

Pritzker Traubert Family Library
Summer 2017 Reading List

Escape to another (dystopian/fantasy/sci-fi) world:

Arden, Katherine. *The Bear and the Nightingale*, 2017.

In a village at the edge of the wilderness of northern Russia, a stranger with piercing blue eyes presents a new father with a gift - a precious jewel on a delicate chain, intended for his young daughter Vasya. Vasya grows up a wild, willful girl, to the chagrin of her family. But when mysterious forces threaten the happiness of their village, she discovers that, armed only with the necklace, she may be the only one who can keep the darkness at bay.

Belleza, Rhoda. *Empress of a Thousand Skies*, 2017.

Determined to reclaim her crown from a corrupt government and exact revenge for the deaths of her parents, Crown Princess Rhiannon narrowly escapes an assassination attempt and finds herself on the run in outer space alongside a refugee pilot who has been framed for the attack.

Bracken, Alexandra. *The Passenger*, 2016.

Time travel, romance, and a detail-rich story, this first-in-a-series novel will take you back in time on a great adventure. Nicholas, a biracial former slave and time traveler who has yet to taste modern times, helps lead Etta, a modern New York girl and musician, on a quest for an object that must be protected from those who would use it for evil purposes.

Cameron, Sharon. *The Forgetting*, 2016.

Canaan is a quiet city on an idyllic world, hemmed in by high walls, but every twelve years the town breaks out in a chaos of bloody violence, after which all the people undergo *the Forgetting*, in which they are left without any trace of memory of themselves, their families, or their lives—but somehow seventeen-year-old Nadia has never forgotten, and she is determined to find out what causes it and how to stop it.

Stephenson, Neal. *The Rise and Fall of D.O.D.O.*, 2017.

A young man from a shadowy government agency shows up at an Ivy League university and convinces a young woman—a low-on-the-totem-pole adjunct faculty member—to study a trove of recently discovered old documents in order to earn a few bucks. The only caveat is that she must not publish her findings. She discovers that the documents, if authentic, are earth-shaking: they prove that magic actually existed and was practiced for much of human history.

Taylor, Laini. *Strange the Dreamer*, 2017.

In the aftermath of a war between gods and men, a hero, a librarian, and a girl must battle the fantastical elements of a mysterious city stripped of its name.

Adventure stories:

Krakauer, Jon. Into the Wild, 1997.

Krakauer tells the true story of Chris McCandless, a twenty-four-year-old who walked into the Alaskan wilderness on an idealistic journey and was found dead of starvation four months later. He attempts to discover what led the young man to that point.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. In the Heart of the Sea: the Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex, 2000.

The Essex, a whaleship that set sail from Nantucket in 1819 on a routine voyage, was rammed and sunk by an enraged sperm whale in the South Pacific, setting the twenty-man crew adrift in three tiny boats. This incident inspired the novel Moby Dick and, although often gruesome, is one of America's great survival stories.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. Kidnapped, 1886.

In 1751, David Balfour, a Scottish boy, is cheated out of his inheritance by his uncle, who has him kidnapped, sold as a slave, and thrown onto a ship. With the help of a fugitive, David fights his captors, makes a daring escape amidst a shipwreck, and attempts to survive a treacherous journey home.

Travel back in time:

Crichton, Michael. Dragon Teeth, 2017.

Yale student William Johnson spends his summer in the West, hunting for dinosaur fossils in treacherous territory amidst warring Indian tribes of 1876 only to discover a newfound resilience and a cast of wily characters.

McFadden, Bernice L. The Book of Harlan, 2016.

A successful pair of Harlem jazz musicians are invited to Montmartre, France to perform right before the Nazi occupation of Paris and end up in the Buchenwald concentration camp. Playing with themes of divine justice and the suffering of the righteous, author McFadden presents a remarkable portrait of one average man's extraordinary bravery in the face of pure evil.

Moore, Graham. The Last Days of Night, 2016.

Lab alum Moore's latest book weaves a fictionalized account of the lawsuit between George Westinghouse and Thomas Edison over the invention of the lightbulb, and a lawyer engaged in a rigorous pursuit of the truth.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. The Hummingbird's Daughter, 2005.

