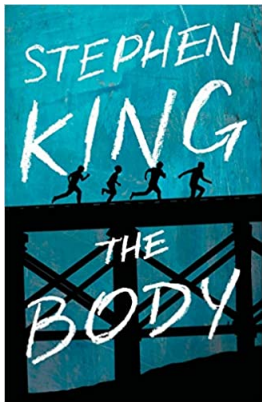
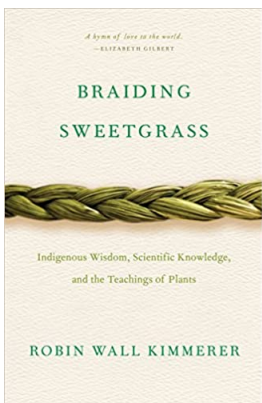
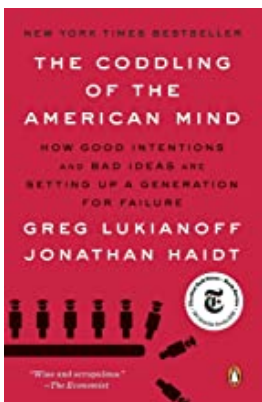


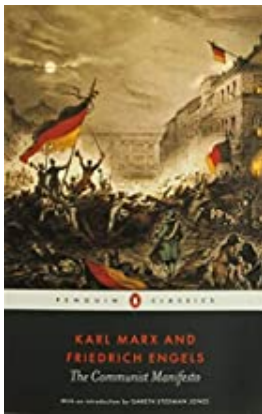
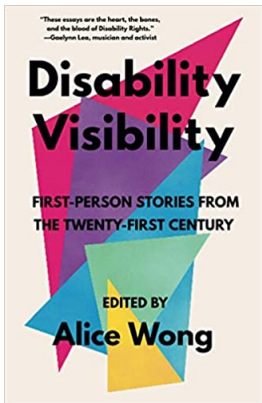
West Summer Reading List 2021

By **May 28th**, please select **one book** from this list to read over the summer.

	<p><i>The Body</i> by Stephen King</p> <p>It's 1960 in the fictional town of Castle Rock, Maine. Ray Brower, a boy from a nearby town, has disappeared, and twelve-year-old Gordie Lachance and his three friends set out on a quest to find his body along the railroad tracks. During the course of their journey, Gordie, Chris Chambers, Teddy Duchamp, and Vern Tessio come to terms with death and the harsh truths of growing up in a small factory town that doesn't offer much in the way of a future.</p>	<p>Fiction Coming-of-Age Story</p>
	<p><i>Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants</i> by Robin Wall Kimmerer</p> <p>Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In her reflections, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. Only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.</p>	<p>Nonfiction Environmental Science Social Studies</p>
	<p><i>The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure</i> by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt</p> <p>Something has been going wrong on many college campuses. Speakers are shouted down. Students and professors say they are afraid to speak honestly. Rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide are rising. How did this happen? Lukianoff and Haidt posit that problems on campus have their origins in three ideas: What doesn't kill you makes you weaker;</p>	<p>Nonfiction Ethics</p>

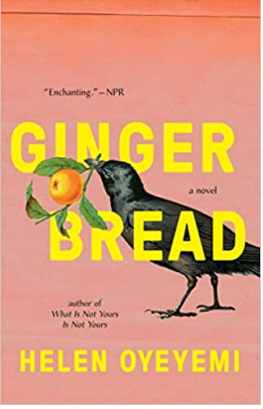
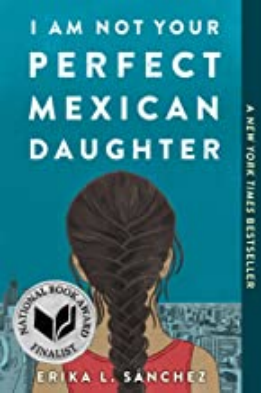
Please email Ms. Rhoads (arhoads@sturgischarterschool.org) or Ms. Murphy (jmurphy@sturgischarterschool.org) with any questions.

