

St. Thomas Aquinas High School

Summer Reading 2022

The goals of the Summer Reading program at STA are to enhance the reading life of our students, to expand the curriculum and to promote the belief that reading is one of life's great pleasures. To that end, the Summer Reading Program consists of two parts. One is required of all students, while the other is completely optional and open to any student who might enjoy reading some of our staff's favorite books, while earning extra credit in any class they will take this fall.

PART I – THE REQUIRED BOOK: Each student is required to read ONE book designated by grade level. That is, all 9th grade students will read the same book, etc. The books for each grade level have been chosen by one of the academic departments and will be discussed at the beginning of the school year in a given class. For instance, students in 12th Grade will be required to read a book for their English classes. (11th Grade-Social Studies; 10th Grade -Theology; 9th Grade-Science)
IMPORTANT: You will take a test on the required book during the first week of school next fall.

Grade 9: *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton

In 1990, Michael Crichton introduced the world to Dr. Hammond, an eccentric multimillionaire who builds a theme park with genetically re-engineered dinosaurs. The book focused on a wonderful mixture of science and fantasy, the borders of which are hard to discern. The infusion of chaos theory adds a great deal of scientific relevance and debate to the story.

Since 1990, a great deal has happened in the world of biotechnology and genetic engineering. Somatic cell nuclear transfer was used to create Dolly, the first cloned sheep in 1996. Subsequently, scores of other organisms have been cloned. The human genome has been mapped (completed in 2003). Other genomes continue to be mapped at a rapid pace thanks to technological advances in gene sequencing. There is now discussion about de-extinction projects where extinct organisms are brought back through cloning and genetic engineering. Genome editing with CRISPR is accelerating all aspects of genetic engineering. Is *Jurassic Park* becoming more of a reality than we thought possible?

Using *Jurassic Park* as a background, science teachers will engage students in studies dealing with systems and chaos theory, the reality of 21st Century genetics, and the moral and ethical questions raised by these technologies.

Grade 10: *Same Kind of Different as Me: A Modern-Day Slave, an International Art Dealer, and the Unlikely Woman who Bound Them Together* by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, and Lynn Vincent

A homeless drifter beaten by a hard life, friendless and dangerous, meets a well-off, jet setting art dealer thanks to the efforts of his down to earth wife. Through her deep faith and a deeply felt conviction about serving the poor, the two men share an unusual journey that leads them both to develop a friendship, learn from each other, and help each other in unexpected ways. Their relationship, faith and love transform all of them as they face life's trials.

Grade 11: Choose ONE of the following:

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

This is a historical novel about the life of Sarah Grimke and her struggle against slavery in the South as well as her struggle for women's rights in the early 1800s. It starts her story on Sarah's eleventh birthday, in which she is given a slave girl named Hetty, or "Handful." Sarah struggles with the moral dilemma of slavery, southern society and values, and the "Cult of Domesticity", where women are expected to be mothers and housewives rather than have careers and identities of their own. The story follows Sarah and Hetty over the next 35 years as both strive for their own identities, freedom, and lives. The story is inspired by true events and real people, and brings to life the world of antebellum America.

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

Taking place during the American Civil War, this a historical novel of the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation's history, in which the North and the South fought over whether the United States would stand for freedom or protect slavery. The novel details the three day battle from the points of view of the major historic figures involved, including Joshua Chamberlain, James Longstreet, Winfield Hancock, and Robert E Lee. Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece is a dramatic story of the battleground for America's destiny.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X, Alex Haley, and Attallah Shabazz

Originally published in 1964, Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. His fascinating perspective on the lies and limitations of the American Dream, and the inherent racism in a society that denies its nonwhite citizens the opportunity to dream, gives extraordinary insight into the most urgent issues of our own time. The Autobiography of Malcolm X stands as the definitive statement of a movement and a man whose work was never completed but whose message is timeless. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand America.

Grade 12: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

Based on his own experiences as a soldier in Vietnam, O'Brien writes of the life of a soldier – an ordinary American boy, a human being faced with the terrible truths of war. In doing so, he also writes about writing, claiming that works of fiction convey human truth more effectively than do reality or memory. This is an amazing novel, one which is clearly a blend of the real experiences and straightforward voice of a soldier of the 1960's, with the imagination of a writer looking back and trying to understand his life. This is truly one of those books every American should read.

