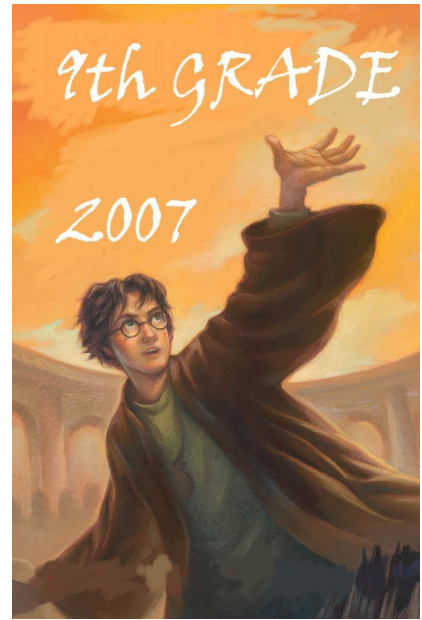
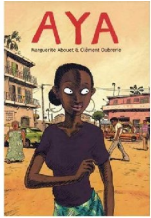


Suggested Summer Reading Saint Ann's School



Aboutet, Marguerite & Clement Oubrerie

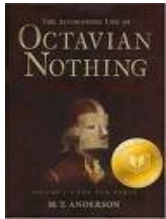
AYA



Aya lives in suburban Ivory Coast in the 1970's. She's a lot more studious than her party-crazed friends. Aya wants to become a doctor, but her father wants her to marry well instead. This realistic story immerses readers in the life of an Ivorian teen of the period. The simplicity of life captured in this graphic novel is particularly poignant when read relative to the civil unrest that occurred in this part of Africa during the ensuing years.

Anderson, M.T.

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation



Octavian is a young boy who lives with his mother, an African princess, in Boston prior to and during the Revolutionary era. Octavian is a slave, although he doesn't realize it at first. He is being raised by a bunch of scientists and philosophers in The Novanglian College of Lucidity. His entire life is conducted as a vast experiment. Everything he eats is weighed as are all of his waste products. What's the experiment for?

Bass, L.G.

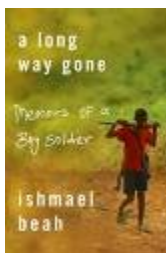
Sign of the Qin



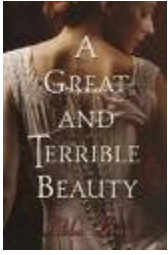
A volcanic eruption releases a vanguard of demons, sealed away for centuries beneath the earth. Soon after, the Emperor's first son is born, marked with the sign of the Qin-the brand of the outlaw! Could the child be the new Starlord, destined to restore justice to the land? The emperor plots to kill his only heir before the boy can usurp his throne. But the assassin is foiled by a mysterious monk whose magical tattoos foretell the future...

Beah, Ishmeal

A Long Way Gone



This is an amazing book. Ishmeah Beah is 26 years old, lives in New York, and is a graduate of Oberlin College. This book is a memoir, recounting his childhood in Sierra Leone when his family was killed by rebels and he was forced to become a child soldier. It is written in a matter-of-fact, child-like voice which is effective when recounting the horrors that he witnessed. What a brave and remarkable feat-- to tell a story so well that one can begin to understand what went on in the mind of this poor child. As a reader your heart breaks for him, even when reading about the atrocious acts of violence that he committed.



Bray, Libby

A Great and Terrible Beauty

Sixteen-year-old Gemma, who lives in India during the Victorian era, experiences a frightening vision of her mother's death. Two months later, after her vision is realized, she finds herself attending a British boarding school. She gradually learns to control her visions and enter the "realms" where magical powers can make anything happen and where her mother waits to instruct her. Gemma and her new friends learn about the Order, an ancient group of women who maintain the realms and regulate their power. Fantasy, but not science fiction. *Rebel Angels* is the sequel.



Chevalier, Tracy

Girl with a Pearl Earring

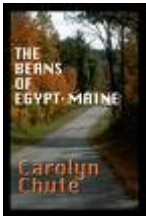
History and fiction merge in this novel about Vermeer, a Dutch artist in Delft in the 15th century. The story imagines what life was like for the model of one of his most famous paintings.



