



Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to Galileo Magnet High School's Summer Reading Program, its requirements, expectations, and offerings.

Beginning Summer 2018, each student at Galileo will be required to choose one book from our prescribed grade level reading list and take a written test in the presence of a Galileo faculty/staff member. The test is based on the book, not the movie. Summer reading test scores will be included in students' English grades for the 2018-19 school year. For your convenience, attached to this letter is the grade level reading list. There are two opportunities in which to test:

1. After reading the book this summer, students can call our office at 434-773-8186 to make an appointment to test.
2. Students will have through the first week of school to complete the test. All tests will need to be completed by **August 17, 2018**.

We invite you to participate in a table talk during the summer on June 27 1:00-3:00pm. Students can sign up for the table talk in which we will discuss the book, have snacks, and door prizes. Students will need to RSVP by signing up using the Google Form e-mailed by Mrs. Ramsey.

Thank you for your support as we continue to promote academic excellence here at Galileo Magnet High School.

Michelle Ramsey  
Principal



## **GALILEO MAGNET H. S. SUMMER READING LIST**

### **RISING 9TH GRADE**

#### **Fahrenheit 451**

**By Ray Bradbury**

**Science Fiction**

Guy Montag is a fireman who burns books in a futuristic American city. In Montag's world, firemen start fires rather than putting them out. The people in this society do not read books, enjoy nature, spend time by themselves, think independently, or have meaningful conversations. Instead, they drive very fast, watch excessive amounts of television on wall-size sets, and listen to the radio on "Seashell Radio" sets attached to their ears.

#### **The Call of the Wild**

**By Jack London**

**Adventure Fiction**

Buck, a powerful dog, half St. Bernard and half sheepdog, lives on Judge Miller's estate in California's Santa Clara Valley. He leads a comfortable life there, but it comes to an end when men discover gold in the Klondike region of Canada and a great demand arises for strong dogs to pull sleds. Buck is kidnapped by a gardener on the Miller estate and sold to dog traders, who teach Buck to obey by beating him with a club and, subsequently, ship him north to the Klondike.

#### **Journey to the Center of the Earth**

**By Jules Verne**

**Science Fiction**

The story of a secret expedition beneath the earth's surface, down through geologic space and time to an imagined subterranean world. Narrated by Axel Lidenbrock, one of the three adventurers, it tells how he, Professor Otto Lidenbrock, and their guide, Hans Bjelke, descend the chimney of an extinct volcano near Reykjavik, Iceland, proceed to unknown regions, and then, miraculously, survive a volcanic eruption which shoots them to the surface again from the mouth of Mount Etna.

#### **Fever 1793**

**By Laurie Halse Anderson**

**Historical Fiction**

Matilda "Mattie" Cook is a fourteen-year-old girl living above a coffeehouse in Philadelphia with her mother, grandfather (a former military man), a parrot named King George, and an orange cat named Silas. One day, the coffeehouse serving girl, Polly, doesn't show up for work. Turns out she came down with a case of the fever, and the next thing you know, she's being buried. More and more cases of the fever start popping up, and rumors of an epidemic spread through the coffeehouse and across the city.

#### **The Book Thief**

**By Markus Zusak**

**Historical Young-Adult Fiction**

*The Book Thief* tells the story of Liesel Meminger, a young German girl coming of age in Nazi Germany. The novel focuses on the joys and sorrows of Liesel, her foster family, and the Jewish man they hide from the Nazis.

#### **Skink**

**By Carl Hiaasen**

**Young-Adult Humorous Fiction**

When your cousin goes missing under suspicious circumstances, who do you call? There's only one man for the job: a half-crazed, half-feral, one-eyed ex-governor named Skink. Skink joins 14-year-old Richard on a breakneck chase across Florida, undaunted by lightning storms, poisonous snakes, flying bullets, and giant gators. There are a million places cousin Malley could be, a million unpleasant fates that might have befallen her, but one thing is certain: in the Florida swamp, justice is best served wild.

#### **The Crown Tower**

**Michael J. Sullivan**

**Epic Fantasy**

Hadrian Blackwater, a warrior with nothing to fight for is paired with Royce Melborn, a thieving assassin with nothing to lose. Together they must steal a treasure that no one can reach. The Crown Tower is the



impregnable remains of the grandest fortress ever built and home to the realm's most prized possessions. But it isn't gold or jewels that the old wizard is after, and if he can just keep them from killing each other, they just might do it.

