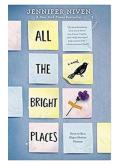


Prior to the end of the school year, AHS students selected **one** of these books to read over the summer. If a student wishes to change their selection over the summer, he/she must e-mail Mrs. Ricci (riccid@amesburyma.gov) with their name, their original book selection, and their new book selection. 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.

<u>All the Bright Places</u> 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.

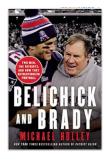
When Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school—six stories above the ground— it's unclear who saves whom. Soon it's only with Violet that Finch can be himself. And it's only with Finch that Violet can forget to count away the days and start living them. But as Violet's world grows, 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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<u>Brady and Belichek: Two Men, the Patriots, and How They Revolutionized Football</u> By Michael Holley



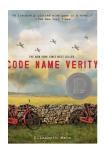
New York Times bestselling sportswriter Michael Holley takes readers behind the scenes of the relationship that transformed the Patriots from a middling franchise to the envy of the NFL. No head coach-quarterback pair has been more successful in NFL history than Bill Belichick and Tom Brady of the New 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

<u>Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two</u> <u>By Joseph Bruchac</u>



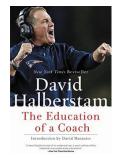
Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless 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

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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

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Elsewhere By Gabrielle Zevin

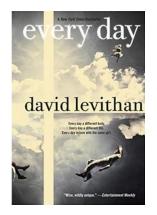


"Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, not fourteen again. She wants to get 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

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Every Day



(Amazon.com)

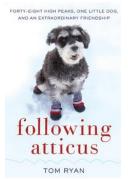
By David Levithan

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

Fantasy Fiction

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<u>Following Atticus: Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship</u> <u>By Tom Ryan</u>



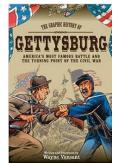
Following Atticus is an unforgettable true saga of adventure, friendship, and the unlikeliest of family, as one remarkable animal opens the eyes and heart of a tough-as-nails newspaperman to the world's beauty and its possibilities. Tom Ryan decided to pay tribute to a close friend who died of cancer 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

<u>The Graphic History of Gettysburg: America's Most Famous Battle and the Turning Point of the Civil War</u>

Written and Illustrated by Wayne Vansant



"This graphic account of the campaign and Battle of Gettysburg will appeal to experts and novices alike. It offers an accurate, fast-paced narrative with striking illustrations that dramatize the action and mark the course of the battle with vivid clarity." – James M. McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian of Battle Cry of Freedom and Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettsburg

The Battle of Gettysburg is one of the most famous battles in American history and is widely recognized as the turning point of the Civil War. A landmark event in United States history, it accounted for the most casualties of any battle during the war and spelled the beginning of the end for the Confederacy.

In this powerful graphic history, Wayne Vansant describes the period leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg, as well as all the major military events on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, including the famous fight for Little Round Top and the death march known as Pickett's Charge. He paints portraits of each army's leaders, among them: Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, George Meade and the then little-known Colonel Joshua Chamberlain.

Vansant concludes a few months later at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in November 1863 when Abraham Lincoln delivered one of the most famous speeches of all times: The Gettysburg Address. *Gettysburg* delivers one of the hallmark events of American history in an exciting and innovative format." – Zenith Press, 2013

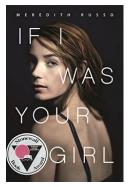
IMPORTANT!!! – Please note that, in light of the upcoming year-long celebration of Amesbury's 350th, students will be <u>required</u> to additionally read a five-page paper written by Christopher Gwinn (AHS alum and Head Historian at Gettysburg National Battlefield) entitled: *"Amesbury at Gettysburg."*

Graphic Novel, History Non Fiction

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If I Was Your Girl

by Meredith Russo



A new kind of bighearted book about being seen for who you really are. Amanda Hardy is the new girl in school. Like anyone else, all she wants is to make friends and fit in. But Amanda is keeping a secret, and she's determined not to get too close to anyone.

But when she meets sweet, easygoing Grant, Amanda can't help but start to let him into her life. As they spend more time together, she realizes just how much she is losing by guarding her heart. She finds herself yearning to share with Grant everything about herself, including her past. But Amanda's terrified that once she tells him the truth, he won't be able to see past it. Because the secret that Amanda's been keeping? It's that at her old school, she used to be Andrew. Will the truth cost Amanda her new life and her new love?

If I Was Your Girl is a universal story about feeling different - and a love story that everyone

will root for.

Excerpt taken from Amazon.com and ©2016 Alloy Entertainment (P)2016 Macmillan Audio

LGBTQ, Realistic Fiction

<u>Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption</u> 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 brinksmanship—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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The Nightengale

By Kristen Hannah



With courage, grace and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. *The Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime (amazon.com).