Chbosky, Stephen

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

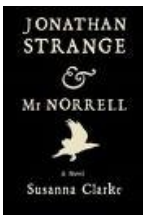
A great coming-of-age novel. Although he is a year older than he is supposed to be, Charlie is a freshman in high school. He writes letters to an unnamed person, chronicling his entire year. Charlie is clearly very intelligent (his English teacher even gives him extra work), but he is a "wallflower." This means he is more of an astute observer of life rather than a participator. Charlie grows up a lot over the year--he makes a lot of friends, strengthens his relationships with his family, and learns a few pivotal hidden things about his past in the process.



Chute, Carolyn

The Beans of Egypt, Maine

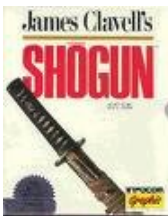
In Egypt, Maine, the Beans are just about everywhere. They have always been there and almost everybody is related to them—some more closely than they would wish.



Clarke, Susanna

Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell

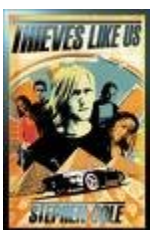
In 1806, Mr. Norrell, a stuffy scholarly type, claims to be the last magician in England. To prove it, he animates gargoyles and promises to help defeat Napoleon's forces. Jonathan Strange, an up-and-coming magician and the opposite of Norell, becomes his pupil. Their friendship and fantastical exploits make for great reading. Reviewers have claimed that this is a delightful mix of Philip Pullman, **Harry Potter**, and Jane Austin.



Clavell, James

Shogun.

Are you ready for this? An adventurous Englishman, a powerful Japanese warlord, and a beautiful woman come together in an exciting saga of medieval Japan. An epic classic.



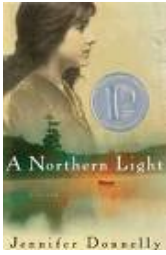
Cole, Stephen

Thieves Like Us

After being plucked from a juvenile prison facility in the middle of the night, Jonah is initiated into a group of teenage thieves, headed by Nathaniel Coldhardt. Each of the teenagers offers a unique talent: Jonah is a computer hacker, Patch is a one-eyed locksmith, Motti can dismantle any electrical system, Con's charm is truly mesmerizing, and Tye can detect a lie with more precision than a polygraph.

Donnelly, Jennifer

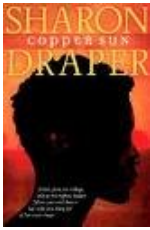
A Northern Light



It's 1906 and Mattie is 16 years old. According to her teacher and her friend Weaver, she has a real gift for writing. Mattie has managed to get a high school diploma and a scholarship to Barnard College in New York. It doesn't seem likely, however, that she will get to go, what with money being tight, a promise she made to her dying mother not to leave, and her responsibilities on the farm, not to mention the feelings she has for handsome Royal. She ends up working at the Glenmore Hotel for the summer and becomes involved in a mystery that ultimately forces her to take action. A Michael Printz Honor book.

Draper, Sharon

Copper Sun



Amari is a fifteen-year-old Ashanti girl who is happily anticipating her marriage. Then, slavers arrive in her village, slaughter her family, and shatter her world. Shackled and terrified, she is led to the Cape Coast where she is branded and forced onto a boat of death for the infamous Middle Passage to the Carolinas. There, Percival Derby buys her as a gift for his son's 16th birthday. Trust and friendship develop between Amari and Polly, a white indentured servant, and when their mistress gives birth to a black baby, the teens try to cover up Mrs. Derby's transgression. However, Mr. Derby's violent fury spurs the teens to run away in search of freedom.



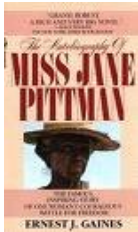
Farrell, James T.

Studs Lonigan

Irish and working class, Studs Lonigan contends with poverty, chauvinism and racism in his journey through life in Chicago's South Side right before the Depression. A classic.

Gaines, Ernest J.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman



This is actually a fictionalized "autobiography" told through the tape-recorded recollections of a black woman who lived for 110 years. Set in rural southern Louisiana, the novel spans 100 years of American History. From the early 1860's to the onset of the civil rights movement in the 1960's, it follows the life of the elderly Miss Jane Pittman, who witnessed those years. A classic.

Golden, Arthur

Memoirs of a Geisha



Chiyo, the daughter of a fisherman, is sold into slavery when her mother dies. Eventually she becomes a famous geisha known by the name of Sayuri. This is a fictionalized memoir—a page-turner that brings to life the reality of being a geisha during the 1930's and 1940's in Japan.

