

# “Stranger Than Fiction”

## 2019 Summer Reading Selections Algonquin Regional High School

*This year’s genre for summer reading is non-fiction. As the old saying goes, “Truth can be stranger than Fiction,” and many of these books prove that point. The choices below relate to a wide range of subject matter, from celebrity memoirs, to science discoveries, to daring rescue stories, self help and political commentary. Find one that interests you! Or, choose a non-fiction book not on the list, as long as you have not read it before. As usual, we will engage in classroom discussion around these topics and titles in September, and students will be required to do some writing in relation to their summer reading.*

- ❖ **All students are required to read one nonfiction book over the summer. These are suggested titles.**
- ❖ **A.P. students must read one nonfiction book along with the additional title(s ) required for Each course (See AP teachers for handouts.)**

**Titles 1-7 are most appropriate for young adult (YA) or reluctant readers.**

**Students and parents should preview content of selected titles in order to find the best fit. Some material is difficult and for mature readers.**

1. *Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem* by Rosalyn Schanzer (local history; YA)
  2. *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin (history; warfare; YA)
  3. *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives* by Dashka Slater (YA; gender; crime; justice)
  4. *I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree: A Memoir of a Schindler’s List Survivor* by Laura Hillman (YA; Holocaust memoir)
  5. *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai (young reader’s edition)
  6. *Before I had Words: On Being A Transgender Young Adult* by Skylar Kergi (memoir; coming of age)
  7. *Eleven Seconds: A Story of Tragedy, Courage, and Triumph* by Travis Roy (sports; recovery)
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8. *The Seven Good Years* by Etgar Keret (memoir; family)
  9. *Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life* by William H. McRaven (life advice)
  10. *In The Country We Love: My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero (memoir; immigration; show business)
  11. *The New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens* by Brooke Hauser (immigration; coming of age)
  12. *Educated* by Tara Westover (memoir; coming of age)
  13. *Who Thought This Was a Good Idea? And Other Questions You Should Have Answers to When You Work in the White House* by Alyssa Mastromonaco (politics)
  14. *Becoming* by Michelle Obama (memoir; politics)
  15. *Lost in Shangri-La: A True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of World War II* by Mitchell Zuckoff (war, survival)
  16. *Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in WWII* by Vicki Constantine Croke (animals; war)
  17. *Call of the Cats: What I Learned About Life and Love from a Feral Colony* by Andrew Bloomfield (animals)
  18. *In a Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson (travel)
  19. *From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death* by Caitlin Doughty (travel; culture)
  20. *The Geography of Bliss: One Grump’s Search for the Happiest Place in the World* by Eric Weiner (travel; happiness)

21. *Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic-and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World* by Steve Johnson (science)
22. *The Double Helix* by James Watson (science)
23. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (science)
24. *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson (environment)
25. *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmere (science; nature; Native American culture)
26. *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann (crime; Native American culture)
27. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (memoir; social justice; law; politics)
28. *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis* by Timothy Egan (art)
29. *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction* by David Sheff (addiction; family)
30. *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* by Simon Winchester (mental health; history)
31. *Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike* by Phil Knight (entrepreneurship)
32. *Sum it Up: 1098 Victories, a Couple of Irrelevant Losses and a Life in Perspective* by Pat Summit (sports; survival)
33. *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown (sports; history)
34. *Belichick: The Making of the Greatest Football Coach of All Time* by Ian O'Connor (sports)
35. *American Prison: A Reporter's Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment* by Shane Bauer (criminal justice; journalism)
36. *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsberg (memoir; justice)
37. *I Have the Right To: A High School Survivor's Story of Sexual Assault, Justice and Hope* by Chessie Prout & Jen Abelson (sexual assault, empowerment; justice)
38. *Yes, Chef* by Marcus Samuelsson (memoir; food)
39. *Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral, and Getting it Done* by Andrea Gonzalez (STEM; friendship)
40. *Bossypants* by Tina Fey (memoir; comedy)
41. *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah (memoir; comedy)
42. *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?(and Other Concerns)* by Mindy Kaling (memoir; comedy)
43. *Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx* by Adrian Nicole LeBlanc (love; drugs; youth)
44. *The Unexpected Universe* by Loren Eiseley (science; environment; philosophy; nature)
45. *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride (memoir; race; family)
46. *All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir* by Nicole Chung (memoir; adoption)
47. *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story* by Hyeonseo Lee (memoir; adventure)
48. *When I was Puerto Rican: A Memoir* by Esmeralda Santiago (coming of age; family)