tutsis...This book is a precious addition to the literature that tries to make sense of humankind's seemingly bottomless depravity and counterbalancing hope in an all-powerful, loving God."
(Publishers Weekly)

"*Left to Tell* has received a Christopher Award "affirming the highest values of human spirit," and was chosen as *Outreach Magazine's* selection for "Best Outreach Testimony/Biography Resource of 2007." *Left to Tell* has been adopted into the curriculum of dozens of high schools and universities, including Villanova University, which selected it for their "One Book Program," making *Left to Tell* mandatory reading for its 6,000 students....

Today, Immaculée is regarded as one of world's leading speakers on faith, hope and forgiveness. She has shared this universal message with world leaders, school children, multinational corporations, churches, and at events and conferences around the world, including a recent presentation to over 200,000 people in Sao Paulo, Brazil." (from author's website, immaculee.com)

Honors English 10

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***Between Shades of Gray*, Ruta Sepetys. ISBN-13: 978-0142420591**

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life -- until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives.

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Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive? (Amazon.com)

Awards and Praise for *Between Shades of Gray*:

A New York Times notable book
An international bestseller
A Carnegie Medal nominee
A William C. Morris Award finalist
A Golden Kite Award winner

"Superlative. A hefty emotional punch." --*The New York Times Book Review*

"Heart-wrenching . . . an eye-opening reimagination of a very real tragedy written with grace and heart." --
The Los Angeles Times

"At once a suspenseful, drama-packed survival story, a romance, and an intricately researched work of historical fiction." --*The Wall Street Journal*

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CP English 11

The Color of Water, James McBride. ISBN-13: 978-1594481925

Writer and musician McBride recounts a telling conversation with his mother: ""Am I Black or White?"" ""You're a human being. Educate yourself or you'll be a nobody!"" With the help of two remarkable African American husbands (James is the youngest of eight McBride kids; his father, Rev. Andrew McBride, died before he was born in 1957, and four more children were born during a second marriage), Ruthie Shilsky McBride Jordan infused her children with two values--a respect for education and religious belief.

...McBride skillfully alternates chapters relating his life story and his coming to terms with his mixed ethnic and religious heritage with chapters conveying his mother's travails and her development into a fervent Baptist; the latter in her own voice. This moving and unforgettable memoir needs to be read by people of all colors and faiths.

Praise and Awards for *The Color of Water*:

"[A] triumph."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"As lively as a novel, a well-written, thoughtful contribution to the literature on race."—*The Washington Post Book World*

"Inspiring."—*Glamour*

"Vibrant."—*The Boston Globe*

"James McBride evokes his childhood trek across the great racial divide with the kind of power and grace that touches and uplifts all hearts."—Bebe Moore Campbell

1997 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Literary Excellence

ALA Notable Book of the Year

Selected as the first book for "New York City Reads Together"

CP English 11, continued

Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson (adult version). ISBN-13: 978-0812984965. **NOTE: You don't need to read this book over the summer, but please obtain the book for use during the school year.**

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“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. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn’t commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer’s coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.” (Amazon.com)

Awards for *Just Mercy*:

Winner of the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction

Winner of the NAACP Image Award for Nonfiction

Winner of a Books for a Better Life Award

Finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize

Finalist for the *Kirkus Reviews* Prize

An American Library Association Notable Book

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Honors English 11

***A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini. ISBN-13: 978-0739489505**

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever-escalating dangers around them--in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul--they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.

A stunning accomplishment, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a haunting, heartbreaking, compelling story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love. (Amazon.com)

Awards for *A Thousand Splendid Suns*:

Nominated for ALA's Best Book for Young Readers Award, 2008
Book Sense Picks Highlights, 2007
#1 Worldwide Bestselling title in 2008
Washington Post, best books of 2007
San Francisco Chronicle, Notables of 2007
Miami Herald
People Magazine, Top Ten Books
Time, Ten Best Books: Fiction
BN.com, Top Ten
Hudson News, Best Books of the Year
Booklist Editor's Choice 2007

***Ordinary Grace*, William Kent Krueger. ISBN-13: 978-1451645859**

"New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

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Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family—which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.

Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God." (Amazon.com)

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Winner of a Books for a Better Life Award
Finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize
Finalist for the *Kirkus Reviews* Prize
An American Library Association Notable Book

AP Language & Composition

***The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien.** ISBN-13: 978-0544309760

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Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* (1990) is considered one of the finest books about the Vietnam War. Far from a combat story of pride and glory, it is a compassionate tale of the American soldier, brimming with raw honesty and thoughtful reflection.

