

## 2021 Summer Community Read Suggestions

(Should we add language that we don't advocate or support any particular business?)

### Where to purchase books

Amazon: <http://amazon.com>

Barnes & Noble: <http://bn.com>

Powell's: <http://powells.com>

IndieBound: <http://indiebound.org>

You can also borrow books from your **local public library** if it is open. A lot of them are offering curbside pickup.

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (Fiction and Nonfiction)

Title	Author	Description	Recommended For
Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line	Anappara, Deepa	Down market lanes crammed with too many people, dogs, and rickshaws, past stalls that smell of cardamom and sizzling oil, below a smoggy sky that doesn't let through a single blade of sunlight, and all the way at the end of the Purple metro line lies a jumble of tin-roofed homes where nine-year-old Jai lives with his family. From his doorway, he can spot the glittering lights of the city's fancy high-rises, and though his mother works as a maid in one, to him they seem a thousand miles away. <i>Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line</i> plunges readers deep into this neighborhood to trace the unfolding of a tragedy through the eyes of a child as he has his first perilous collisions with an unjust and complicated	

		wider world.	
I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings	Angelou, Maya	<p>Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.</p> <p>Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.</p> <p>Poetic and powerful, <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read.</p>	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty
The Fire Next Time	Baldwin, James	A national bestseller when it first appeared in 1963, <b>The Fire Next Time</b> galvanized the nation and gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement. At once a powerful evocation of James Baldwin's early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document. It consists of two	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty

		"letters," written on the occasion of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, that exhort Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism. Described by The New York Times Book Review as "sermon, ultimatum, confession, deposition, testament, and chronicle...all presented in searing, brilliant prose," <i>The Fire Next Time</i> stands as a classic of our literature.	
Kindred	Butler, Octavia	Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty
Explosion in a Cathedral	Carpentier, Alejo	This swashbuckling tale set in the Caribbean during the French Revolution focuses on Victor Hugues, a historical figure who led the naval assault to take back the island of Guadeloupe from the English at the beginning of the nineteenth century. In Carpentier's story, this charismatic pirate and revolutionary enters the lives of the wealthy orphans Esteban and Sofia and casts them abruptly into the midst of immense changes sweeping the world outside their Havana mansion.	11, 12, PG, Faculty
A Tempest	Césaire, Aimé	Césaire's rich and insightful adaptation of <i>The Tempest</i> draws on contemporary Caribbean society, the African-American experience and African	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty

		mythology to raise questions about colonialism, racism and their lasting effects.	
Remembering Jim Crow: African Americans Tell About Life In the Segregated South	Chafe, William H.	Men and women from all walks of life tell how their most ordinary activities were subjected to profound and unrelenting racial oppression. Yet <i>Remembering Jim Crow</i> is also a testament to how black southerners fought back against systemic racism—building churches and schools, raising children, running businesses, and struggling for respect in a society that denied them the most basic rights. The result is a powerful story of individual and community survival.	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty
The House on Mango Street	Cisneros, Sandra	Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous – it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.	9,10,11,12,PG, Faculty
Between The World and Me	Coates, Ta-Nehisi	In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of “race,” a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?  <i>Between the World and Me</i> is Ta-Nehisi Coates’s	11, 12, PG, Faculty

		<p>attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children’s lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, <i>Between the World and Me</i> clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.</p>	
<p>White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism</p>	<p>DiAngelo, Robin</p>	<p>In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book” (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’ (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.</p>	<p>11, 12, PG, Faculty</p>
<p>The Souls of Black Folk</p>	<p>DuBois, W.E.B.</p>	<p>The Souls of Black Folk is a classic work of American literature by W. E. B. Du Bois. It is a seminal work in the history of sociology, and a cornerstone of African-American literary history. To develop this groundbreaking work, Du Bois drew</p>	<p>9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty</p>