**Little Women**                      **By Louisa May Alcott**                      **Coming of Age Story / Bildungsroman**

An American classic, adored for the lively and vivid portraits of the endearing March sisters: talented tomboy Jo, pretty Meg, shy Beth, temperamental Amy. Millions have shared in their joys, hardships, and adventures as they grow up in Civil War New England, separated by the war from their father and beloved mother, "Marmee," blossoming from "little women" into adults.

**The Book Of Merlyn**                      **By T. H. White**                      **Fantasy**

A powerful commentary on war told through the story of how Merlyn and a group of magical creatures complete the education of an aging King Arthur.

**The Hunger Games**                      **By Suzanne Collins**                      **Dystopian Novel**

*The Hunger Games* universe is a dystopia set in Panem, a country consisting of the wealthy Capitol and 12 districts in varying states of poverty. Every year, children from the districts are selected to participate in a compulsory annual televised death match called The Hunger Games.

**Treasure Island**    **By Robert Louis Stevenson**    **Adventure Fiction**

When an old pirate staying at his family's seaside inn dies, young Jim Hawkins discovers that he left behind a map showing the location of buried pirate treasure. When Jim shows it to the local squire, he buys and outfits a ship and, with Jim and the local doctor, they set sail to seek the treasure. But the dead pirate's shipmates, led by the charming and magnetic Long John Silver, want the treasure too, and will stop at nothing to get it -- including infiltrating the crew.

**Endangered**    **By Eliot Schrefer**    **Fiction**

Fourteen-year-old Sophie has just left the United States, returning to the Democratic Republic of Congo, "where even the bullet holes have bullet holes." There she will spend the summer with her Congolese mother, who runs a sanctuary for bonobos. In quick order, Sophie purchases a sick baby bonobo, whom she names Otto, suffers her mother's wrath for putting money in the hands of poachers and is swept up in a political rebellion.



## GALILEO MAGNET H. S. SUMMER READING LIST

### RISING 10TH GRADE

**The Andromeda Strain**                      **By Michael Crichton**                      **Techno Thriller**

Chilling tale about a US research satellite carrying a deadly extraterrestrial microscopic organism that crashes into a small town in Arizona. A group of top scientists are hurriedly assembled in a bid to identify and contain the lethal stowaway.

**How Sugar Changed The World**                      **By Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos**                      **Non-Fiction**

This tells the history of sugar. Beginning with the discovery of sugar, the authors trace the history of how it became popular, how its usage spread around the world, and how it affected the lives of the rich and the poor.

**Animal Farm**                      **By George Orwell**                      **Political Satire**

*Animal Farm* begins with a very drunk Mr. Jones (owner of Manor Farm) doing a really crummy job of, you know, his job. Luckily, there's a wise pig on the farm: Old Major. Old Major encourages the neglected animals to rebel and run the farm themselves with one important qualification: everyone should be equal. Then he dies.

**Wuthering Heights**                      **By Emily Bronte**                      **Gothic Fiction**

The powerful, romantic classic about Cathy and Heathcliff, consumed lovers whose intense passion is so strong that they cannot be together, yet cannot stay apart.

**Into Thin Air**                      **By Jon Krakauer**                      **NonFiction Adventure**

A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster is a 1997 bestselling non-fiction book written by Jon Krakauer. It details the author's presence at Mount Everest during the 1996 Mount Everest disaster, when eight climbers were killed and several others were stranded by a "rogue storm".

**The Glass Menagerie**                      **By Tennessee Williams**                      **Family Drama**

Amanda Wingfield and her two grown children, Tom and Laura, live together in a shabby St. Louis apartment during the Depression. As he dreams of being a writer, Tom supports the family by working in a warehouse he detests. Uneducated and unskilled, Amanda depends entirely on Tom for the family's livelihood. She fears he will abandon her and Laura, just as her husband left them, a possibility made even more frightening since Laura is disabled.

**Uglies**                      **By Scott Westerfeld**                      **Science Fiction (Dystopia)**

The story is set in a future post scarcity dystopian world in which everyone is turned "Pretty" by extreme cosmetic surgery upon reaching age 16. It tells the story of teenager Tally Youngblood who rebels against society's enforced conformity, after her newfound friends Shay and David show her the downsides to becoming a "Pretty".

