

AHS Faculty Favorites 2017



Prior to the end of the school year, AHS students selected **one** of these books to read over the summer. If a student wishes to change their selection over the summer, he/she must e-mail Mrs. Ricci (riccid@amesburyma.gov) with their name, their original book selection, and their new book selection. Any student who is uncertain of the title they chose can email Mrs. Ricci or go to the Amesbury Public Library where Mrs. Walker will have access to titles chosen by students.

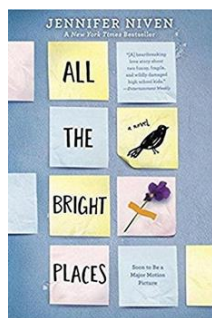
Each book on the list has been chosen by members of the faculty/staff who will conduct a discussion group with students who read the book. Each book has been recommended since it appeals to readers who like certain styles or topics. They are books that are enjoyable to read. Students may buy copies of books or borrow a title through the public library.

All Faculty Favorites Book Discussions will be held on Friday, September 8, 2017 regardless of whether a student has English all year, first semester, or second semester. Students do not have to write a faculty favorite journal during the summer, although they may wish to take notes to remember the book. All students will be told where they will report to have their book discussion. At the beginning of each book discussion, students will be given a brief assessment based on the book to ensure that they read the book. **These assessments and participation in the discussion will count as a test grade in the student's English class.**

AHS Faculty Favorites 2017

All the Bright Places

By Jennifer Niven



Theodore Finch is fascinated by death. Every day he thinks of ways he might kill himself, but every day he also searches for—and manages to find—*something* to keep him here, and alive, and awake.

Violet Markey lives for the future, counting the days until graduation, when she can escape her small Indiana town and her aching grief in the wake of her sister's recent death.

When Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school—six stories above the ground—it's unclear who saves whom. Soon it's only with Violet that Finch can be himself. And it's only with Finch that Violet can forget to count away the days and start living them. But as Violet's world grows, Finch's begins to shrink. . . .

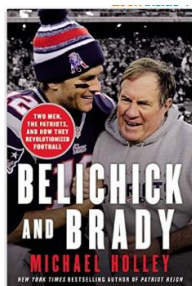
Important Note: This novel contains sensitive subject matter regarding mental health and suicide. Should you feel you need someone to talk to about this novel over the summer, please contact the high school and/or your Primary Care Physician.

Realistic Fiction

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Brady and Belichick: Two Men, the Patriots, and How They Revolutionized Football

By Michael Holley



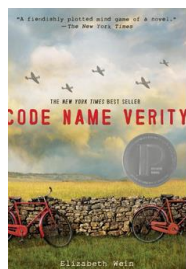
New York Times bestselling sportswriter Michael Holley takes readers behind the scenes of the relationship that transformed the Patriots from a middling franchise to the envy of the NFL. No head coach-quarterback pair has been more successful in NFL history than Bill Belichick and Tom Brady of the New England Patriots. They have won four Super Bowls, six AFC championships, and thirteen division titles. And now Holley takes us inside their relationship, dissecting how these men and their team came to dominate football (amazon.com)

Sports, Non Fiction

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Code Name Verity

by Elizabeth Wein



Oct. 11th, 1943-A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun.

When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution.

As she intricately weaves her confession, Verity uncovers her past, how she became friends with the pilot Maddie, and why she left Maddie in the wrecked fuselage of their plane. On each new scrap of paper, Verity battles for her life, confronting her views on courage, failure and her desperate hope to make it home. But will trading her secrets be enough to save her from the enemy? (Amazon.com).

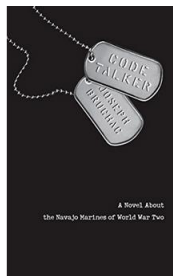
Historical Fiction

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AHS Faculty Favorites 2017

[Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two](#)

[By Joseph Bruchac](#)

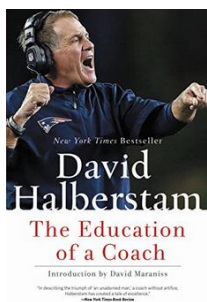


Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo Indians (amazon.com).

