

2021 Upper School Summer Reading

Information for Grades 9-12

Overview of US Summer Reading

Each student in grades 9-12 should pick ONE book from the six on our list for this summer

Students may read their book at any point during the summer

No need to annotate, but it might be helpful to jot down some thoughts to be ready to discuss the book!

Book discussions take place on the first day of school and are led by **students**



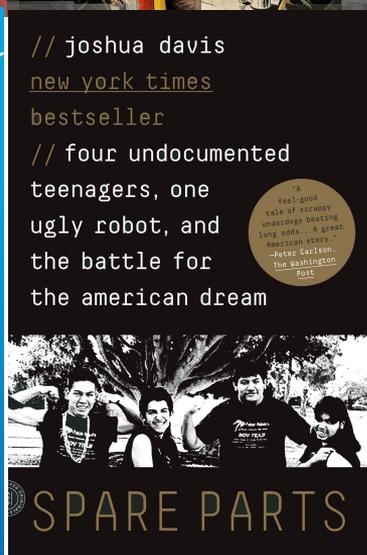
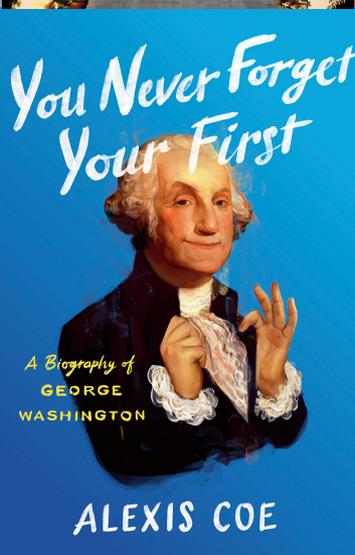
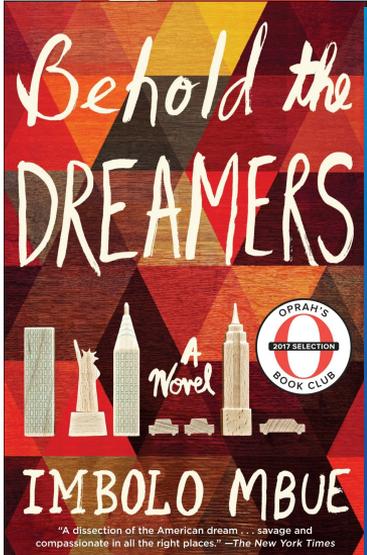
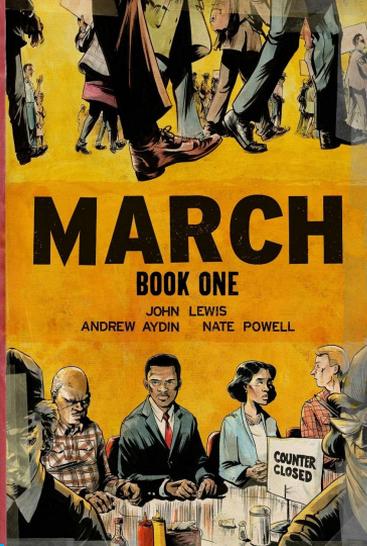
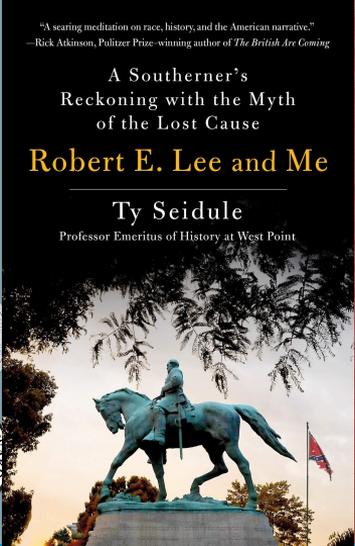
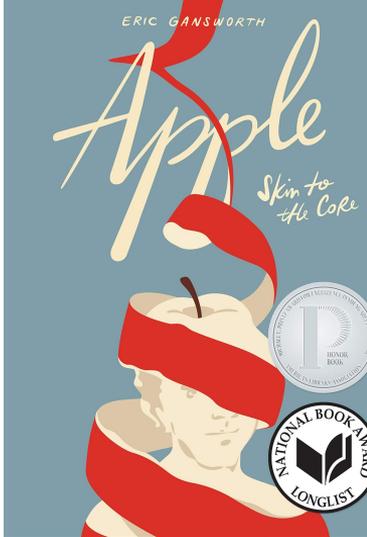
This year's **THEME** is ...