PART II -- THE OPTIONAL PORTION:

The second component is optional. Any student may choose to read a book from the list of "Faculty and Staff Favorites." In September, you will complete an assessment on the book(s) you read, to be given by the teacher who nominated the book. At that time, you will choose to have your score count as an extra credit grade in any subject you wish. (For example, you might read Mr. Tinney's book, but have it count for your Physics class.)

NOTE: **Students will be limited to **THREE** books for extra credit, but you can read as many books as you wish!

FACULTY AND STAFF FAVORITES

Mr. Adams - *Leadershift: The 11 Essential Changes Every Leader Must Embrace* by John C. Maxwell NONFICTION

"In *Leadershift*, John C. Maxwell helps leaders gain the ability and willingness to make leadership changes that will positively enhance their organizational and personal growth. He does this by sharing the 11 shifts that leaders need to be successful over the course of their careers. Each shift has the potential to change a leader's trajectory, set them up for new and exciting achievements, and strengthen and sustain their leadership abilities." - From the author

Mr. Adams - *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* by James Martin, SJ NONFICTION

"Father Martin ushers you into Jesus' life and times and shows us how Jesus speaks to us today through combining fascinating insights of historical Jesus studies with profound spiritual insights about the Christ of faith, recreating the world of first-century Galilee and Judea.

"Stories about Jesus' astonishing life and ministry—clever parables that upended everyone's expectations, incredible healings that convinced even skeptics, nature miracles that dazzled the dumbstruck disciples—can seem far removed from our own daily lives but in Jesus you will come to know him as Father Martin knows him: Messiah and Savior, as well as friend and brother." - Amazon

Mr. Adams - *Brave Companions: Portraits in History* by David McCullough NONFICTION

"Here are Alexander von Humboldt, whose epic explorations of South America surpassed in scope the Lewis and Clark expedition; Harriet Beecher Stowe, "the little woman who made the big war"; Western artist Frederic Remington; the extraordinary Louis Agassiz of Harvard; Charles and Anne Lindbergh, and their fellow long-distance pilots Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and Beryl Markham; Harry Caudill, the Kentucky lawyer who awakened the nation to the tragedy of Appalachia; and David Plowden, a contemporary photographer of vanishing America.

"Different as they are from each other, McCullough's subjects have in common a rare vitality and sense of purpose. These are brave companions: to each other, to David McCullough, and to the reader, for with rare storytelling ability McCullough brings us into the times they knew and their very uncommon lives." - From the publisher.

Mrs. Collins – *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles FICTION

When I read a review of this novel I knew I had to read it, and it absolutely lived up to the anticipation! The story is set in the 1950's when an earnest young man named Emmet returns home from a juvenile detention work farm in Nebraska to discover that due to his father's death, he and his young brother Billy must sell the family farm. They decide to hit the road, ostensibly to find their long lost mother in California by following the Lincoln Highway, a cross country route. When two friends from the work farm (who escaped by stowing away in the trunk of the warden's car) show up unexpectedly, the four of them set off on an adventure travelling east on the Lincoln Highway and encounter unexpected adventures all the way to New York City. Along the way, Emmet and his brother meet with an assortment of American characters from hobos who ride the rails to snobs from the Upper East Side, giving us a quirky and sweetly nostalgic portrait of the era.

Mrs. Collins – *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick NONFICTION/HISTORY

In 1821, the whaleship *Essex* out of Nantucket was attacked by a large sperm whale in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. All members of the crew boarded lifeboats as they watched their ship sink to the depths of the ocean; in the weeks that followed, they faced horrendous conditions and struggled to survive. Nathaniel Philbrick draws on the history of shipbuilding in New England, the close knit Quaker community of Nantucket which formed the center of the whaling industry, and the power of nature over a crew of young men and boys, to tell a fascinating story of a pivotal incident in literature and maritime history. And yes, this *is* the story upon which Melville based *Moby-Dick*.