Teresita is the illegitimate daughter of a wealthy Mexican rancher. After being raped and apparently killed at the age of sixteen, she rises from the dead with the power to heal others, causing uproar among the church's and the government's most powerful as the country inches toward revolution in 19th-century Mexico.

Classics to consider:

Christie, Agatha. And Then There Were None, 1939.

Ten strangers--each with a sordid past--are summoned by an absent millionaire to a private island off the coast of Devon and begin to die one by one upon arrival. A great combination of detective story and thriller.

Dickens, Charles. David Copperfield, 1850.

A young boy in 19th-century London runs away from an unhappy home, finds employment in a wine factory, and becomes acquainted with a wide variety of characters in the city streets. Much funnier than you might think!

Hinton, S.E. The Outsiders, 1957.

It's the 50-year anniversary of this YA classic, which tells the story of three brothers who struggle to stay together after their parents' deaths and search for identity among the conflicting values of adolescent society.

Current threads:

Kingsly, Patrick. The New Odyssey: the Story of the Twenty-first-century Refugee Crisis, 2017.

Timely and heartbreaking, The New Odyssey tells the stories of refugees crossing the choppy waters of the Mediterranean in the hopes of a better future.

Simon, Scott. My Cubs: a Love Story, 2017.

NPR's Scott Simon's personal, heartfelt reflections on his beloved Chicago Cubs, replete with club lore, memorable anecdotes, frenetic fandom and wise and adoring intimacy that have made the world champion Cubbies baseball's most tortured--and now triumphant--franchise.

Original voices telling their stories:

Kalanithi, Paul. When Breath Becomes Air, 2016.

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated.

Noah, Trevor. Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood, 2016.

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. Trevor tells his story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist.

Sidibe, Gabourey. This is Just My Face: Try Not to Stare, 2017.

Oscar-nominated actress Gabourey Sidibe reflects on her life amidst a polygamous father and her rise to fame as a movie star, reflecting on dispatches of friendship, depression, celebrities, haters, fashion, race, and weight.

Short stories for a short season:

Chiang, Ted. Arrival, 2016.

A collection of science fiction short stories, including "Story of Your Life," in which a linguist's insight into the language of alien lifeforms on Earth and its nonlinear structure help her deal with her divorce and death of her daughter. This story was adapted into the successful film "Arrival."

Murakami, Haruki. Men Without Women: Stories, 2017.

In this dazzling new collection of short stories, Murakami brings his powers of observation to bear on the lives of men who, in their own ways, find themselves alone. Here are vanishing cats and smoky bars, lonely hearts and mysterious women, baseball and the Beatles, woven together to tell stories that speak to us all.

Stiefvater, Maggie; Gratton, Tessa Gratton and Brenna Yovanoff. The Curiosities: a Collection of Stories, 2012.

These three powerhouse YA authors have put together an anthology of their darkly paranormal stories, with comments on their writing processes. They also have a website with more stories, ruminations, and thoughts on writing if the book leaves you wanting more:

<https://merryfates.com/>

Simply a great story:

Alexis, André. Fifteen Dogs: an Apologue, 2015.

Alexis's contemporary take on a morality tale offers an utterly compelling look at the beauty and perils of human consciousness when it's magically imparted to 15 dogs. He manages to encapsulate an astonishing range of metaphysical questions in a simple tale about dogs that came to know too much.

Amis, Kingsley. Lucky Jim, 1953.

In this hilarious novel, teaching assistant James Dixon, burdened with a stuffy boss and an unwanted and unstable girlfriend, finds himself in a difficult position when he falls for Christine, a woman brought home for the weekend by his boss's son.

Barr, Emily. The One Memory of Flora Banks, 2017.

17-year-old Flora has not been able to create new memories since doctors removed a brain tumor. She must use a complex array of notes, phone messages, and maps to negotiate the world. She has one memory that has stuck though - and it involves a boy she thinks she loves. In an attempt to track him down, Flora embarks on a remarkable odyssey from England to Svalbard, an island near the North Pole.