American Stories

All the books for this year explore American identity, our history, and/or the stories we tell ourselves about who we are.

And finally, here come

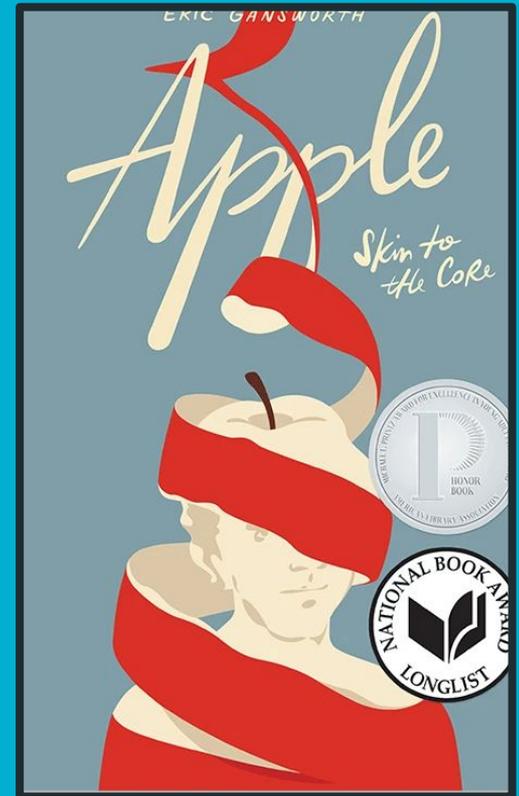
the books



Apple: Skin to the Core by Eric Gansworth

- Memoir in verse, short, and has photographs
- About growing up on a reservation different from the norm
- About combating the pressing feeling of 'otherness'

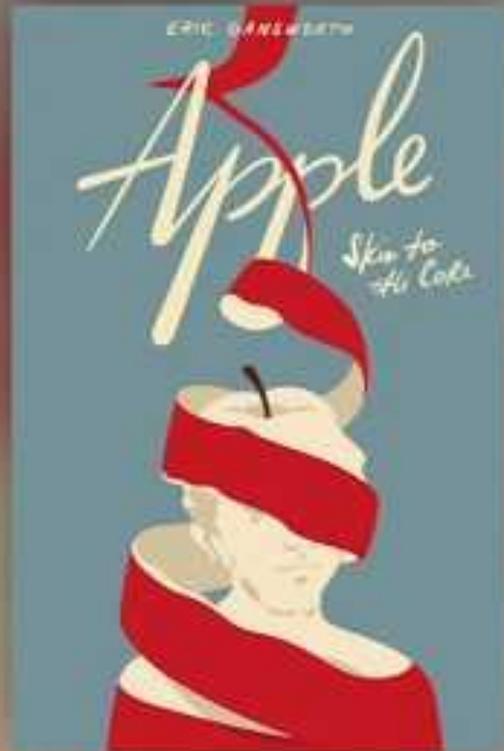
"A raw, layered story about love and loss of community, culture, and place."- *PUBLISHERS WEEKLY*



Why is it called “Apple”?

“Apple” is a slur to the Native Americans that means “red on the outside, white on the inside,” and throughout the book it describes how Eric was outcasted and treated differently.





Robert E Lee and Me by Ty Seidule

Interested in the controversy over Confederate monuments?
...This is the book for you!