The book's narrator follows a platoon of infantrymen through the jungles of Vietnam. We see them trudge through the muck of a constant downpour, get hit by sniper fire, pull body parts out of a tree, laugh while they tell their stories to each other, and fall silent when faced with making sense of it all—both in the moment and twenty years later.

The book is split into a lush mosaic of vignettes drawn from O'Brien's own experiences. The title story describes what the soldiers must lug with them—both literally and figuratively—as they march: food, canteens, flak jackets, and weapons, as well as grief, terror, secrets, and memories. In another story, O'Brien tells of a young medic who brings his high-school sweetheart to his aid station in the mountains of Vietnam, chronicling her transformation from an innocent girl in a pink sweater to a cold night stalker who dons a necklace of human tongues. Yet another story tells of a soldier back from the war who drives his Chevy around his Iowa hometown, struggling to find meaning in his new life.

Central to the book is O'Brien's unique style, which blurs the lines between fact and fiction, then examines how and why he does just that. O'Brien challenges readers to ponder larger philosophical questions about truth and memory, and brings the reader closer to the emotional core of the men's experiences. "For the common soldier," O'Brien writes in "How to Tell a True War Story," "war has the feel—the spiritual texture—of a great ghostly fog, thick and permanent. There is no clarity. Everything swirls. The old rules are no longer binding, the old truths no longer true."

The Things They Carried is not just a tale of war, and the book's themes are no less relevant today than they were decades ago. This award-winning work is a brutal, sometimes funny, often profound narrative about the human heart—how it fares under pressure and what it can endure (National Endowment for the Arts)>

From the Back Cover

"The best American writer of his generation." -- *San Francisco Examiner*

A *New York Times* Book of the Century

A Pulitzer Prize Finalist

A National Book Critics' Circle Award Finalist

Winner of the Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger (France)

Winner of the *Chicago Tribune* Heartland Prize

"The Things They Carried is as good as any piece of literature can get." -- *Chicago Sun-Times*

"Rendered with an evocative, quiet precision, not equaled in the imaginative literature of the American war in Vietnam." -- *Washington Post*

"[An] ultimate, indelible image of war in our time, and in time to come." -- *Los Angeles Times*

***Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson (adult version).** ISBN-13: 978-0812984965.

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Winner of the NAACP Image Award for Nonfiction
Winner of a Books for a Better Life Award
Finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize
Finalist for the *Kirkus Reviews* Prize
An American Library Association Notable Book

***The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls.* ISBN-13: 978-1439156964**

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. 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. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.

The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

The Glass Castle is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family." (Amazon.com)

Editorial Reviews for *The Glass Castle*:

"Jeannette Walls has carved a story with precision and grace out of one of the most chaotic, heartbreaking childhoods ever to be set down on the page. This deeply affecting memoir is a triumph in every possible way, and it does what all good books should: it affirms our faith in the human spirit."

-- Dani Shapiro, author of *Family History*

The Glass Castle is the saga of the restless, indomitable Walls family, led by a grand eccentric and his tempestuous artist wife. Jeannette Walls has survived poverty, fires, and near starvation

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to triumph. She has written this amazing tale with honesty and love."

-- Patricia Bosworth, author of *Anything Your Little Heart Desires* and *Diane Arbus: A Biography*

Awards for *The Glass Castle*:

Winner, the Christopher Award (organization founded by a Maryknoll priest)

American Library Association's Alex Award

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CP English 12

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood, Trevor Noah. ISBN-13: 978-0399588198

“Trevor Noah’s *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* is a funny, honest collection that details the popular comedian’s coming of age in South Africa as apartheid ended. The son of a black mother and a white father, Noah regularly had to acclimate to a variety of fraught situations, forcing him to think critically about race and the country’s legacy of racism and colonialism. Throughout these experiences, Noah remained anchored by his mother, Patricia, whose aspirations for her son guaranteed that he would be able to rise above his meager beginnings. Ultimately, Noah’s text is a thoughtful account of what it means to forge one’s complex identity in a country that is grappling with its own attempts to come to terms with its legacy of injustice. *Born A Crime* is an important update and addendum to classic literary texts about apartheid, offering a relatable, contemporary perspective to readers.

