

Douglas Anderson Summer 2021 Reading Assignments

Incoming Douglas Anderson students must **complete their summer reading assignments by the first day of school**. Students must read actively and take notes on their reading. Because the first few weeks of the quarter are devoted to assessment and class activities related to these texts, **a student's success in the course rests heavily on a close study of the summer reading books**. Parents may contact the DA office about their concerns regarding summer reading assignments.

9th Grade: ALL INCOMING FRESHMEN MUST READ ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING WORKS:

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (ISBN-10: 0399588191)

"Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle."

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (ISBN-10: 1406372153)

"Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor black neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend, Khalil, at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed....Angie Thomas's searing debut about an ordinary girl in extraordinary circumstances addresses issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and un-flinching honesty."

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds (ISBN-10: 1481438263)

"Long Way Down (2017) by Jason Reynolds is a young adult novel in free verse about Will Holloman, a young black boy struggling to make a decision after his brother Shawn is shot dead in the street. Will plans to seek revenge, but before he can leave the elevator of his building, he is greeted by a series of ghosts who confuse and complicate his perspective on Shawn's death and the idea of revenge killing."

10th Grade: ALL RISING SOPHOMORES MUST READ ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING WORKS:

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

"Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams."

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

"Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel."

The Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

"Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Enugu, Nigeria. They live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. They're completely shielded from the troubles of the world. Yet, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, things are less perfect than they appear. Although her Papa is generous and well respected, he is fanatically religious and tyrannical at home—a home that is silent and suffocating.

As the country begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili and Jaja are sent to their aunt, a university professor outside the city, where they discover a life beyond the confines of their father's authority. Books cram the shelves, curry and nutmeg permeate the air, and their cousins' laughter rings throughout the house. When they return home, tensions within the family escalate, and Kambili must find the strength to keep her loved ones together."

11th grade: ALL RISING JUNIORS MUST READ THE FOLLOWING WORK:

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne (no specified ISBN)

"Set in 17th-century Puritan Boston, Massachusetts during the years 1642 to 1649, [the novel] tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an adulterous affair and struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. Throughout the book, Hawthorne explores themes of legalism, sin, and guilt."

NOTE: Do not read "The Custom House" introduction this summer. We will read and discuss this part of the novel in class.

12th grade: ALL RISING SENIORS MUST READ THE FOLLOWING WORK:

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien (no specified ISBN)

This critically acclaimed novel of the Viet Nam war generates discussion of the importance of storytelling, the effects of war on soldiers, the emotional and long-lasting burdens of war, and the nature of truth.