Batuman, Elif. The Idiot, 2017.

The year is 1995; email is new; and Selin, the daughter of Turkish immigrants, arrives for her freshman year at Harvard. Through relationships and travel and college, Selin experiences first love and a growing understanding that she's doomed to become a writer. Beautifully written, this new literary coming-of-age novel is gaining a lot of attention.

Dinan, Kurt. Don't Get Caught, 2016.

To his great surprise, uncool eleventh-grader Max Cobb is invited to join the Chaos Club, an exclusive group of students responsible for some of the biggest pranks at his high school.

Lee, Min Jin. Pachinko, 2017.

This multi-generational saga begins in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young tubercular minister offers to marry and bring her to Japan. Fans of The Kite Runner and Cutting for Stone will enjoy this.

Murphy, Julie. Ramona Blue, 2017.

Ramona Blue, 6 foot 3, gay with a crop of blue hair, has had a surprisingly comfortable coming out in her small Mississippi town. She feels sure about her place in the world as the "adult" of her family, but then things start to change, including her own ideas about her sexuality as she starts to develop feelings for a childhood male friend. A great book about the fluidity of relationships.

Roy, Arundhati. The Ministry of Utmost Happiness, 2017.

A highly anticipated and epic novel of love and history set in India. With a large cast of characters, the story is both intimate and sweeping.

Thomas, Angie. The Hate You Give, 2017.

After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Kahlil died.

Zarr, Sara. Roomies: a Novel about Friendship, First Loves, and Random Room Assignments, 2013.

While living very different lives on opposite coasts, seventeen-year-old Elizabeth and eighteen-year-old Lauren become acquainted by email the summer before they begin rooming together as freshmen at UC-Berkeley.

Zoboi, Ibi. American Street, 2017.

Fabiola Toussaint, a young Haitian immigrant to the United States, must navigate her life, school, and relationships, all while dealing with her loud cousins after her mother is detained by the United States immigration department.

Thrills and chills:

Anderson, Natalie C. City of Saints & Thieves, 2017.

Sixteen-year-old Tina and two friends leave Kenya and slip into the Congo, from where she and her mother fled years before, seeking revenge for her mother's murder but also uncovering startling secrets.

Eggers, Dave. The Circle, 2013.

Mae Holland is thrilled to be working for the most powerful internet company, but as her life beyond the company campus grows distant, a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken and her role in the Circle becomes increasingly public.

Hawkins, Paula. Into the Water, 2017.

A single mother turns up dead at the bottom of the river that runs through town. Earlier in the summer, a vulnerable teenage girl met the same fate. They are not the first women lost to these dark waters, but their deaths disturb the river and its history, dredging up secrets long submerged. Left behind is a lonely fifteen-year-old girl. Parentless and friendless, she now finds herself in the care of her mother's sister, a fearful stranger who has been dragged back to the place she deliberately ran from.

Hirsch, Jeff. Black River Falls, 2016.

In a small town called Black River, New York, a memory-stealing illness descends. Seventeen-year-old Cardinal somehow escapes the virus that has ravaged his town, but he has not escaped the psychological trauma. Missing his family, longing for the past, and living with little human contact, Cardinal is still determined to forge relationships and uncover mysteries about the past.

Persson Giolito, Malin. Quicksand, 2016.

A mass shooting has taken place at a prep school in Stockholm's wealthiest suburb. Maja Norberg is eighteen years old and on trial for her involvement in the massacre where her boyfriend and best friend were killed. When the novel opens, Maja has spent nine excruciating months in jail awaiting trial. Now the time has come for her to enter the courtroom. But how did Maja, the good girl next door who was popular and excelled at school, become the most hated teenager in the country?

Bask in the sun and some verse:

Borzutzky, Daniel. The Performance of Becoming Human, 2016.

In this winner of the 2016 National Book Award for poetry, Borzutzky confronts the various ways nation-states and their bureaucracies absorb and destroy communities and economies. He merges the bay of Valparaiso into the western shore of Lake Michigan, while continuing his poetic investigation into the political and economic violence shared by Chicago and Chile, two places integral to his personal formation.