Gordon, Mary

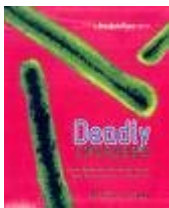
Joan of Arc



Joan of Arc was born in 1412 in France to a peasant family, she participated in the Hundred Years' War, and she was burned at the stake at nineteen. A life, however, is made up of more than just facts. Gordon illuminates Joan's life in this satisfying account.

Grady, Denise

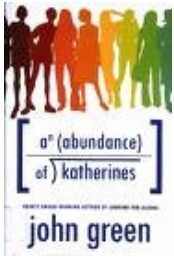
Deadly Invaders: Virus Outbreaks Around the World, from Marburg Fever to Avian Flu



New York Times reporter Denise Grady profiles deadly viruses from around the world, beginning with her trip to Angola in 2005 to cover an outbreak of Marburg fever. Fascinating and frightening.

Green, John

An Abundance of Katherines



Colin Singleton is a prodigy (not a genius--you will understand the difference when you read the book). Colin has a habit of dating girls named Katherine. It's after he graduates from high school and gets dumped by the 19th Katherine that he and his friend Hassan take off on a road trip. The two boys end up in Gutshot, TN and get summer jobs recording the oral history of the townspeople. Colin also spends a lot of time working on a mathematical theorem graphing relationships. Don't worry--you don't have to love math to enjoy the book. This is the latest by John Green who wrote last year's Michael Printz award winner, *Looking for Alaska*.

Gregory, Phillipa

The Other Boleyn Girl



What a deliciously juicy historical fiction novel. It takes place during the reign of Henry VIII in England. Henry is the king who is famous for having so many wives and beheading a few of them. Most people are familiar with Anne Boleyn, Henry's wife after he annulled his marriage with Katherine of Aragon. This novel features Anne's younger sister Mary, who was King Henry's mistress before her sister Anne. You'll become totally immersed in royal court life and the role that the Boleyn family played. Note: history can be racy.

Haddon, Mark

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time



Fifteen-year-old Christopher John Francis Boone is autistic. He takes everything at face value, and is unable to sort out the strange behavior of the people around him. Late one night, he comes across his neighbor's poodle impaled on a garden fork. Wellington's owner finds him cradling her dead dog in his arms, and has him arrested. After spending a night in jail, Christopher resolves to discover who has murdered Wellington. He is encouraged by the social worker at his school to write a book about his investigations. This is the book.

Hinton, S. E.

The Outsiders



Ponyboy is fourteen, tough and confused, yet sensitive behind his bold front. Since his parents' death, his brothers and his gang have been his family. When his best friend kills a member of a rival gang, a violent nightmare begins. Hinton was sixteen when she wrote this.

Hoffman, Alice

Incantation



A rich tale set during the Spanish Inquisition. The narrator is 16-year-old Estrella deMadrigal, a Jew whose family follows their religion in secret, appearing as good Catholics to escape persecution. This is a story of Estrella's complex friendship with Christian Catalina, her love for Catalina's cousin Andres, and her strength as she attempts to save herself and her grandmother.

Horowitz, Anthony

Nightrise



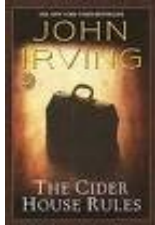
This is the third in the *Gatekeepers* series. The world is in great danger --- and only five kids can save it. But to do that, they must face off against some of the most powerful people in the world. *Raven's Gate* and *Evil Star* are the first two in the series. Horowitz also wrote the exciting *Alex Rider* series.



Hosseini, Khaled

The Kite Runner

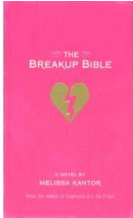
This is the story of Amir, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman in Kabul, and Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant. As children in the relatively stable Afghanistan of the early 1970's, the boys are inseparable. They spend idyllic days running kites and telling stories of mystical places and powerful warriors until an unspeakable event changes the nature of their relationship forever. A gripping story with a few incredibly disturbing scenes, it is a great description of Afghanistan during a particular time period.



Irving, John

The Cider House Rules

Dr. Wilbur Larch takes Homer Wells under his wing at the orphanage in St. Cloud, Maine. Dr. Larch also performs illegal abortions at the orphanage. Homer becomes his assistant until he leaves the orphanage and goes to work in an apple orchard. It takes awhile for Homer to figure out who he is and where his place is in the world. While he is doing so, a great story unfolds. Other greats by Irving include *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and *The World According to Garp*.