Historical Fiction

[The Education of a Coach](#)

[By David Halberstam](#)

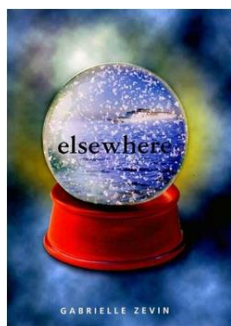


“Bill Belichick’s thirty-one years in the NFL have been marked by amazing success -- most recently with the New England Patriots. In this groundbreaking new book, David Halberstam explores the nuances of both the game and the man behind it. He uncovers what makes Bill Belichick tick both on and off the field” (amazon.com).

Sports, Non Fiction

[Elsewhere](#)

[By Gabrielle Zevin](#)



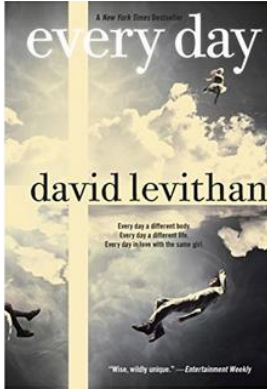
“Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, not fourteen again. She wants to get her driver's license. She wants to graduate from high school and go to college. And now that she's dead, Liz is being forced to live a life she doesn't want with a grandmother she has only just met. And it is not going well. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? Is it possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward? This moving, often funny book about grief, death, and loss will stay with the reader long after the last page is turned” (amazon.com).

Science Fiction

AHS Faculty Favorites 2017

[Every Day](#)

[By David Levithan](#)



Every Day is technically for young adults, but the premise of this unusual book goes much deeper. It asks a question that will resonate with the young and old alike: Can you truly love someone regardless of what they look like on the outside? The main character, A, wakes up every morning in a different body. Day to day, A can be male or female, any ethnicity, any size, and in any type of household. The only constant is that he (we'll go with that pronoun for convenience) is 16. A has been body jumping for as long as he can remember, and he has learned to not leave behind any trace of his presence--until he meets Rhiannon. For the first time in his life, A feels a true connection with another person. But can she love him back? Levithan handles their romance with great aplomb, building to a poignant and beautiful ending that took my breath away. --Caley Anderson

(Amazon.com)

Fantasy Fiction

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[Following Atticus: Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship](#)

[By Tom Ryan](#)



Following Atticus is an unforgettable true saga of adventure, friendship, and the unlikeliest of family, as one remarkable animal opens the eyes and heart of a tough-as-nails newspaperman to the world's beauty and its possibilities. Tom Ryan decided to pay tribute to a close friend who died of cancer by attempting to climb all forty-eight of New Hampshire's four thousand-foot peaks twice in one winter while raising money for charity. It was an adventure of a lifetime, leading Tom and Atticus across hundreds of miles and deep into an enchanting but dangerous winter wonderland. At the heart of the amazing journey was the extraordinary relationship they shared, one that blurred the line between man and dog (amazon.com).

39 books available through Amesbury Public Library/MVLC

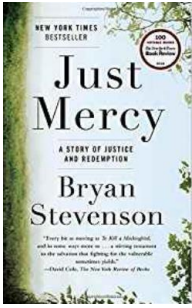
Animals, Non Fiction

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AHS Faculty Favorites 2017

[Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption](#)

[by Bryan Stevenson](#)



They say: 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

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Just Mercy is 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 (randomhousebooks.com).

I say: Recommended for those who loved *To Kill a Mockingbird* and are interested in the evolution and motivation for civil and social justice movements.

Memoir, Non Fiction

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[King of the Screwups](#)

[By K. L. Going](#)



Liam Geller is Mr. Popularity. Everybody loves him. He excels at sports; he knows exactly what clothes to wear; he always ends up with the most beautiful girls in school. But he's got an uncanny ability to screw up in the very ways that tick off his father the most. When Liam finally kicked out of the house, his father's brother takes him in. What could a teenage chick magnet possibly have in common with his gay, glam rocker, DJ uncle who lives in a trailer in upstate New York? A lot more than you'd think. And when Liam attempts to make himself over as a nerd in a desperate attempt to impress his father, it's his "aunt" Pete and the guys in his band who convince Liam there's much more to him than his father will ever see (amazon.com).

LGBTQ, Realistic Fiction

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