West Summer Reading List 2021

	<p>always trust your feelings; and life is a battle between good people and evil people. These three Great Untruths contradict basic psychological principles about well-being and ancient wisdom from many cultures. Embracing these untruths—and the resulting culture of safetyism—interferes with young people’s social, emotional, and intellectual development, making it harder for them to become autonomous adults. This book is for anyone who is concerned about the growing inability of Americans to live, work, and cooperate across party lines.</p>	
	<p><i>The Communist Manifesto</i> by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels</p> <p>Originally published on the eve of the 1848 European revolutions, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> is a condensed and incisive account of the worldview Marx and Engels developed during their hectic intellectual and political collaboration. Formulating the principles of dialectical materialism, they believed that labor creates wealth, hence capitalism is exploitative and antithetical to freedom.</p>	<p>Nonfiction Political Theory</p>
	<p><i>Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century</i> edited by Alice Wong</p> <p>One in five people in the United States lives with a disability. Some disabilities are visible, others less apparent—but all are underrepresented in media and popular culture. Activist Alice Wong brings together this galvanizing collection of contemporary essays by disabled people. From Harriet McBryde Johnson’s account of her debate with Peter Singer over her own personhood to original pieces by authors like Keah Brown and Haben Girma; from blog posts, manifestos, and eulogies to Congressional testimonies: this anthology gives a glimpse into the rich complexity of the disabled experience, highlighting the passions, talents, and everyday lives of this community.</p>	<p>Nonfiction Biography</p>

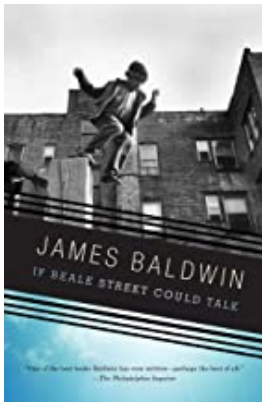
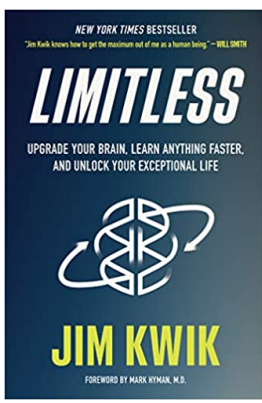
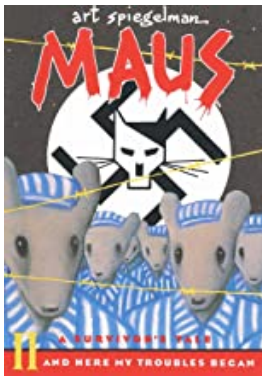
Please email Ms. Rhoads (arhoads@sturgischarterschool.org) or Ms. Murphy (jmurphy@sturgischarterschool.org) with any questions.

West Summer Reading List 2021

	<p><i>Gingerbread</i> by Helen Oyeyemi</p> <p>Perdita Lee may appear to be your average British schoolgirl and Harriet Lee a working mother trying to penetrate the school social hierarchy, but there are signs that they might not be as normal as they think they are. For one thing, they share a gold-painted, seventh-floor flat with some surprisingly verbal vegetation. They also make gingerbread. Londoners may be able to take or leave it, but it's very popular in Druhástrana, the far-away (and according to Wikipedia, non-existent) land of Harriet's early youth. In fact, the world's truest lover of the Lee family gingerbread is Harriet's charismatic childhood friend, Gretel Kercheval, a figure who seems to have had a hand in everything that has happened to Harriet since they met. Decades later, Perdita sets out to find her mother's long-lost friend, prompting a new telling of Harriet's story.</p>	<p>Fiction Magical Realism</p>
	<p><i>I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i> by Erika L. Sánchez</p> <p>Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college, move out of their parents' house after high school graduation, or abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. After a tragic accident leaves Olga dead, Julia is left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. No one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. Julia soon discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? Either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?</p>	<p>Fiction</p>

Please email Ms. Rhoads (arhoads@sturgischarterschool.org) or Ms. Murphy (jmurphy@sturgischarterschool.org) with any questions.

West Summer Reading List 2021

	<p><i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i> by James Baldwin</p> <p>Baldwin tells this story through the eyes of Tish, a nineteen-year-old girl, in love with Fonny, a young sculptor who is the father of her child. Tish and Fonny have pledged to get married, but Fonny is falsely accused of a terrible crime and imprisoned. Their families set out to clear his name, and as they face an uncertain future, the young lovers experience a kaleidoscope of emotions—affection, despair, and hope. In a love story that evokes the blues, where passion and sadness are inevitably intertwined, Baldwin has created two characters so alive and profoundly realized that they are unforgettably ingrained in the American psyche.</p>	<p>Fiction Romance</p>
	<p><i>Limitless: Upgrade Your Brain, Learn Anything Faster, and Unlock Your Exceptional Life</i> by Jim Kwik</p> <p>Kwik has written the owner's manual for mental expansion and brain fitness. This book gives people the ability to accomplish more--more productivity, more transformation, more personal success and business achievement--by changing their Mindset, Motivation, and Methods. Kwik provides practical techniques that unlock the superpowers of your brain and change your habits.</p>	<p>Nonfiction Self-Help Motivational</p>
	<p><i>Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began</i> by Art Spiegelman</p> <p>A brutally moving work of art—widely hailed as the greatest graphic novel ever written—Maus recounts the chilling experiences of the author's father during the Holocaust, with Jews drawn as wide-eyed mice and Nazis as menacing cats. Maus is a haunting tale within a tale, weaving the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father into an astonishing retelling of one of history's most unspeakable tragedies. In <i>Maus II</i>, Spiegelman moves us from the barracks of Auschwitz to the bungalows of the Catskills. It is an unforgettable</p>	<p>Graphic Novel Nonfiction Biography</p>

