



# NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

CHARACTER • COMPASSION • CONFIDENCE

## RISING FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE BOOK OPTIONS

Students must select one book from the list below. If you would like to read a different book for your summer reading assignment, you will need to get approval from Mrs. Lucy Abbott, Chair of the English Department. If you choose to select a different book to read, please email Mrs. Abbott for approval by July 1, 2024. Mrs. Abbott's email is [labbott@notredamehs.com](mailto:labbott@notredamehs.com).

### **Animal Farm** - Orwell (Fiction)

A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned—a razor-edged fairy tale for grown-ups that records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to totalitarianism just as terrible.

### **Becoming Muhammad Ali** - Alexander and Patterson (Biography, Verse)

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing.

### **David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants** - Gladwell (Nonfiction, Psychology, Sociology)

In *David and Goliath*, Malcolm Gladwell challenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, offering a new interpretation of what it means to be discriminated against, cope with a disability, lose a parent, attend a mediocre school, or suffer from any number of other apparent setbacks.

### **Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries** - Tyson (Nonfiction, Science)

Loyal readers of the monthly "Universe" essays in *Natural History* magazine have long recognized Neil deGrasse Tyson's talent for guiding them through the mysteries of the cosmos with clarity and enthusiasm. Bringing together more than forty of Tyson's favorite essays, *Death by Black Hole* explores a myriad of cosmic topics, from what it would be like to be inside a black hole to the movie industry's feeble efforts to get its night skies right.

### **Deep Light** - Hardinge (Fiction, Fantasy)

The gods are dead. Decades ago, they turned on one another and tore each other apart. Nobody knows why. But are they really gone forever? When 15-year-old Hark finds the still-beating heart of a terrifying deity, he risks everything to keep it out of the hands of smugglers, military scientists, and a secret fanatical cult so that he can use it to save the life of his best friend, Jelt.

***The Distance Between Us: Young Readers Edition***, Grande (Nonfiction, Memoir)

When her parents make the dangerous and illegal trek across the Mexican border in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna and her siblings are forced to live with their stern grandmother, as they wait for their parents to build the foundation of a new life.

**The Enigma Game** - Wein (Fiction, History)

1940. Facing a seemingly endless war, fifteen-year-old Louisa Adair wants to fight back, make a difference, do something—anything, to escape the Blitz and the ghosts of her parents, who were killed by enemy action. But when she accepts a position caring for an elderly German woman in the small village of Windyedge, Scotland, it hardly seems like a meaningful contribution. Still, the war feels closer than ever in Windyedge, where Ellen McEwen, a volunteer driver with the Royal Air Force, and Jamie Beaufort-Stuart, a flight leader for the 648 Squadron, are facing a barrage of unbreakable code and enemy attacks they can't anticipate.

**Furia** - Mendez (Fiction)

In Rosario, Argentina, Camila Hassan lives a double life. At home, she is a careful daughter, living within her mother's narrow expectations, in her rising soccer star brother's shadow, and under the abusive rule of her short-tempered father.

**Golden Arm** - Deuker (Fiction)

Lazarus "Laz" Weathers has always been shy, and his issue with stuttering when he speaks hasn't helped. Stuck in a Seattle trailer park, Laz finds baseball helps him escape from the world of poverty and drugs. When he gets an opportunity to pitch for the rich kids across town, he has a chance to get drafted by the major leagues.

***It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers)*** -

Noah (Nonfiction, Memoir)

The host of *The Daily Show*, Trevor Noah, shares his personal story and the injustices he faced while growing up half black, half white in South Africa under and after apartheid in this *New York Times* bestselling young readers' adaptation of his adult memoir.

**Killers of the Flower Moon: Adapted for Young Readers** - Grann (Nonfiction, History)

In this edited edition of the adult bestseller, critically acclaimed author David Grann revisits the gripping investigation into the shocking crimes against the Osage people. It is a searing indictment of the callousness and prejudice toward Native Americans that allowed the murderers to continue for so long and provides essential information for young readers about a shameful period in U.S. history.

**Macbeth (No Fear Shakespeare Graphic Novels)** - Shakespeare (Graphic novel)

Based on the *No Fear Shakespeare* modern translations, this dynamic graphic novel—now with fully-colored illustrations—brings the time-old tale of greed and power to life. The illustrations are distinctively offbeat and sure to appeal to today's teens. The graphic novel also includes an illustrated cast of characters and a helpful plot summary.

**Shoe Dog** - Knight (Nonfiction, Memoir, Business)

In this instant and tenacious *New York Times* bestseller, Nike founder and board chairman Phil Knight "offers a rare and revealing look at the notoriously media-shy man behind the swoosh" ..!;p;[-(Booklist,

starred review), illuminating his company's early days as an intrepid start-up and its evolution into one of the world's most iconic, game-changing, and profitable brands.

**And Then There Were None** - Christie (Fiction, Mystery)

First, there were ten—a curious assortment of strangers summoned to a private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to any of them, is nowhere to be found. The ten guests have precious little in common except that each has a deadly secret buried deep in their own past. And, unknown to them, each has been marked for murder. Alone on the island and trapped by foul weather, one by one the guests begin to fall prey to the hidden murderer among them. With themselves as the only suspects, only the dead are above suspicion.

**Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc** - Elliot (Verse, Faith)

Told through medieval poetic forms and in the voices of the people and objects in Joan of Arc's life (including her family and even the trees, clothes, cows, and candles of her childhood), *Voices* offers an unforgettable perspective on an extraordinary young woman. Along the way, it explores timely issues such as gender, misogyny, and the peril of speaking truth to power. Before Joan of Arc became a saint, she was a girl-inspired. It is that girl we come to know in *Voices*.