Kantor, Melissa

The Breakup Bible

The latest by our own Ms. Kantor! Jen is a high school junior who is also an ace reporter. The novel opens with her boyfriend dumping her. It's bad enough getting dumped by the love of your life, but it gets worse when Jen finds out that he dumped her for this totally ridiculous girl with way too much hair. She manages to struggle on with the help of her two best friends, her mom, and her dad and his partner. Jen begins work on a hot new story for the school newspaper with her friend Todd about race relations at their suburban high school. It's a prickly topic that no one in the administration wants to broach. Jen has her hands full, what with the newspaper, her broken heart and a possible new love-interest...



Krakauer, Jon

Into Thin Air

A first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. In March 1996, *Outside* magazine sent veteran journalist and seasoned climber Jon Krakauer on an expedition led by celebrated Everest guide Rob Hall. Despite the expertise of Hall and the other leaders, by the end of summit day eight people were dead.



Lansing, Alfred

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage

A true adventure book! In 1914 Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men sailed for the South Atlantic on the *Endurance* with the object of crossing the Antarctic. They didn't get very far -- still half a continent away from their intended base, the ship was trapped and then crushed in ice. It took them 17 months, but they made it back. This is a gripping, first-hand account of their trials and tribulations.



Levithan, David

Are We There Yet?

Elijah and Danny are brothers who have grown apart. Elijah is a mellow teen who likes to wonder about things and to wander without a plan. Danny, his older brother, works at a prestigious New York law firm, dresses meticulously and exerts a rigid control both on his own life and on the lives of those around him. In an attempt to draw their sons back together, the boys' parents arrange a vacation to Italy. Torture.

Mackler, Carolyn

Vegan Virgin Valentine



This is by the same author who wrote *The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things*. Mara is in her senior year in high school, a straight A student, already accepted early decision into Yale. Life is going along smoothly until Valentine (aka V) arrives to live with the family. V is one year younger and is her niece. She is the antithesis of Mara. She smokes, fools around with boys and generally doesn't care what people think of her. What happens when you put oil and water together?

Marchetta, Melina

Saving Francesca



Francesca's mother is depressed and won't get out of bed. In addition, Francesca is one of just a few girls in a school that has recently turned co-ed. Actually, there are only thirty girls and seven hundred and fifty boys. Heaven? Think again. Slowly Francesca's life starts to improve as she figures out who she is and what she wants to do with her life. Poignant, yet still pretty amusing. There's also *Looking for Alibrandi* by Marchetta—another great read.

McCormick, Patricia

Sold



This book is told from the point of view of a twelve-year-old year old girl who has been sold into prostitution by her good-for-nothing stepfather. She is from Nepal, but lives in a brothel in India which further adds to her sense of confusion and alienation. Not only is Lakshmi a country girl living in a confusing city, but she doesn't speak the language. She is, however, resilient and curious, with an instinct for survival. A heart-breaking, beautiful book.

Mercado, Nancy

Every Man for Himself: Ten Short Stories About Being a Guy



Ten well known authors write about what it's like to be a guy. Walter Dean Meyers writes about bringing a white girl to the prom, David Lubar writes about a boy who realizes that his girlfriend only likes him for the shock value his piercings provide, and David Levithan's character brings a male date to his brother's bar mitzvah, to list a few stories.

Meyers, Stephanie

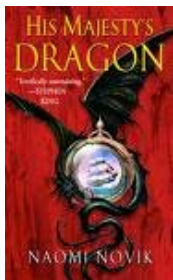
Twilight



This is a beach read if there ever was one. Bella goes to live with her dad in the Pacific Northwest. Her mom is remarried and Bella doesn't want to hold her back from being with her new traveling, baseball-playing husband. Bella arrives in the sleepy, rainy town of Forks and attends the local high school. She finds herself irresistibly attracted to Edward, a boy who goes to the high school and who happens to be the most beautiful human being she's ever met. The thing is, Edward isn't human...he's a vampire. Edward warns her to stay away from him for her own good, but neither of them can resist each other. *New Moon* is the sequel, and *Eclipse*, the third in the series, is coming out this summer!

