

Revised June 2019

Dear Northridge Students and Parents,

In an effort to offer book choices for our students, we are expanding our reading list to include a variety of interests for their reading pleasure.

Many of these books can be read as an e-book or listened to as an audio book through our school's and the Tuscaloosa Public Library's Overdrive/Sora. You can also check out a copy at the library or purchase one, if you would like.

Listed below are the books for summer reading for all of our English classes:

Reg. 9-12 and Honors 9, Honors 10: Choose one from the following list of four:

Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice by Bryan Stevenson,
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper, ***The Serpent King*** by Jeff Zentner and ***The Hate U Give*** by Angie Thomas.

Honors 11: choose one from the list of three - ***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak, ***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** by Zora Neale Hurston, or ***In Cold Blood*** by Truman Capote.

Honors 12: ***The Glass Castle*** by Jeanette Mills

AP Language: ***The Great Gatsby*** by F. Scott Fitzgerald

AP Literature: choose one from the list of two - ***The Things They Carried*** by Tim O'Brien or ***Dracula*** by Bram Stoker

Students will be tested on the content of the books and complete multiple activities on the books as well. Because of this, it is important for the students to read one of the above novels. Thanks for your support!

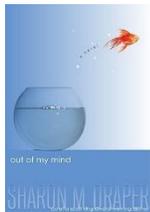


Just Mercy

In this young adult adaptation of the acclaimed bestselling *Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson delves deep into the broken U.S. justice system, detailing from his personal experience his many challenges and efforts as a lawyer and social advocate, especially on behalf of America's most rejected and marginalized people.

In this very personal work--proceeds of which will go to charity--Bryan Stevenson recounts many and varied stories of his work as a lawyer in the U.S. criminal justice system on behalf of those in society who have experienced some type of discrimination and/or have been wrongly accused of a crime and who deserve a powerful advocate and due justice under the law.

Through the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), an organization Stevenson founded as a young lawyer and for which he currently serves as Executive Director, this important work continues. EJI strives to end mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society.



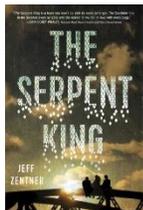
Out of My Mind

by [Sharon M. Draper](#) (Goodreads Author)

4.38 · [Rating details](#) · [88,519 ratings](#) · [12,381 reviews](#)

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.

In this breakthrough story, reminiscent of *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, from multiple Coretta Scott King Award-winner Sharon Draper, readers will come to know a brilliant mind and a brave spirit who will change forever how they look at anyone with a disability.



The Serpent King

by [Jeff Zentner](#) (Goodreads Author)

4.18 · [Rating details](#) · [14,031 ratings](#) · [3,444 reviews](#)

Dill has had to wrestle with vipers his whole life—at home, as the only son of a Pentecostal minister who urges him to handle poisonous rattlesnakes, and at school, where he faces down bullies who target him for his father’s extreme faith and very public fall from grace.

The only antidote to all this venom is his friendship with fellow outcasts Travis and Lydia. But as they are starting their senior year, Dill feels the coils of his future tightening around him. The end of high school will lead to new beginnings for Lydia, whose edgy fashion blog is her ticket out of their rural Tennessee town. And Travis is happy wherever he is thanks to his obsession with the epic book series *Bloodfall* and the fangirl who may be turning his harsh reality into real-life fantasy. Dill’s only escapes are his music and his secret feelings for Lydia—neither of which he is brave enough to share. Graduation feels more like an ending to Dill than a beginning. But even before then, he must cope with another ending—one that will rock his life to the core.

Debut novelist Jeff Zentner provides an unblinking and at times comic view of the hard realities of growing up in the Bible Belt, and an intimate look at the struggles to find one’s true self in the wreckage of the past.



The Hate U Give

by [Angie Thomas](#) (Goodreads Author)

4.54 · [Rating details](#) · [310,012 ratings](#) · [43,723 reviews](#)

A three-time winner of Goodreads Choice Awards

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor 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.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil’s name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.