Mrs. Collins – *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens FICTION

This is one of the most beautiful novels ever written, and certainly (my opinion) the most perfect of the works of Charles Dickens. Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, it tells of two men who look alike, but whose choices take them down very different roads. One is French and one is English, and both of them are in love with Lucy Manette, daughter of a man freed from the Bastille. The lives of the characters intertwine in ways they never could have imagined, with a grand finish that is both moving and profound.

Mrs. Collins – *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez

HISTORICAL FICTION

In the Dominican Republic of the 1950's, the dictator Trujillo ruled with an iron fist. The four Mirabal sisters grew up under his rule, gradually becoming aware of the oppression under which they lived. This story is told from four different perspectives, as we follow the story of the four women who became known as *Las Mariposas*, heroes of the revolution. I read this book several years ago and fell in love with it for its powerful story, the blend of history and fiction, and the amazing characters I met. I love a book that makes me look up history, maps, pictures and more. I hope you enjoy it too!

Ms Cummings – *Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage & Triumph* by Travis Roy and E.M. Swift

NONFICTION / SPORTS

"Within the 11 seconds that inspired this memoir, Travis Roy realized his dream, then smashed into his nightmare. On an October night in 1995, Roy, a talented young hockey player, skated onto the ice for his varsity debut with Boston University. Eleven fateful seconds later, he was paralyzed from the neck down. Aided by the sure touch of *Sports Illustrated* hockey writer E.M. Swift, Roy's moving account of his accident and his rehabilitation--confined to a wheelchair, he's gotten some use of his right arm back--avoids the maudlin. Instead, *Eleven Seconds* is filled with grit, hope, humor, and a thoughtful young man's introspection on the meaning of sports and the adjustments that follow when the ability to play them is taken away." --Amazon.com

Mrs. Gauthier - *Into Thin Air* by John Krakauer

NONFICTION

A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more--including Krakauer's--in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster. "A harrowing tale of the perils of high-altitude climbing, a story of bad luck and worse judgment and of heartbreaking heroism." --PEOPLE

Ms Graham - *How Lucky* by Will Leitch

FICTION

"Daniel leads a rich life. He's got a couple of close friends, a steady paycheck, and of course, for a few glorious days each Fall, college football tailgates. He considers himself to be a lucky guy—despite the fact that he's suffered from a debilitating disease since he was a small child, one that has left him unable to speak or to move without a wheelchair. Largely confined to his home, Daniel spends the hours he's not online communicating with irate customers observing his neighborhood from his front porch. One young woman passes by so frequently that spotting her out the window has almost become part of his daily routine. Until the day he's almost sure he sees her being kidnapped." --Goodreads.com

Ms Graham - *White Smoke* by Tiffany D. Jackson

HORROR FICTION

Content Warning: "Substance abuse and overdose. Marigold is running from ghosts. The phantoms of her old life keep haunting her, but a move with her newly blended family might be the fresh start she needs. Her mom has accepted a new job that comes with a free house. The renovated picture-perfect home on Maple Street, sitting between dilapidated houses, surrounded by wary neighbors has its . . . secrets. That's only half the problem: household items vanish, doors open on their own, lights turn off, shadows walk past rooms, voices can be heard in the walls, and there's a foul smell seeping through the vents only Mari seems to notice. As the house closes in, Mari learns that the danger isn't limited to Maple Street. The town has its secrets, too. And secrets always find their way through the cracks." --Goodreads.com

Mr. Greenslade -- *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

NONFICTION / NATURE

Into the Wild is a poignant and compelling book about a young man, Chris McCandless, who gives away all of his savings and forsakes his comfortable life for a road trip that ends in tragedy in the Alaskan wilderness. Jon Krakauer retraces McCandless' journey by interviewing those who came in contact with him, relates stories of other people who have ventured into the wilderness, and explores the motivations that drive people to take extreme risks, all in an attempt to understand how McCandless lived and died.