Please email Ms. Rhoads (arhoads@sturgischarterschool.org) or Ms. Murphy (jmurphy@sturgischarterschool.org) with any questions.

West Summer Reading List 2021

	story of survival and a disarming look at the legacy of trauma.	
	<p><i>Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning</i> by Cathy Park Hong</p> <p>Poet and essayist Cathy Park Hong blends memoir, cultural criticism, and history to expose fresh truths about racialized consciousness in America. Binding these essays together is Hong's theory of "minor feelings." The daughter of Korean immigrants, Cathy Park Hong grew up steeped in shame, suspicion, and melancholy. She later understood that these "minor feelings" occur when American optimism contradicts your own reality—when you believe the lies you're told about your own racial identity. With sly humor and a poet's searching mind, Hong uses her own story as a portal into a deeper examination of racial consciousness in America today.</p>	Nonfiction Autobiography
	<p><i>Monticello: A Daughter and Her Father</i> by Sally Cabot Gunning</p> <p>After the death of her beloved mother, Martha Jefferson spent five years abroad with her father, Thomas Jefferson. Now seventeen, Martha is returning to the lush hills of the family's Virginia plantation, Monticello. While the beautiful estate is the same as she remembers, Martha has changed. Her doting father has begun to pull away, distracted by the tumultuous fight for political power. The home she adores depends on slavery, a practice Martha abhors. But Monticello is burdened by debt and cannot survive without the labor of her family's slaves. The exotic distant cousin she is drawn to has a taste for dangerous desires that will eventually compromise her own. As her life becomes constrained by the demands of marriage, motherhood, politics, and scandal, Martha yearns to find her way back to the gentle beauty and quiet happiness of the world she once knew.</p>	Historical Fiction

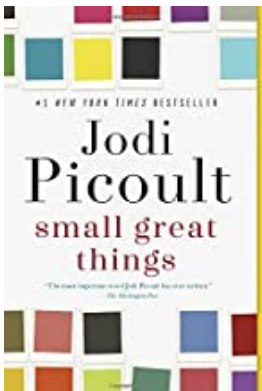
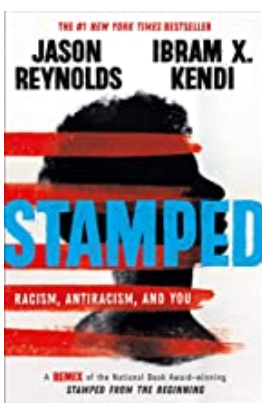
Please email Ms. Rhoads (arhoads@sturgischarterschool.org) or Ms. Murphy (jmurphy@sturgischarterschool.org) with any questions.

West Summer Reading List 2021

	<p><i>Moxie</i> by Jennifer Mathieu</p> <p>Vivian Carter is fed up. Fed up with an administration at her high school that thinks the football team can do no wrong. Fed up with sexist dress codes, hallway harassment, and gross comments from guys during class. But most of all, Viv Carter is fed up with always following the rules. Viv's mom was a tough-as-nails, punk rock Riot Grrrl in the '90s, and now Viv takes a page from her mother's past and creates a feminist zine that she distributes anonymously to her classmates. She's just blowing off steam, but other girls respond. As Viv forges friendships with other young women across the divides of cliques and popularity rankings, she realizes that what she has started is a girl revolution.</p>	<p>Fiction</p>
	<p><i>A Piece of the World: A Novel</i> by Christina Baker Kline</p> <p>To Christina Olson, the entire world is her family farm in the small coastal town of Cushing, Maine. The only daughter in a family of sons, Christina is tied to her home by health and circumstance, and seems destined for a small life. Instead, she becomes Andrew Wyeth's first great inspiration, and the subject of one of the best-known paintings of the twentieth century, Christina's World.</p>	<p>Biographical Fiction Historical Fiction</p>
	<p><i>Proving Einstein Right: The Daring Expeditions that Changed How We Look at the Universe</i> by S. James Gates Jr. and Cathie Pelletier</p> <p>In 1911, a relatively unknown physicist named Albert Einstein published his preliminary theory of gravity, but it hadn't been tested. To do that, he needed a photograph of starlight as it passed the sun during a total solar eclipse. So began a nearly decade-long quest by seven determined astronomers from observatories in four countries, who traveled the world during five eclipses to capture the elusive sight. They faced thunderstorms, the ravages of a world war, lost equipment, and local superstitions.</p>	<p>Nonfiction Physics</p>