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**                      **by William Shakespeare**                      **Fantasy/Comedy**

This story portrays the events surrounding the marriage of Theseus, the Duke of Athens, to Hippolyta. These include the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of six amateur actors (the



mechanicals) who are controlled and manipulated by the fairies who inhabit the forest in which most of the play is set. Lysander loves Hermia, and Hermia loves Lysander. Helena loves Demetrius; Demetrius used to love Helena but now loves Hermia. Egeus, Hermia's father, prefers Demetrius as a suitor, and enlists the aid of Theseus, the Duke of Athens, to enforce his wishes upon his daughter.

**The Poet X**                      **By Elizabeth Acevedo**                      **Novel - Young Adult Fiction**

A young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

**Turtles All The Way Down**                      **By John Green**                      **Novel - Young Adult Fiction**

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis. The author shares Aza's story with shattering, unflinching clarity in this brilliant novel of love, resilience, and the power of lifelong friendship



## **GALILEO MAGNET H. S. SUMMER READING LIST**

### **RISING 11TH GRADE**

#### **Their Eyes Were Watching God      By Zora Neale Hurston      Coming of Age Fiction**

The story follows the life of Janie Crawford, a girl of mixed black and white heritage around the turn of the century. As an adolescent, Janie sees a bee pollinating a flower in her backyard pear tree and becomes obsessed with finding true love. From there, the novel documents her emotional growth and maturity through three marriages.

#### **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks      By Rebecca Skloot      Biography/Science**

The author has always been obsessed with Henrietta Lacks, the African-American woman whose cancer cells were harvested and used to create an immortal cell line for scientific experimentation. Because there isn't much information about Henrietta and her family, Skloot wants to tell their story. But she doesn't realize how much backstory and emotional baggage exists until she starts contacting the family and people connected with them.

#### **Jane Eyre      By Charlotte Bronte      Gothic Fiction**

As an orphaned child, Jane Eyre is first cruelly abused by her aunt, then cast out and sent to a charity school. Though she meets with further abuse, she receives an education, and eventually takes a job as a governess at the estate of Edward Rochester. Jane and Rochester begin to bond, but his dark moods trouble her. When Jane uncovers the terrible secret Rochester has been hiding, she flees and finds temporary refuge at the home of St. John Rivers.

#### **Pride and Prejudice      By Jane Austen      Novel of Manners/Satire**

Set in England in the early 19th century, *Pride and Prejudice* tells the story of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's five unmarried daughters after the rich and eligible Mr. Bingley and his status-conscious friend, Mr. Darcy, have moved into their neighbourhood. While Bingley takes an immediate liking to the eldest Bennet daughter, Jane, Darcy is disdainful of local society and repeatedly clashes with the Bennets' lively second daughter, Elizabeth.

#### **The Bell Jar      By Sylvia Plath      Autobiographical Novel**

Chronicles the crack-up of Esther Greenwood: brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under - maybe for the last time.

#### **The World Without Us      By Alan Weisman      NonFiction**

In this book, the author offers an utterly original approach to questions of humanity's impact on the planet: he asks us to envision our Earth, without us.

#### **The Pact: Three Young Men Make A Promise And Fulfil A Dream      By Dr. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt      Biography / Autobiography**

Chosen by *Essence* to be among the forty most influential African Americans, the three doctors grew up in the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attaining that dream. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are not only friends to this day—they are all doctors.



**Just Mercy: A Story Of Justice And Redemption**

**Bryan Stevenson**

**NonFiction**

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time. 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.

**Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet**

**By Jamie Ford**

**Historical Fiction**

A story about the love and friendship between Henry Lee, a Chinese-American boy, and Keiko Okabe, a Japanese American girl, during the internment in World War II.



## **GALILEO MAGNET H. S. SUMMER READING LIST**

### **RISING 12TH GRADE**

#### **Kite Runner**

**By Khaled Hosseini**

#### **Historical Drama**

Growing up in Kabul, Amir and Hassan are inseparable friends. As an adult living in California, Amir remains haunted by a childhood incident in which he betrayed Hassan's trust. When he learns that the Taliban has murdered Hassan and wife, Amir returns to his homeland to learn the fate of the couple's son.

