



Plainfield Public Schools

2021 Summer Reading Recommendations

High School - Rising Grades 9 through 12

May 2021

Students and Parents,

Traditionally, the summer is a time when we encourage our students to keep reading and learning, and this year is no different. In fact, it may be even more important this year due to the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the transition to online learning. Nevertheless, we are also aware of the constraints many families face regarding health, time, and resources. For this reason, summer reading this year is strongly suggested, but not required, for high school students. Students in AP English courses should make every effort to complete the reading and writing assigned by their teachers in order to be optimally prepared for the more rigorous demands of those courses.

Students, please see the suggestions on the next page to help you get the most out of your reading experiences. You should also review the resources you will find at the end of the book list for accessing books and e-books.

Happy reading!

Joan Cansdale
Supervisor, Secondary ELA



Plainfield Public Schools

2021 Summer Reading Recommendations

High School - Rising Grades 9 through 12

GET THE MOST FROM YOUR READING EXPERIENCES

Before you read:

- Choose a book that you think you will enjoy. Read the synopsis and a page or two. Recommendations from friends are also helpful or you can do a little research to find out more about the author.
- Reach out to the Plainfield Public Library (<http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info/> or call 908-757-1111) to access e-books and other resources.

While you read:

- Read at your own pace. Ideally, you should read for at least 20 minutes every day, but check-in with yourself to be sure you are truly understanding what you are reading and that you are not just skimming the page. No need to rush!
- Read Aloud. Think about sharing your reading with your family and friends. If possible, set up a time everyday to read aloud a section of the book. This is a great way to share your reading expertise and interests with younger siblings.
- Write down any unfamiliar words or phrases and look up their meanings. This will help to build your vocabulary and improve your understanding of the story.
- Keep some paper, a notebook or post-its handy while you read. As you get to important parts of the book or major changes or challenges for your character, make note of the page and what is important to the story. You can also make a prediction about what will happen as a result of this event or change.

After you read:

- Think about what you have read. Did you learn something? Has the way you think about an issue or topic changed? Can you make a connection between this book and another book you read, a personal experience, or something else you know about?
- Tell your family and friends about what you read. Share your opinions, reactions, and connections. Make recommendations to others that you think would enjoy the book.



Plainfield Public Schools

2021 Summer Reading Recommendations

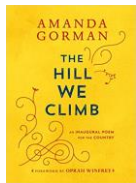
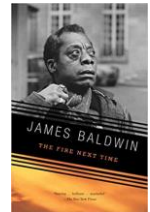
High School - Rising Grades 9 through 12

RECOMMENDED READING LIST



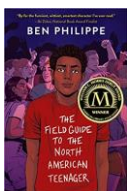
Acevedo, Elizabeth. ***Clap When You Land***. Quill Tree Books, 2020. Two sister – Camino in the Dominican Republic and Yahaira in New York – learn of each other when their father dies in a plane crash. (National Book Award)

Baldwin, James. ***The Fire Next Time***. 1963. An examination of the consequences of racial injustice, this book consists of two letters, written on the occasion of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, that exhort Americans to attack the terrible legacy of racism.



Gorman, Amanda. ***The Hill We Climb***. Viking Books, 2021. Along with a foreword by Oprah Winfrey, read the poem presented by Gorman at President Biden's inauguration.

Morris, Brittney. ***The Cost of Knowing***. Simon & Schuster, 2021. Alex Rufus is sixteen and trying to live his best life. It's a challenge because he can see into the future. When Alex has a vision of his brother's imminent death, everything changes.

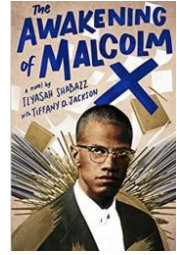


Philippe, Ben. ***The Field Guide to the North American Teenager***. Balzer + Bray, 2020. Black French Canadian teen Norris Kaplan moves to Austin, Texas, and shares the joys, clichés, and humiliations of the high school experience in this humorous novel.