The author is a southerner, soldier, and childhood admirer Robert E. Lee who now sees things very differently

He thinks that a mythic view of the Confederacy stands in the way of American progress

Nearly 100 Confederate Monuments Removed In 2020, Report Says; More Than 700 Remain

February 23, 2021 · 5:48 PM ET

RACHEL TREISMAN



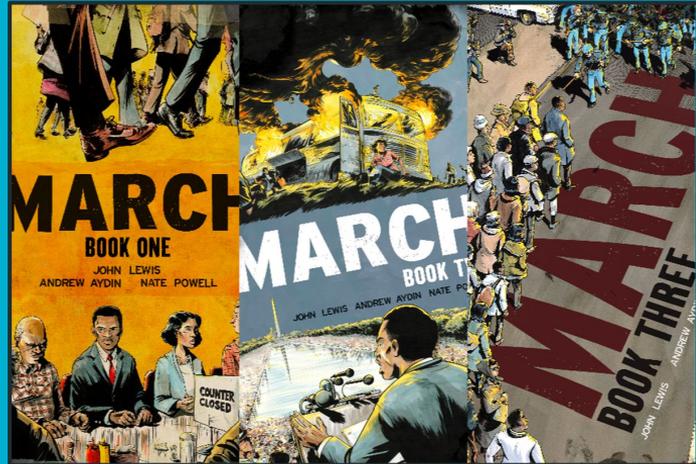
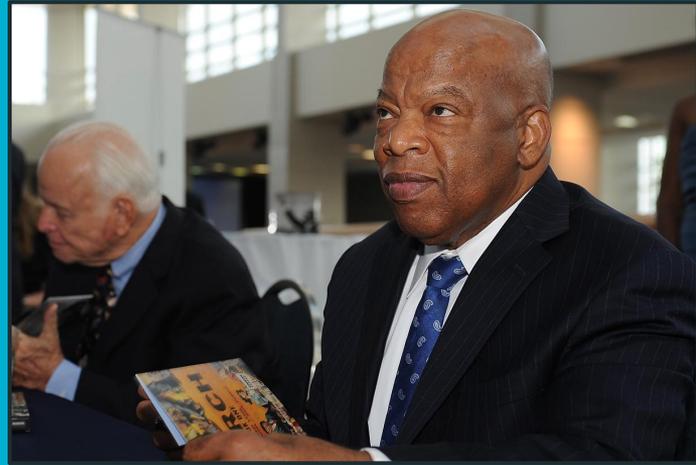
Crews attach straps in July to the statue of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart in Richmond, Va. The statue was one of several that were removed by the city in 2020 following nationwide protests against systemic racism.



CBS THIS MORNING

March (Trilogy) by John Lewis

- Graphic novel
- About the civil rights movement
- The story of U.S. Congressman and Civil Rights Leader John Lewis
- Takes place mostly during the 1960's





National Book Award for Young People's Literature
and #1 New York Times bestseller for graphic novels

WE WANTED TO CHANGE AMERICA-- TO MAKE IT SOMETHING DIFFERENT, SOMETHING BETTER



Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue

- Debut novel by American author born in Limbé, Cameroon
- Story begins in New York City in 2007. Jende Jonga's dreams of a new life in America with his family are nourished by his job as chauffeur to Clark Edwards, senior executive at Lehman Brothers, then threatened by the Great Recession...
- Winner of the Pen/Faulkner Award

“Eh;” “Is it true that we’re going back to Cameroon?”
Jende stopped chewing. He put down the ball of attiéké he had
in his right hand. “Who told you we’re going back to
Cameroon?” he said, keeping his voice low...