Supporting the national Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in reading informational text for high school curriculums, *Born a Crime* is an appropriate selection for grades 11 and 12 in Language Arts or World History classes. At the college level, the book is appropriate for composition and literature classes, race studies, gender studies, and global studies, and it is also ideal for first-year/common reading programs.” (Penguin-Random House)

Awards and Praise for *Born a Crime*:

“[A] compelling new memoir . . . By turns alarming, sad and funny, [Trevor Noah’s] book provides a harrowing look, through the prism of Mr. Noah’s family, at life in South Africa under apartheid. . . . In the end, *Born a Crime* is not just an unnerving account of growing up in South Africa under apartheid, but a love letter to the author’s remarkable mother.”—**Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times***

“What makes *Born a Crime* such a soul-nourishing pleasure, even with all its darker edges and perilous turns, is reading Noah recount in brisk, warmly conversational prose how he learned to negotiate his way through the bullying and ostracism. . . . What also helped was having a mother like Patricia Nombuyiselo Noah. . . . Consider *Born a Crime* another such gift to her—and an enormous gift to the rest of us.”—**USA Today**

“[Noah] thrives with the help of his astonishingly fearless mother. . . . Their fierce bond makes this story soar.”—**People**

Honors English 12

Educated: A Memoir, Tara Westover. ISBN-13: 978-0399590504

“An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

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Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home." (Amazon.com)

Awards for *Educated*:

LA Times Book Prize
PEN America's Jean Stein Book Award
National Book Critics Circle Award
10 Best Books of 2018, *NYT*

***Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion, Gregory Boyle.* ISBN-13: 978-1439153024**

"In this artful, disquieting, yet surprisingly jubilant memoir, Jesuit priest Boyle recounts his two decades of working with "homies" in Los Angeles County, which contains 1,100 gangs with nearly 86,000 members. Boyle's Homeboy Industries is the largest gang intervention program in the country, offering job training, tattoo removal, and employment to members of enemy gangs. Effectively straddling the debate regarding where the responsibility for urban violence lies, Boyle both recounts the despair of watching "the kids you love cooperate in their own demise" and levels the challenge to readers to "stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it." From moving vignettes about gangsters breaking into tears or finding themselves worthy of love and affirmation, to moments of spiritual reflection and sidesplittingly funny banter between him and the homies, Boyle creates a convincing and even joyful treatise on the sacredness of every life. Considering that he has buried more than 150 young people from gang-related violence, the joyful tenor of the book remains an astounding literary and spiritual feat." (*Publishers Weekly*)

"The stories in his book, told originally in Boyle's homilies at Mass in some 25 detention centers, probation camps and juvenile facilities, brought tears to my eyes numerous times, as they will to yours. This is a holy book about the power of unconditional love and compassion." (Review excerpt from Jesuit Fr. Thomas Rausch, Chilton Professor of Catholic Theology at Loyola Marymount University)

"Father Boyle reminds us all that every single child and youth is a part of God's 'jurisdiction'—and when they know that we are seeing them as God does, they are

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capable of great things. Father Boyle is a national treasure."
—Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund

"Sometimes we are allowed to see in our own lifetimes what we were supposed to see in the life and ministry of Jesus. Read, and let your life be changed!"
—Father Richard Rohr, O.F.M., Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, New Mexico

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AP Literature & Composition

The Awakening, Kate Chopin. ISBN-10: 1514639645, ISBN-13: 978-1514639641. Also available for free at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/160/160-h/160-h.htm>

The Sun Also Rises, Ernest Hemingway. ISBN-13: 978-1476739953

The Sun Also Rises is a classic example of Hemingway's spare but powerful writing style. A poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I generation, the novel introduces two of Hemingway's most unforgettable characters: Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley. The story follows the flamboyant Brett and the hapless Jake as they journey from the wild nightlife of 1920s Paris to the brutal bullfighting rings of Spain with a motley group of expatriates. It is an age of moral bankruptcy, spiritual dissolution, unrealized love and vanishing illusions. First published in 1926, *The Sun Also Rises* is "an absorbing, beautifully and tenderly absurd, heartbreaking narrative...a truly gripping story, told in lean, hard, athletic prose" (*The New York Times*).

Persuasion, Jane Austen. ISBN-13: 978-1503290310

Persuasion is the last novel fully completed by Jane Austen. It was published at the end of 1817, six months after her death. The story concerns Anne Elliot, a young Englishwoman of 27 years, whose family is moving to lower their expenses and get out of debt, at the same time as the wars come to an end, putting sailors on shore. They rent their home to an Admiral and his wife. The wife's brother, Navy Captain Frederick Wentworth, had been engaged to Anne in 1806, and now they meet again, both single and unattached, after no contact in more than seven years. This sets the scene for many humorous encounters as well as a second, well-considered chance at love and marriage for Anne Elliot in her second "bloom".

Please purchase these to have on hand for use during the school year:

The Piano Lesson, August Wilson
1984, George Orwell