Historical Fiction

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No Backing Down: The Story of the 1994 Salem High School Football Team By Sean Stelatto



No Backing Down chronicles the 1994 Salem High School football team, focusing on the 11-day teachers' strike during which Ken Perrone continued to coach the team, with the approval of his union but in defiance of the district's superintendent, Ed Curtin. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aicVK8rgAL4)

Sports, Non Fiction

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On Canaan's Side

by Sebastian Barry



"The novel's complexity will challenge [students]; it is presented through a creative narrative via the voice of Lilly Bere, who 'recounts the events of her life as though mesmerized by the vivid incompleteness of a remembered dream' (*The Guardian*, 2011). Spanning multiple decades from World War I through the Gulf War, the text leads readers to understand not only Lilly and her family, but history, warfare, family, life, and death. The evocative opening lines provide a glimpse of the power of Barry's poetic language: 'Bill is gone. What is the sound of an eighty-nine-year-old heart breaking? It might not be much more than silence, and certainly a small slight sound' (Barry 3)" (NEHS Common Reader 2017).

**NEHS students are required to read this book, but others may as well.

Family Life, Fiction

The Other Einsteinby Marie Benedict



What secrets may have lurked in the shadows of Albert Einstein's fame? His first wife, Mileva "Mitza" Marić, was more than the devoted mother of their three children—she was also a brilliant physicist in her own right, and her contributions to the special theory of relativity have been hotly debated for more than a century.

In 1896, the extraordinarily gifted Mileva is the only woman studying physics at an elite school in Zürich. There, she falls for charismatic fellow student Albert Einstein, who promises to treat her as an equal in both love and science. But as Albert's fame grows, so too does Mileva's worry that her light will be lost in her husband's shadow forever (http://www.goodreads.com).

Historical Fiction

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The Reason I Jump

by Naoki Higashida



You've never read a book like *The Reason I Jump*. Written by Naoki Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware, and very charming thirteen-year-old boy with autism, it is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine. Parents and family members who never thought they could get inside the head of their autistic loved one at last have a way to break through to the curious, subtle, and complex life within.

Using an alphabet grid to painstakingly construct words, sentences, and thoughts that he is unable to speak out loud, Naoki answers even the most delicate questions that people want to know. Questions such as: "Why do people with autism talk so loudly and weirdly?" "Why

do you line up your toy cars and blocks?" "Why don't you make eye contact when you're talking?" and "What's the reason you jump?" (Naoki's answer: "When I'm jumping, it's as if my feelings are going upward to the sky.") With disarming honesty and a generous heart, Naoki shares his unique point of view on not only autism but life itself. His insights—into the mystery of words, the wonders of laughter, and the elusiveness of memory—are so startling, so strange, and so powerful that you will never look at the world the same way again (amazon.com).

Autism, Non Fiction

Red Queen

By Victoria Aveyard



Victoria Aveyard's internationally beloved #1 New York Times bestseller is now in paperback! Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silverblooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. There, before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own.

To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess, and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even

as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. One wrong move can lead to her death, but in the dangerous game she plays the only certainty is betrayal.

This sweeping story of palace intrigue, class hierarchy, and deception will keep readers hurtling along, desperate to find out Mare's fate. Her honesty and determination, quick wit, and no-holds-barred attitude will surely make readers fall in love with her (Amazon).

Dystopian Fiction

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Sarah's Key

By Tatiana Rosnay



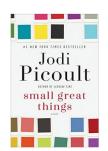
Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten year-old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup.

Paris, May 2002: On Vel' d'Hiv's 60th anniversary, journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France's past. Julia finds herself compelled to retrace the girl's ordeal, from that terrible term in the Vel d'Hiv', to the camps, and beyond. As she probes into Sarah's past, she begins to question her own place in France, and to reevaluate her marriage and her life. (Summary from Goodreads)

Historical Fiction

Small Great Things

By Jodi Picoult



Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?

Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with a serious crime. Kennedy McQuarrie, a white public defender, takes her case but gives unexpected advice: Kennedy insists that mentioning race in the courtroom is not a winning strategy. Conflicted by Kennedy's counsel, Ruth tries to keep life as normal as possible for her family—especially her teenage son—as the case becomes a media sensation. As the trial moves forward, Ruth and Kennedy must gain each other's trust, and come to see that what they've been taught their whole lives about others—and themselves—might be wrong (amazon.com).

**NOTE: This novel contains a strong use of racial slurs.

Racism, Fiction

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The Way I Used to Be

By Amber Smith



In the tradition of *Speak*, this extraordinary debut novel "is a poignant book that realistically looks at the lasting effects of trauma on love, relationships, and life" (*School Library Journal*, starred review). Eden was always good at being good. Starting high school didn't change who she was. But the night her brother's best friend rapes her, Eden's world capsizes. What was once simple, is now complex. What Eden once loved—who she once loved—she now hates. What she thought she knew to be true, is now lies. Nothing makes sense anymore, and she knows she's supposed to tell someone what happened but she can't. So she buries it instead. And she buries the way she used to be.

Told in four parts—freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior year—this provocative debut reveals the deep cuts of trauma. But it also demonstrates one young woman's strength as she navigates the disappointment and unbearable pains of adolescence, of first love and first heartbreak, of friendships broken and rebuilt, all while learning to embrace the power of survival she never knew she had hidden within her heart (amazon.com).

**NOTE: This book selection contains adult language and content.

Realistic Fiction