Meet
the Author

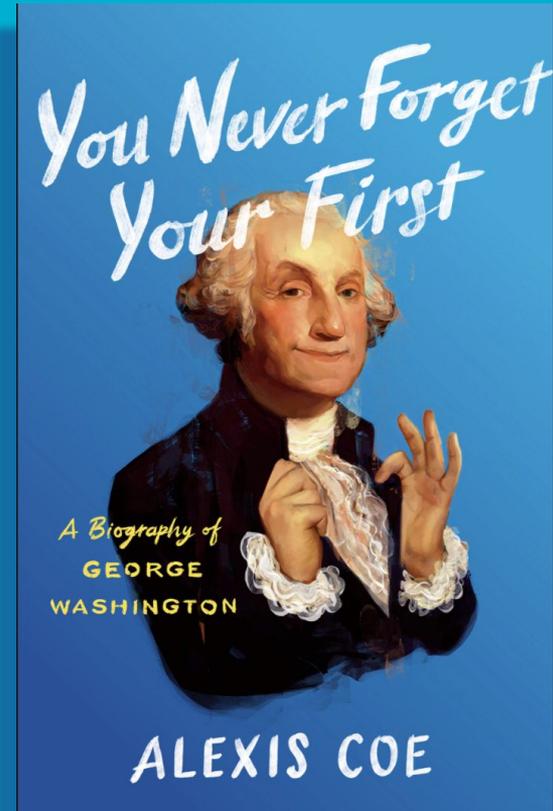
IMBOLO MBUE



You Never Forget Your First by Alexis Coe

- Biography of George Washington (the first by a woman in 40 years!)
- Humorous, but also deals with serious topics
- Aware of bias and romanticization
- Well researched and modern
- Notes his failures as well as his successes
- Good for APUSH prep-work, or even to just learn more about the first president

Reading of excerpt



You Never Forget Your First by Alexis Coe

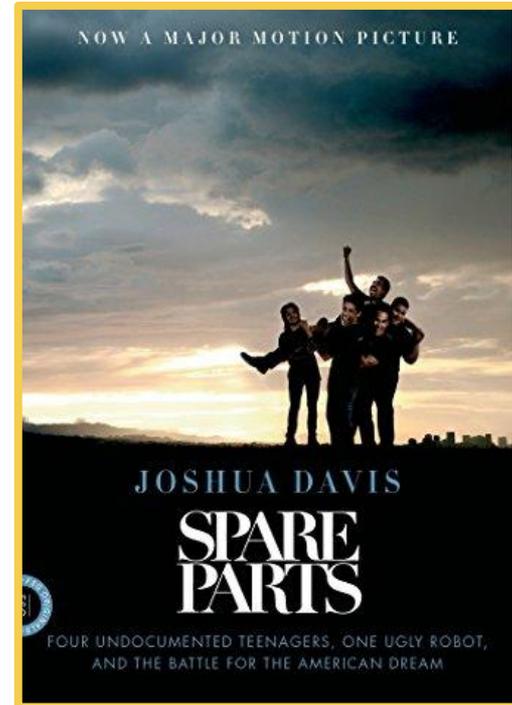
“You’ve never quite read a biography like this. Chock full of remarkable facts about George Washington—and surprisingly easy to read—this one feels more like reading your favorite fiction.”

—*Newsweek*



- With 800 dollars, a pie-in-the-sky idea, and impressive drive, a small group of Mexican-American boys come together to win a robot-building competition at the University of California, within Santa Barbara.
- A story which flips the narrative of the “American Dream,” by portraying the immigration struggles of the Latinx community within the United States.
- Great read for those interested in robotics

Spare Parts by Joshua Davis



Spare Parts by Joshua Davis



“A great feel-good tale of scrappy underdogs beating long odds [...] *Spare Parts* is a delightful book [...] A great American story” — Peter Carlson, *The Washington Post*

Next Steps

for Summer Reading

1. Decide on a book
 2. Complete this [Google Form](#) informing us of your book choice
 3. Read your book at any point during the summer
 4. Use [these questions](#) to prepare for Summer Reading discussions
 5. Discuss your book on the first day of school in mixed-grade groups
-

New: A Book Shopping Event

THIS FRIDAY, 6/11: Bring cash, check, or credit card!

After Friday, books
can also be purchased
from Aaron's Books
(online or in person).

Still have questions
about Summer
Reading?

Email [Ms. Stuart](#)

Thank You, Committee Members!

Student members:

Alexa Thomas
Elise Thiry
Luke Brosi
Ruby Nemeroff
Skylar Newman
Molly Heilshorn
Elena Shih
Huda Zaman
Isa Marquez
Maddie Bono
Adrien Wright
Olivia Sullivan

Faculty members:

Mrs. Turner
Mrs. Schmalhofer
Dr. Pomponio
Mme Myers
Sra. Heim
Mrs. Mowery
Mrs. Parker

Special shout-out:

Ms. Formando