#### **Dracula**

**By Bram Stoker**

#### **Gothic Fiction**

Sometime in the late nineteenth century, Jonathan Harker, a young English lawyer, is traveling to the Castle Dracula, which is located in Transylvania, in order to finalize a transfer of real estate in England to Count Dracula. Harker becomes extremely nervous when all of the local peasants react in fear after they hear of his destination; nevertheless, he continues on to the castle until he meets an emissary of the Count in the Borgo Pass. The mysterious coach driver continues on to the castle, arriving in pitch darkness, to the accompaniment of howling wolves.

#### **A Walk in the Woods**

**By Bill Bryson**

#### **Non-Fiction**

In the grand tradition of the travel memoir, writer Bill Bryson tells the story of his trek through the wilderness along the Appalachian Trail. With no real outdoors experience or knowledge of the trail's difficulty, he walks into a sporting goods store in his hometown of Hanover, New Hampshire, and spends a small fortune on the necessary gear, most of which is a mystery to him. His plan is to hike the entire 2,200-mile trail in one season, starting at Springer Mountain in Georgia and ending at Mt. Katahdin in Maine. He has a companion who is as comically unprepared for the trek as he is. Stephen Katz is an old school friend, who climbs off the plane with a large stomach and a duffel bag of Snickers.

#### **Into the Wild**

**By Jon Krakauer**

#### **Biography**

Christopher McCandless (Emile Hirsch), son of wealthy parents (Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt), graduates from Emory University as a top student and athlete. However, instead of embarking on a prestigious and profitable career, he chooses to give his savings to charity, rid himself of his possessions, and set out on a journey to the Alaskan wilderness.

#### **All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes**

**By Maya Angelou**

#### **Autobiography**

In 1962 the poet, musician, and performer Maya Angelou claimed another piece of her identity by moving to Ghana, joining a community of "Revolutionist Returnees" inspired by the promise of pan-Africanism. *All God's Children Need Walking Shoes* is her lyrical and acutely perceptive exploration of what it means to be an African American on the mother continent, where color no longer matters but where American-ness keeps asserting itself in ways both puzzling and heartbreaking.

#### **The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic - and How it Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World**

**By Steven Johnson**

#### **NonFiction**

This is "the story of London's most terrifying epidemic and how it changed science, cities, and the modern world."The 'epidemic' was actually a sudden, severe outbreak, of cholera, in 1854.

**Utopia****By Thomas More****Dystopian Fiction**

The author paints a vision of the customs and practices of a distant island, but Utopia means 'no place' and his narrator's name, Hythlodæus, translates as 'dispenser of nonsense'. This fantastical tale masks what is a serious and subversive analysis of the failings of More's society.

**The Good Earth****By Pearl S. Buck****Historical Drama**

A poignant tale about the life and labors of a Chinese farmer during the sweeping reign of the century's last emperor.

**Outcasts United****By Warren St. John****Nonfiction**

This is the story of a refugee soccer team, a remarkable woman coach and a small southern town turned upside down by the process of refugee resettlement. It's a tale about resilience, the power of one person to make a difference and the daunting challenge of creating community in a place where people seem to have little in common. Although members of the Fugees are all refugees, they represent a diverse mix of nationalities. Being a refugee means that one never really feels like one fits in, like one belongs, in the locale where one lives. One faces the twin pressures of staying true to one's ethnic identity, or roots, while simultaneously assimilating the norms and customs of the native people. In short, refugees in Clarkston, Georgia felt alone and helpless.

**Nightingale****by Kristin Hannah****Historical Fiction**

This is the story of two sisters, just coming of age in France on the eve of World War II, and their struggle to survive and resist the German occupation of France. One sister is rebellious and intent on fighting for France while the other simply wants to survive the war with her family intact. Both sisters learn who they are and what they are capable of as the war wages on. It was inspired by the story of a Belgian woman, Andrée de Jongh, who helped downed Allied pilots to escape Nazi territory.

**South of Broad****By Pat Conroy****Fiction**

Leopold Bloom King has been raised in a family shattered—and shadowed—by tragedy. Lonely and adrift, he searches for something to sustain him and finds it among a tightly knit group of outsiders. Surviving marriages happy and troubled, unrequited loves and unspoken longings, hard-won successes and devastating breakdowns, as well as Charleston, South Carolina's dark legacy of racism and class divisions, these friends will endure until a final test forces them to face something none of them are prepared for.