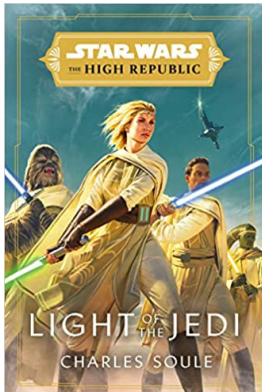
Please email Ms. Rhoads (arhoads@sturgischarterschool.org) or Ms. Murphy (jmurphy@sturgischarterschool.org) with any questions.

West Summer Reading List 2021

	<p>Finally, in May of 1919, British expeditions to northern Brazil and the island of Príncipe managed to photograph the stars, confirming Einstein's theory. This is a story of frustration, faith, and ultimate victory--and of the scientists whose efforts helped build the framework for the big bang theory, catapulted Einstein to international fame, and shook the foundation of physics.</p>	
	<p><i>Small Great Things</i> by Jodi Picoult</p> <p>Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse 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. 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. 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.</p>	Fiction
	<p><i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning</i> by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi</p> <p>Note: this is the young adult version, ISBN: 9780316453691</p> <p>Stamped traces the history of racism and the many political, literary, and philosophical narratives that have been used to justify slavery, oppression, and genocide. Framed through the ideologies and thoughts of segregationists, assimilationists, and</p>	Nonfiction History Social Justice

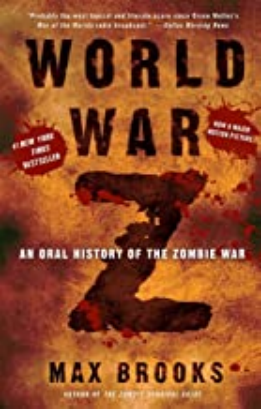
Please email Ms. Rhoads (arhoads@sturgischarterschool.org) or Ms. Murphy (jmurphy@sturgischarterschool.org) with any questions.

West Summer Reading List 2021

	<p>antiracists throughout history, the book demonstrates that the “construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, whether financially or politically,” and that this power has been used to systemically and systematically oppress Black people in the United States for more than four hundred years.</p>	
	<p><i>Star Wars: Light of the Jedi (The High Republic)</i> by Charles Soule</p> <p>It is a golden age. Hyperspace scouts expand the reach of the Republic, worlds flourish under the benevolent leadership of the Senate, and peace reigns, enforced by the wisdom and strength of the renowned order of Force users known as the Jedi. When a shocking catastrophe in hyperspace tears a ship to pieces, the flurry of shrapnel emerging from the disaster threatens an entire system. A call for help goes out, and the Jedi race to the scene. The scope of the emergency pushes the Jedi to their limit. As the sky breaks open and destruction rains down upon the peaceful alliance they helped to build, the Jedi must trust in the Force to see them through a day in which a single mistake could cost billions of lives. Even as the Jedi battle valiantly, something truly deadly grows beyond the boundary of the Republic. The hyperspace disaster is far more sinister than the Jedi could ever suspect.</p>	Science Fiction
	<p><i>The Vanishing Half: A Novel</i> by Brit Bennett</p> <p>The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults. Their families, their communities, their racial identities are also different. One sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their</p>	Fiction

Please email Ms. Rhoads (arhoads@sturgischarterschool.org) or Ms. Murphy (jmurphy@sturgischarterschool.org) with any questions.

West Summer Reading List 2021

	own daughters' storylines intersect?	
	<p><i>World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War</i> by Max Brooks</p> <p>The Zombie War came unthinkableably close to eradicating humanity. Max Brooks, driven by the urgency of preserving the acid-etched first-hand experiences of the survivors, traveled across the United States of America and throughout the world, from decimated cities that once teemed with upwards of thirty million souls to the most remote and inhospitable areas of the planet. He recorded the testimony of men, women, and sometimes children who came face-to-face with the living, or at least the undead, hell of that dreadful time. <i>World War Z</i> is the result.</p>	<p>Fiction Horror</p>

Please email Ms. Rhoads (arhoads@sturgischarterschool.org) or Ms. Murphy (jmurphy@sturgischarterschool.org) with any questions.