



# NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

CHARACTER • COMPASSION • CONFIDENCE

## RISING JUNIOR 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).

***All For Her: The Autobiography of Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. (A Holy Cross Book)***

On December 18, 2017, Pope Francis declared that Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., lived a life of heroic virtue and gave him the title “venerable,” marking another step closer to sainthood for the “Rosary Priest.” This new edition of Peyton’s biography tells the story of his life and dedication to the Blessed Mother as he discerned his vocation, overcame the obstacles of advanced tuberculosis and lack of education, and became a priest who eventually preached to more than 28 million people worldwide, worked with Hollywood stars, and founded Family Rosary and Family Theater Productions.

***The Bomber Mafia: A Dream, a Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War*** - Gladwell (Nonfiction, Science, History)

In *The Bomber Mafia*, Malcolm Gladwell weaves together the stories of a Dutch genius and his homemade computer, a band of brothers in central Alabama, a British psychopath, and pyromaniacal chemists at Harvard to examine one of the greatest moral challenges in modern American history.

***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood***- 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, and half white in South Africa under and after apartheid in this *New York Times* bestselling young readers' adaptation of his adult memoir.

***The Code Breaker*** - Isaacson (Biography/Science)

The bestselling author of *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Steve Jobs* returns with a gripping account of how Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna and her colleagues launched a revolution that will allow us to cure diseases, fend off viruses, and have healthier babies

***The Dante Club*** - Matt Pearl (Fiction, History, Mystery)

Boston, 1865 - literary geniuses of the Dante Club—poets and Harvard professors Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, and James Russell Lowell, along with publisher J. T. Fields—are finishing America’s first translation of *The Divine Comedy*. The powerful Boston Brahmins at Harvard College are fighting to keep Dante in obscurity, believing the infiltration of foreign superstitions to be as corrupting as the immigrants arriving at Boston Harbor.

***Klara and the Sun*** - Ishiguro (Dystopian/Science Fiction)

From her place in the store, Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her, but when the possibility emerges that her circumstances may change forever, Klara is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans

***Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*** - Ilibagiza (Memoir, Faith)

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.

***The Lincoln Highway*** - Towles (Historic Fiction)

In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York.

***A Man at Arms*** - Pressfield (Historic Fiction, War, Religion)

Jerusalem and the Sinai desert, first century AD. In the turbulent aftermath of the crucifixion of Jesus, officers of the Roman Empire acquire intelligence of a pilgrim bearing an incendiary letter from a religious fanatic to insurrectionists in Corinth. The content of this letter could bring down the empire

***Maus, [The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale]*** - Spiegelman (Graphic Novel/Holocaust)

The Pulitzer Prize-winning *Maus* tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his father's story. *Maus* approaches the unspeakable through the diminutive. Its form, the cartoon (the Nazis are cats, the Jews mice), shocks us out of any lingering sense of familiarity and succeeds in "drawing us closer to the bleak heart of the Holocaust" (The New York Times).

***The Most Fun Thing: Dispatches from a Skateboard Life*** - Beachy (Nonfiction, Essays, Sports)

In the tradition of William Finnegan's *Barbarian Days*, Helen Macdonald's *H Is for Hawk*, and Haruki Murakami's *What I Talk About When I Talk About Running*, *THE MOST FUN THING* offers a deep exploration of an often overlooked, underappreciated pastime whose seeming simplicity conceals universal truths. It is a rich account of Beachy's quest to pin down the meaning of the activity that became his life's greatest obsession and his struggle to find a place for it in an increasingly complicated life as an adult, a professor, and a husband.

***Nicked and Dimed*** - Ehrenreich (Nonfiction/Business)

Millions of Americans work full-time, year-round, for poverty-level wages. In 1998, Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that a job—any job—can be the ticket to a better life. But how does anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 an hour?

***On Juneteenth*** - Gordon-Reed (Historic Memoir)

Weaving together American history, dramatic family chronicle, and searing episodes of memoir, Annette Gordon-Reed's *On Juneteenth* provides a historian's view of the country's long road to Juneteenth, recounting both its origins in Texas and the enormous hardships that African-Americans have endured in the century since, from Reconstruction through Jim Crow and beyond. All too aware of the stories of cowboys, ranchers, and oilmen that have long dominated the lore of the Lone Star State, Gordon-Reed—herself a Texas native and the descendant of enslaved people brought to Texas as early as the 1820s—forges a new and profoundly truthful narrative of her home state, with implications for us all.

***Rickey: The Life and Legend of an American Original*** - Bryant (Biography, Sports)

From the author of *The Last Hero: A Life of Henry Aaron* comes the definitive biography of Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson, baseball's epic leadoff hitter and base-stealer who also stole America's heart over nearly five electric decades in the game.

***The Storyteller: Tales of Life and Music*** - Grohl (Autobiography, Music)

Dave Grohl's *The Storyteller* created a sensation when it was initially published, becoming a global bestseller and thrilling fans and critics alike. Readers came to the book for Dave's heartfelt voice, his love of family and music, and the energy that pours from every page.

***The Stranger in the Woods*** - Finkel (Nonfiction)

Many people dream of escaping modern life, but most will never act on it. This is the remarkable true story of a man who lived alone in the woods of Maine for 27 years, making this dream a reality; not out of anger at the world, but simply because he preferred to live on his own.

***There, There*** - Orange (Fiction)

Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind. Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together after his uncle's death and working at the powwow to honor his memory. Fourteen-year-old Orvil, coming to perform traditional dance for the very first time. They converge and collide on one fateful day at the Big Oakland Powwow and together this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism

***Things Fall Apart*** - Achebe (Fiction)

With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to the African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.

***Uncle Petros and Goldbach's Conjecture*** - Doxiadis (Fiction, Math)

Uncle Petros is a family joke - an aging recluse in a suburb of Athens, playing chess and gardening. His young nephew soon discovers his uncle was once a celebrated mathematician who staked all on solving the problem of Goldbach's Conjecture.