Mr. Holtz – *Prey* by Michael Crichton

FICTION

Prey tells the story of a mechanical plague and the desperate attempts of several scientists to destroy it. "A cloud of nanoparticles - microrobots - has escaped from the laboratory. This cloud is self-sustaining and self-reproducing. It is intelligent and it learns from experience. For all practical purposes, it is alive. It has been programmed as a predator. It is evolving swiftly, becoming more deadly with each passing hour. Every attempt to destroy it has failed. And we are prey." -- from the book cover

Mr. Holtz – *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

NONFICTION / SCIENCE

"From a single, abbreviated life grew a seemingly immortal line of cells that made some of the most crucial innovations in modern science possible. And from that same life, and those cells, Rebecca Skloot has fashioned in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* a fascinating and moving story of medicine and family, of how life is sustained in laboratories and in memory. Henrietta Lacks was a mother of five in Baltimore, a poor African American migrant from the tobacco farms of Virginia, who died from a cruelly aggressive cancer at the age of 30 in 1951. A sample of her cancerous tissue, taken without her knowledge or consent, as was the custom then, turned out to provide one of the holy grails of mid-century biology: human cells that could survive--even thrive--in the lab. Known as HeLa cells, their stunning potency gave scientists a building block for countless breakthroughs, beginning with the cure for polio. Meanwhile, Henrietta's family continued to live in poverty and frequently poor health, and their discovery decades later of her unknowing contribution--and her cells' strange survival--left them full of pride, anger, and suspicion. For a decade, Skloot doggedly but compassionately gathered the threads of these stories, slowly gaining the trust of the family while helping them learn the truth about Henrietta, and with their aid she tells a rich and haunting story that asks the questions, Who owns our bodies? And who carries our memories?" --Tom Nissley -- Amazon review

Mrs. Kirsch -- *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green

FICTION

"It all begins with a fugitive billionaire and the promise of a cash reward. *Turtles All the Way Down* is about lifelong friendship, the intimacy of an unexpected reunion, Star Wars fan fiction, and tuatara. But at its heart is Aza Holmes, a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts." --Goodreads.com

Mrs. Kirsch -- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

FICTION

"Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman . . ." Thus begins the summary of this dynamic new novel by Elizabeth Acevedo on *Amazon.com*. Join me in discovering the journey Xiomara makes as she tries to reconcile her strict religious upbringing with the realities of being a young woman in high school, and ultimately to her discovery of her voice as a poet.

Ms McAden -- *Death in the Air: The True Story of a Serial Killer, the Great London Smog, and the Strangling of a City* by Kate Winkler Dawson **NONFICTION**

In winter 1952, London automobiles and thousands of coal-burning hearths belched particulate matter into the air. But the smog that descended on December 5th of 1952 was different; it was a type that held the city hostage for five long days. Mass transit ground to a halt, criminals roamed the streets, and 12,000 people died. That same month, there was another killer at large in London: John Reginald Christie, who murdered at least six women. In a braided narrative that draws on extensive interviews, never-before-published material, and archival research, Dawson captivantly recounts the intersecting stories of these two killers and their longstanding impact on modern history. - Amazon.com

Ms McAden - *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (The Chronicles of Narnia)* by C.S. Lewis **FICTION**

"Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice." -Amazon.com

Ms Pate - *You'll Be the Death of Me* by Karen M. McManus **YOUNG ADULT FICTION**

The author of *One of Us Is Lying* is back with another mystery. McManus brings together characters who encounter a murder to solve, bringing the friends back together: "Ivy, Mateo, and Cal used to be close. Now all they have in common is Carlton High and the beginning of a very bad day. Type A Ivy lost a student council election to the class clown, and now she has to face the school, humiliated. Heartthrob Mateo is burned out from working two jobs since his family's business failed. And outsider Cal just got stood up . . . again. So when the three unexpectedly run into each other, they decide to avoid their problems by ditching. Just the three of them, like old times. Except they've barely left the parking lot before they run out of things to say. . . until they spot another Carlton High student skipping school—and follow him to the scene of his own murder. In one chance move, their day turns from dull to deadly. And it's about to get worse. It turns out Ivy, Mateo, and Cal still have some things in common...like a connection to the dead kid. And they're all hiding something. Could it be that their chance reconnection wasn't by chance after all?" (Amazon Summary)

Ms Pate - *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys **YA HISTORICAL FICTION**

What would you do to help your family? Would you become an informer in communist Romania in 1989? This is what 17-year-old Christian decides to do. He and his family live in the sterile concrete block housing that Ceausescu's communist state allows, with little to eat and no liberties. Sepetys conducted personal interviews, did archival research, and traveled to help her create this novel. The book is described as being mysterious and thrilling, "[creating] an atmosphere of impending danger leading to a historical event in Eastern Europe that may be unknown to many yet is necessary to be told" (from *School Library Journal*). I have enjoyed reading her novels because I am able to explore these historical events. I am excited to read her latest novel with you this summer.