Dove, Rita. Collected Poems: 1974 -2004, 2016.

Long-listed for The National Book Award, this collection showcases the diverse work of Pulitzer Prize winner and US Poet Laureate Rita Dove across three decades and seven books. She explores topics such as love, Greek myths, the African-American experience, adolescence, and much more of America's cultural history with expressive virtuosity.

Nguyen, Hieu Minh. This Way to the Sugar, 2014.

Hieu Nguyen's bruising collection of poems, a finalist for both a Minnesota Book Award and a Lambda Literary Award, puts a blade and a microscope to nostalgia, tradition, race, apology, and sexuality, in order to find beauty in a flawed world.

Summer lovin':

Albertalli, Becky. The Upside of Unrequited, 2017.

Avoiding relationships to protect her sensitive heart, plus-sized Molly supports her once-cynical twin, Cassie, when the latter has her own bout of lovesickness, a situation that is complicated by sibling dynamics and an unexpected romantic triangle.

Lacour, Nina. We Are Okay, 2017.

It's Christmas break in cold New York during Marin's first year of college. Rather than returning to San Francisco and facing tragedies from the past summer, she stays put. Her friend Mabel comes to visit, surprising Marin in more ways than one. This LGBTQ love story digs deep into grief and betrayal. A tear-jerker.

Hapgood, Harriet Reuter. The Square Root of Summer, 2016.

Gottie Oppenheimer, a seventeen-year-old physics prodigy, navigates grief, love, and disruptions in the space-time continuum in one very eventful summer.

Yoon, Nicola. The Sun is Also a Star, 2016.

Daniel has always been a good son and student. Natasha is a girl who believes in science and facts, but she's caught in a situation whose facts she doesn't want to accept. When Daniel sees her, he forgets his good-son plans and takes risks with the belief that there is something extraordinary in store for them.

Summer growin':

Hanh, Thich Nhat. The Art of Living: Peace and Freedom in the Here and Now, 2017.

Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh reveals an art of living in mindfulness that helps answer life's deepest questions. He presents seven transformative meditations that open up new perspectives on our lives, our relationships, and our interconnectedness with the world around us.

Sandberg, Cheryl, and Adam Grant. Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy, 2017.

Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, reflects on her year of grief after the sudden death of her husband during a family vacation, and the resilience she found deep within herself that she never knew existed.

Wooster, Patricia. Ignite Your Spark: Discovering Who You Are from the Inside Out, 2017.

It's no secret that teenage years can be tumultuous, confusing, and even sucky, but that doesn't mean teens can't light a fire in their life. Covering topics from relationships, self-image, and school to goals, failures, and willpower, this book features thought-provoking quizzes, "Ignite Your Life" activities, and profiles of kids and adults alike who have ignited their own spark to accomplish extraordinary things.

A picture is worth a thousand words:

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. Black Panther, v. 1: A Nation under Our Feet, 2016.

When a superhuman terrorist group sparks a violent uprising, Wakanda is thrown into turmoil. Can its monarch, one in a long line of Black Panthers, survive the necessary change? First in a series of graphic novels from the author of Between the World and Me.

Ross, Edward. Filmish: a Graphic Journey through Film, 2015.

An exhilarating ride through the history of cinema, using comics to uncover the magic and mechanics behind our favorite movies. Exploring everything from censorship to set design, Ross spotlights the films and filmmakers that embody this provocative and inventive medium, from the pioneers of early cinema to the innovators shaping the movies of today.

Vaughan, Brian Paper Girls, Vol. 1, 2016.

In the early hours after Halloween of 1988, four 12-year-old newspaper delivery girls uncover the most important story of all time. Suburban drama and otherworldly mysteries collide in this smash-hit series about nostalgia, first jobs, and the last days of childhood.

Westerfeld, Scott. Spill Zone, Vol. 1, 2017.

Years after the devastation that killed her parents, scarred her sister, and destroyed her city, Addison takes a job from an eccentric collector that forces her to break her own rules of survival.