Plainfield Public Schools 2021 Summer Reading Recommendations High School - Rising Grades 9 through 12

Shabazz, Ilyasah & Jackson, Tiffany. ***The Awakening of Malcolm X***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2021. A fictional memoir by Malcolm X's daughter recounting Malcolm Little's formative years in prison and the harsh realities of systemic racism he faced.



Villasante, Alexandra. ***The Grief Keeper***. G.P.Putnam's Sons, 2019. Seventeen-year-old Marisol and her younger sister flee their home in El Salvador and Marisol agrees to become involved in a risky, experimental study in the United States to keep her sister safe.

Watson, Renee & Hagan, Ellen. ***Watch Us Rise***. Bloomsbury, 2019. Best friends Jasmine and Chelsea are on a mission to improve the way women are treated, posting poems, essays, and videos online that go viral.



Whitehead, Colson. ***The Nickel Boys***. Doubleday, 2019. Based on the real story of a reform school in Tallahassee, this novel follows young Elwood Curtis who is growing up at the Nickel Academy in the 1960s.

Woodfolk, Ashley. ***When You Were Everything***. Delacorte Press, 2020. Cleo wants to erase every memory that tethers her to her ex-best friend, but it isn't as easy as she had hoped, especially after she's assigned to be Layla's tutor.





Plainfield Public Schools

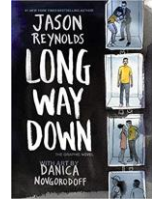
2021 Summer Reading Recommendations

High School - Rising Grades 9 through 12

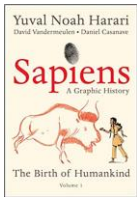
GRAPHIC NOVELS



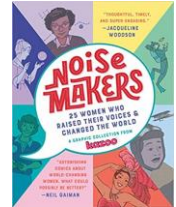
Almost American Girl
by Robin Ha



Long Way Down
by Jason Reynolds &
Danica Novgorodoff



**Sapiens: A Graphic History:
The Birth of Humankind**
By Yuval Noah Harari



**Noisemakers: 25
Women Who Raised
Their Voices**
Erin Bried (editor)

OTHER AUTHORS TO CHECK OUT

Tomi Adeyemi	<i>Children of Blood and Bone, Children of Virtue and Vengeance</i>
Matt de la Peña	<i>We Were Here, Mexican White Boy</i>
Tiffany D. Jackson	<i>His Hideous Heart, Monday's Not Coming, Allegedly</i>
Justina Ireland	<i>Dread Nation series</i>
Kekla Magoon	<i>How It Went Down, Light It Up, X: A Novel</i>
Jason Reynolds	<i>When I Was the Greatest, All American Boys</i>
Nic Stone	<i>Dear Martin, Dear Justyce</i>
Ibi Zoboi	<i>American Street, Pride, Punching the Air</i>



Plainfield Public Schools

2021 Summer Reading Recommendations

High School - Rising Grades 9 through 12

Looking for something to read?

Look here:

The Plainfield Public Library

- The library has many free electronic resources available, including:
 - eLibraryNJ (e-books & audiobooks)
 - Hoopla (e-books, audiobooks, comics, movies, music)
 - Overdrive/Libby (digital magazines)
 - Kanopy (documentaries and more)
 - Other resources available here: [Online Databases - By Age Group](#)
- If you have a library fine, you will still be able to access online resources.
- If you don't have a card or don't know your card number, contact the library by phone at 908-757-1111 X111 or X129.
- If you have a card, but don't remember your PIN, update your PIN on this website: [LMXAC login](#)

The Internet Archive Open Library

- Audiobooks and e-books that can be downloaded or read online
- Create a free account with your email address.
- Search by author, title, date or subject by using these links:
 - [Grades 9 & 10](#)
 - [Grades 11 & 12](#)