Ms Pate -- *Instructions for Dancing* by Nicola Yoon **YOUNG ADULT FICTION**

Did you love reading *Everything, Everything* or *The Sun is Also a Star*? If so, then this is your next summer reading book because Nicola Yoon's third novel is releasing in June. "Evie Thomas doesn't believe in love anymore. Especially after the strangest thing occurs one otherwise ordinary afternoon: She witnesses a couple kiss and is overcome with a vision of how their romance began . . . and how it will end. After all, even the greatest love stories end with a broken heart, eventually. As Evie tries to understand why this is happening, she finds herself at La Brea Dance Studio, learning to waltz, fox-trot, and tango with a boy named X. X is everything that Evie is not: adventurous, passionate, daring. . . . Falling for X is definitely not what Evie had in mind. If her visions of heartbreak have taught her anything, it's that no one escapes love unscathed. But as she and X dance around and toward each other, Evie is forced to question all she thought she knew about life and love. In the end, is love worth the risk?" (Amazon Summary)

Mr. Prince – *The True Story of Fatima* by Fr. John de Marchi **NONFICTION / FAITH**

Surprisingly few people know about the story of Fatima, when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. It is very important to read about what happened to the children at Fatima. It is very intimate and beautiful. It takes you straight to the heart of God in Fatima, so I think it's important that it be one of your first experiences of Fatima. So much of the material you find on the internet about Fatima is either difficult, or challenging, or controversial, that it's always good to come back, in a sense, to the source. The story of the children is easy to take as sticky-sweet, sentimental, and old-fashioned, but in reality those children are models for us as we consider our own reception of Our Lady's actual and decisive intervention at Fatima into our "modern" world.

I have only one copy of this book that I can loan for the summer. I used to have many, but now I am having difficulty getting more. The book can be read online at and/or downloaded from <http://fatima.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/The-True-Story-of-Fatima.pdf>. It can also be bought from Amazon for \$12. I am told that you can also purchase the book for \$3 by phone by dialing 1-800-263-8160.

Mrs. Richburg – *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown **NONFICTION / SPORTS**

Just over eighty years ago the boys from Washington State paddled out of Puget Sound and into Hitler's 1936 Berlin Games, representing the USA alongside Jesse Owens (of the 2016 film, *Race*) and Louis Zamperini (of Laura Hildebrand's *Unbroken*). Brown's story tells of their challenges and successes as athletes and Americans. Athlete or not, one can learn from the story about teamwork, loyalty, dedication, perseverance and commitment. Whether leading or just joining a team, many secrets to success lie in and between the lines. This is a highly recommended read for STA student athletes.

Mrs. Richburg – *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom **MEMOIR**

The story begins at Brandeis University in 1975, where Professor Morrie Schwartz and his students began a relationship that extended from the classroom to the Shapiro Dining Hall and beyond. The author, Mitch Albom, graduated from Brandeis in 1979, and became a popular Chicago sports writer before penning his story of ongoing friendship with Morrie. On the *NY Times* Best Seller List for four years, it is now considered the most widely read memoir ever.

Mrs. Richburg – *The First Phone Call from Heaven* by Mitch Albom **FICTION**

What you believe and whether you believe it all the time comes to question in this title by Mitch Albom, who pushes on the veil between heaven and earth and spins a fine wire from one to the other.

Mrs. Richburg - *The Magical Strings of Frankie Presto* by Mitch Albom **FICTION**

With abundant talent and limited resources, a young musician discovers gifts that go beyond potential and strike a chord with any who wonder where they come from and who they really are. This historical fiction, a Mitch Albom masterpiece, introduces interesting and engaging characters who struggle with survival while the music plays on.