		from his own experiences as an African-American in the American society. Outside of its notable relevance in African-American history, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> also holds an important place in social science as one of the early works in the field of sociology.	
The Sport of the Gods: and Other Essential Writings	Dunbar, Paul Laurence	Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872—1906) overcame racism and poverty to become one of the best-known authors in America, and the first African American to earn a living from his poetry, fiction, drama, journalism, and lectures. This original collection includes the short novel <i>The Sport of the Gods</i> , Dunbar’s essential essays and short stories, and his finest poems, such as “Sympathy,” all which explore crucial social, political, and humanistic issues at the dawn of the twentieth century.	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty
Mr. Loverman	Evaristo, Bernardine	<p>Barrington Jedidiah Walker is seventy-four and leads a double life. Born and bred in Antigua, he’s lived in Hackney, London, for years. A flamboyant, wisecracking character with a dapper taste in retro suits, and a fondness for Shakespeare, Barrington is a husband, father, grandfather—and also secretly gay lovers with his childhood friend, Morris.</p> <p>His deeply religious and disappointed wife, Carmel, thinks he sleeps with other women. When their marriage goes into meltdown, Barrington wants to divorce Carmel and live with Morris, but after a lifetime of fear and deception, will he manage to break away? With an abundance of laugh-out-loud humor and wit, <i>Mr. Loverman</i> explodes cultural myths and shows the extent of what can happen when people fear the consequences of being true to themselves.</p>	11, 12, PG, Faculty

<p>There Is Confusion</p>	<p>Fauset, Jessie Redmon</p>	<p>Set in Philadelphia and New York a century ago, this novel by a luminary of the Harlem Renaissance traces the hopes and dreams of three young African-Americans as they search for love, financial security, and success: Joanna, prepared to sacrifice romance on the altar of ambition; Maggie, eager to escape her blue-collar background by marrying well; and Peter, an aspiring doctor motivated by his love for Joanna. Published to critical acclaim in 1924, the story offers a moving examination of the struggles against prejudice and discrimination by members of the black middle class during a tumultuous era.</p>	<p>9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty</p>
<p>The Weary Blues</p>	<p>Hughes, Langston</p>	<p>Nearly ninety years after its first publication, this celebratory edition of <i>The Weary Blues</i> reminds us of the stunning achievement of Langston Hughes, who was just twenty-four at its first appearance. Beginning with the opening “Proem” (prologue poem)—“I am a Negro: / Black as the night is black, / Black like the depths of my Africa”—Hughes spoke directly, intimately, and powerfully of the experiences of African Americans at a time when their voices were newly being heard in our literature. As the legendary Carl Van Vechten wrote in a brief introduction to the original 1926 edition, “His cabaret songs throb with the true jazz rhythm; his sea-pieces ache with a calm, melancholy lyricism; he cries bitterly from the heart of his race . . . Always, however, his stanzas are subjective, personal,” and, he concludes, they are the expression of “an essentially sensitive and subtly illusive nature.” That illusive nature darts among these early lines and begins to reveal itself, with precocious</p>	<p>9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty</p>

		confidence and clarity.	
The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution	James, C.L.R.	This powerful, intensely dramatic book is the definitive account of the Haitian Revolution of 1794-1803, a revolution that began in the wake of the Bastille but became the model for the Third World liberation movements from Africa to Cuba. It is the story of the French colony of San Domingo, a place where the brutality of master toward slave was commonplace and ingeniously refined. And it is the story of a barely literate slave named Toussaint L'Ouverture, who led the black people of San Domingo in a successful struggle against successive invasions by overwhelming French, Spanish, and English forces and in the process helped form the first independent nation in the Caribbean.	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty
How To Be An Antiracist	Kendi, Ibram X.	Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. In <i>How to Be an Antiracist</i> , Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.	

		Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.	
Quicksand	Larsen, Nella	Published in 1928, Nella Larsen's first novel "Quicksand" regards the story of Helga Crane, the lovely and refined mixed-race daughter of a Danish mother and a West Indian black father. The character is loosely based on Larsen's own experiences and deals with the character's struggle for racial and sexual identity, a theme common to Larsen's work. Larsen's work has been lauded for its exploration of race, gender, class, and sexuality amongst African Americans in early part of the 20th century. Now considered as a major figure of the Harlem Renaissance, Larsen's writing gives a firsthand insight into the struggle of African Americans during this era.	11, 12, PG, Faculty
Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches	Lorde, Audre	In this charged collection of fifteen essays and speeches, Lorde takes on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and class, and propounds social difference as a vehicle for action and change. Her prose is incisive, unflinching, and lyrical, reflecting struggle but ultimately offering messages of hope. This commemorative edition includes a new foreword by Lorde-scholar and poet Cheryl Clarke, who celebrates the ways in which Lorde's philosophies resonate more than twenty years after they were first published.	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty

<p>Splay Anthem</p>	<p>Mackey, Nathaniel</p>	<p>Part antiphonal rant, part rhythmic whisper, Nathaniel Mackey's new collection of poems, <i>Splay Anthem</i>, takes the reader to uncharted poetic spaces. Divided into three sections—"Braid," "Fray," and "Nub" (one referent Mackey notes in his stellar Introduction: "the imperial, flailing republic of Nub the United States has become, the shrunken place the earth has become, planet Nub")—<i>Splay Anthem</i> weaves together two ongoing serial poems Mackey has been writing for over twenty years, "Song of the Andoumboulou" and "Mu" (though "Mu no more itself / than Andoumboulou").</p>	<p>9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty</p>
<p>The Less Than Human Club</p>	<p>Mason, Timothy</p>	<p>The unexpected arrival of a postcard plunges Davis into his vivid memories of 1968 -- a wildly turbulent year in both his high school and in the U.S. In the throes of navigating complex relationships, racial tensions, crises of sexual identity, and self-worth, Davis and his friends search for purpose in a society struggling through its own weighty issues. While school dances mark milestones in their high school careers, tensions bubbling up in the U.S. are increasingly mirrored in their lives, until an explosion seems imminent. A moving exploration of the often comical absurdities of teenage life in the midst of the heartbreaking realities of a changing world.</p>	<p>9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty</p>
<p>The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother</p>	<p>McBride, James</p>	<p>Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared "light-skinned" woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful debut, <i>The Color Of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother</i>. The son of a black minister and a woman who would</p>	<p>9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty</p>

		<p>not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in "orchestrated chaos" with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. "Mommy," a fiercely protective woman with "dark eyes full of pep and fire," herded her brood to Manhattan's free cultural events, sent them off on buses to the best (and mainly Jewish) schools, demanded good grades, and commanded respect. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, worry, and confusion—and reached thirty before he began to discover the truth about her early life and long-buried pain.</p>	
No-No Boy	Okada, John	<p>No-No Boy tells the story of Ichiro Yamada, a fictional version of the real-life "no-no boys." Yamada answered "no" twice in a compulsory government questionnaire as to whether he would serve in the armed forces and swear loyalty to the United States. Unwilling to pledge himself to the country that interned him and his family, Ichiro earns two years in prison and the hostility of his family and community when he returns home to Seattle. As Ozeki writes, Ichiro's "obsessive, tormented" voice subverts Japanese postwar "model-minority" stereotypes, showing a fractured community and one man's "threnody of guilt, rage, and blame as he tries to negotiate his reentry into a shattered world."</p>	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty
I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala	Menchú, Rigoberta	<p>Now a global bestseller, the remarkable life of Rigoberta Menchú, a Guatemalan peasant woman, reflects on the experiences common to many Indian communities in Latin America. Menchú suffered gross injustice and hardship in her early life: her brother, father and mother were murdered by the Guatemalan military. She learned Spanish and turned to catechistic work as an expression of</p>	11, 12, PG, Faculty

		<p>political revolt as well as religious commitment. Menchú vividly conveys the traditional beliefs of her community and her personal response to feminist and socialist ideas. Above all, these pages are illuminated by the enduring courage and passionate sense of justice of an extraordinary woman.</p>	
<p>High Rise Stories: Voices From Chicago Public Housing</p>	<p>Petty, Audrey</p>	<p>In the gripping first-person accounts of <i>High Rise Stories</i>, former residents of Chicago's iconic public housing projects describe life in the now-demolished high-rises. These stories of community, displacement, and poverty in the wake of gentrification give voice to those who have long been ignored, but whose hopes and struggles exist firmly at the heart of our national identity.</p>	<p>9, 10, 11,12, PG, Faculty</p>
<p>Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults)</p>	<p>Stevenson, Bryan</p>	<p>In this very personal work--adapted from the original #1 bestseller, which the <i>New York Times</i> calls "as compelling as <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>, and in some ways more so"--acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom.</p> <p>Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice.</p>	<p>9, 10, 11, 12, PG</p>

		A portion of the proceeds of this book will go to charity to help in Stevenson's important work to benefit the voiceless and the vulnerable as they attempt to navigate the broken U.S. justice system.	
The Hate You Give	Thomas, Angie	<p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>really</i> went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.</p> <p>But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.</p>	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty
American Indian Stories, Legends, and Other Writings	Zitkala-sa	Zitkala-Sa wrestled with the conflicting influences of American Indian and white culture throughout her life. Raised on a Sioux reservation, she was educated at boarding schools that enforced assimilation and was witness to major events in white-Indian relations in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Tapping her troubled personal history, Zitkala-Sa created stories that illuminate the tragedy and complexity of the American Indian experience. In evocative prose laced with political savvy, she forces	9, 10, 11, 12, PG, Faculty

		new thinking about the perceptions, assumptions, and customs of both Sioux and white cultures and raises issues of assimilation, identity, and race relations that remain compelling today.	
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