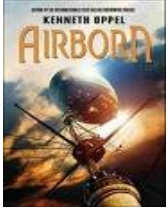
Novik, Naomi

His Majesty's Dragon (First book in the *Temeraire* series)



If you like books with dragons, historical fiction, or just plain fantasy, this series has it all! This "alternate reality" novel is set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars. Each country has its own special dragon breed and the British Captain, Will Laurence, is very fortunate to intercept a French ship carrying a special gift from the Chinese: a precious dragon egg. The Captain and the dragon form a special bond and join the Aerial Corps together. Lots of battle action.

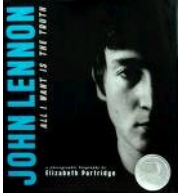
Oppel, Kenneth



Airborn

Matt Cruse is a cabin boy on the Aurora, a huge airship that sails hundreds of feet above the ocean, ferrying wealthy passengers from city to city. One night he meets a dying balloonist who speaks of beautiful creatures drifting through the skies. It is only after Matt meets the balloonist's granddaughter that he realizes that the man's ravings may in fact have been true -- the creatures are completely real and utterly mysterious.

Partridge, Elizabeth



John Lennon: All I Want is the Truth

Everything you ever wanted to know about John Lennon, before, during and after the Beatles. Great photographs and anecdotes. What a guy!

Portman, Frank

King Dork

Hilarious. Tom, aka King Dork, is a high school sophomore who has a great vocabulary. He is also sarcastic, witty and utterly endearing. Tom and his one friend, Sam Hellerman, form a band. Half the fun of having a band is naming it, and Tom and Sam think up some good names like Baby Batter, Occult Blood, The Mordar Apes, Balls Deep, and The Chi-Mos, to name but a few. The novel revolves around the band, Tom's dismal existence in high school reading *Catcher in the Rye* for the hundredth time, solving the mystery of his dad's death, and lusting after various girls. Some of the actions of the female characters are totally unbelievable and a bit insulting to the integrity of the girls, but then again, this is coming from the point of view of a sophomore boy--who I suppose is entitled to his dreams.

Sedaris, David

Me Talk Pretty One Day

The title story is Sedaris' description of a beginning French language class he took while living in Paris. In the essay "Jesus Shaves," he and his classmates from many nations try to convey the concept of Easter to a Moroccan Muslim in their very elementary French. "It is a party for the little boy of God," says one. "Then he be die one day on two...morsels of...lumber," says another. Absolutely hilarious.

Sittenfeld, Curtis

Prep

Lee Fiora, a teenager from Indiana, goes to the prestigious Ault boarding school in Boston on scholarship. It's not easy navigating the confusing world of money when you don't have any. All Lee wants is to belong—you'll end up rooting for her.

Vrettos, Adrienne Maria

Skin

The book opens up with Donnie's sister dead on the floor and Donnie finding her. The story then begins back one year and works its way forward until the time of her death. This is a story about anorexia, except the twist is that it is from the brother's point of view-- that makes this book unique.





Werlin, Nancy

The Rules of Survival

This is the story of three children who live with their insane mother. They are not really physically abused, but rather they are emotionally abused. Matthew is the oldest boy. He and his sister Callie shoulder most of the responsibility for their much younger sister, Emmy. When the children meet Murdoch, their lives change. Murdoch gives them hope that there could be another way to live-- that life doesn't have to be as scary and uncertain as it is with their unpredictable mother.



Yang, Gene Luen

American Born Chinese

This is the first time a graphic novel has ever won the Michael L. Printz Award--the award for the best young adult literature of the year. The novel weaves together three distinct stories: the first story is that of the Monkey King who strives to transcend his mortal form, the second story is about Jin Wang who is uncomfortable being Chinese-American and the third story is about Danny, a white jock who is mortified once a year when his Chinese cousin visits for a week. The stories all come together nicely in the end. There were some humorous parts along the way--poor Jin has an embarrassing moment with soap bubbles sprouting out of his armpit when he tries to use powdered soap in lieu of deodorant.



Walker, Alice

The Color Purple

Celie, abused by her stepfather, is forced to marry Albert who beats her and subjects her to a life of domestic servitude. The novel is composed of letters from Celie to God and to her sister Nettie, as well as Nettie's letters to her. Celie's life is pretty miserable. It is only when she meets Shug Avery, Albert's mistress, that she begins to rise above the despair. It is Shug who teaches Celie self-respect through her love. A classic.

Happy Reading!