Dr. Schneider - *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

FICTION

The Alchemist is an enchanting fantasy about Santiago, a Spanish shepherd boy, who desires to see the world, and dreams of a hidden treasure. This sets him off on a quest through which he discovers his own strengths and gifts, the value of friendship and the power of love. His quest for experience and treasure becomes a spiritual journey on which he discovers that the entire world is filled with signs of its creator. He also discovers the divine spirit within himself.

Dr. Schneider - *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey

NONFICTION

"*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* has been to millions of teens. . . a handbook to self-esteem and success. Now updated for the digital age, this classic book applies the timeless principles of 7 Habits to the tough issues and life-changing decisions teens face. Covey provides a simple approach to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, and appreciate their parents, as well as tackle the new challenges of our time, like cyberbullying and social media. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world." -- *Amazon*

Dr. Schneider - *Quiet Power: The Secret Strength of Introverted Kids* - Susan Cain

NONFICTION

After *Quiet*, her study of the value of introverts in the adult world became a bestseller a few years ago, Cain recognized a need to address the same issue for kids. Using her own story and those of young people who dealt with the challenges of school, extracurricular activities, family and friends in their own quiet way, she offers insight and strategies to negotiate a loud world and make a difference in it.

Dr. Schneider - *Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother* by Sonia Nazario

NONFICTION

Enrique's mother left Honduras for America when he was seven, hoping to find work and send money home. Ten years later, Enrique embarks on a search for her with little information and few resources, facing many dangers along the way. This book tells the heart wrenching story of Enrique's journey and offers a window into the experiences faced by migrants from Latin America seeking refuge in the United States. Novelist Isabelle Allende wrote: "This is a twenty-first-century Odyssey. If you are going to read only one nonfiction book this year, it has to be this one." (*Amazon* description)

Mr. Tinney - *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

FICTION

"We rely, in this world, on the visual aspects of humanity as a means of learning who we are. This, Ralph Ellison argues convincingly, is a dangerous habit." This novel, published in 1952 as a first novel, won the National Book Award. Its confrontation with the questions of race that still trouble our country is more than relevant today. As the narrator takes us through his experience as a black man in America – the community of his youth, an all-black college that expelled him, and the experience of life in the city, he shows us how it feels to be in a world where he *feels* invisible. While the narrator's focus is on race, the topic he explores is much bigger: that of *identity*, and how we, different as we all are, can be individuals in a society that may not be perfect. **NOTE: Be sure to read *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, and not *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells.**

Mrs. Wade - *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom

NONFICTION

This memoir tells the true story of Corrie ten Boom- a Dutch watchmaker who became a heroine of the Resistance and a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps. In World War II, she and her family risked their lives to help Jews and underground workers escape from the Nazis, and for their work they were tested in the infamous Nazi death camps. This true tale presents the reader with a remarkable witness to the power of the Christian faith. The characters will shape/re-shape one's perspective on God, suffering, and human love for one another... forever.

Mrs. Wade - *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller

FICTION

A tale of gods, kings, immortal fame, and the human heart, *The Song of Achilles* brilliantly reimagines Homer's enduring masterwork, *The Iliad*. It is told from the perspective of Achilles' lover, Patroclus, who is a young Greek prince. It is an action-packed adventure, a beautiful love story, and a marvelously conceived and executed page-turner.

Mrs. Wade - *With God in Russia* by Walter Ciszek, S.J.

NONFICTION

While ministering in Eastern Europe during World War II, Polish-American priest Walter Ciszek, S.J., was arrested by the Russian secret police. Accused of being an American spy, he was held in Moscow's notorious Lubyanka prison for five years. The Catholic priest was then sentenced without trial to ten more years of hard labor and transported to Siberia, where he would become a prisoner within the forced labor camp system.

In *With God in Russia*, Ciszek reflects on his daily life as a prisoner, the labor he endured while working in the mines and on construction gangs, his unwavering faith in God, and his firm devotion to his vows and vocation. Enduring brutal conditions, Ciszek risked his life to offer spiritual guidance to fellow prisoners who could easily have exposed him for their own gains. He chronicles these experiences with grace, humility, and candor, from his secret work leading mass and hearing confessions within the prison grounds, to his participation in a major gulag uprising, to his own "resurrection"—his eventual release in a prisoner exchange in October 1963 which astonished all who had feared he was dead.