



# Upper School Summer Reading 2021

This summer, all SVS upper school students are expected to read **ONE BOOK** from the below assigned reading list and answer ALL GUIDED READING QUESTIONS on the following pages. Assignment details are listed below.

**Instructions:**

- 1. Pick one (1) book from the following list. Follow the blue link for the audiobook on Learning Ally.**

<p><a href="#"><u>"Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption"</u></a> <b>by: Bryan Stevenson</b></p>	<p><b>Recommended Grades: All</b></p>
<p>This is the incredible true story of Walter McMillian, a native of Monroeville, Alabama who was convicted and sentenced to death for a murder he insisted he did not commit. His lawyer, Bryan Stevenson, fights to overturn his conviction, but becomes entangled in a web of conspiracy and political red tape that sheds light on the flaws in America's criminal justice system.</p>	

<p><a href="#"><u>"The Circle"</u></a> <b>by: Dave Eggers</b></p>	<p><b>Recommended Grades: 9, 10</b></p>
<p>Mae Holland is ecstatic to work for the Circle, one of the world's most innovative and influential technology companies. As she finds herself cut off increasingly from her family and friends, however, Mae becomes concerned that the Circle is really a dangerous cult, with plans to insert itself into the lives of its millions of users.</p>	

<p><a href="#"><u>"Pride and Prejudice"</u></a> <b>by: Jane Austin</b></p>	<p><b>Recommended Grades: 9, 10</b></p>
<p>This signature novel by Jane Austin has Elizabeth Bennet involuntarily thrust into a romance with the wealthy Mr. Darcy. Initially cold toward him, Elizabeth soon finds that there is a distinction between one's appearance and their true character.</p>	

[I Am Malala,](#)

**Recommended Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12**

**by: Malala Yousafzai**

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

*I Am Malala* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

[I'll Give You the Sun](#)

**Recommended Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12**

**by: Jandy Nelson**

Jude and her twin brother, Noah, are incredibly close. At thirteen, isolated Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude cliff-dives and wears red-red lipstick and does the talking for both of them. But three years later, Jude and Noah are barely speaking. Something has happened to wreck the twins in different and dramatic ways . . . until Jude meets a cocky, broken, beautiful boy, as well as someone else; an even more unpredictable new force in her life. The early years are Noah's story to tell. The later years are Jude's. What the twins don't realize is that they each have only half the story, and if they could just find their way back to one another, they'd have a chance to remake their world.

[When Breath Becomes Air.](#)

**Recommended Grades: 9,10, 11, 12**

**Paul Kalanithi**

At the age of 36, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed", as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when the future, no longer a ladder toward your goals in life, flattens out into a perpetual present? What does it mean to have a child, to nurture a new life as another fades away? These are some of the questions Kalanithi wrestles with in this profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir.

Paul Kalanithi died in March 2015, while working on this book, yet his words live on as a guide and a gift to us all. "I began to realize that coming face to face with my own mortality, in a sense, had changed nothing and everything," he wrote. "Seven words from Samuel Beckett began to repeat in my head: 'I can't go on. I'll go on.'" *When Breath Becomes Air* is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a brilliant writer who became both.

**“All the Light We Cannot See”**

**Recommended Grades: 11, 12**

**by: Anthony Doerr**

An award-winning novel set in France during World War Two. Marie-Laurie is a blind French girl, and Wermer, a German employed to uncover the resistance. A Pulitzer prize winner.

**2. Read.**

You may either read with your eyes or with your ears (e.g., via audio books, family read alouds, etc.). Students who ear read are strongly encouraged to follow along with their eyes as they listen, as this builds their tracking skills, fluency, and sight word vocabulary.

**3. Answer Guided Reading.**

Please review the questions below before you read to help guide your reading. Then, answer them after you finish.

**4. Return.**

You will turn in your guided reading answers the first week of school.

**\*\*\*CHANCE FOR EXTRA CREDIT\*\*\***

If you would like, read one additional book of your own choosing, and complete this assignment for an extra twenty points!

**This will count as your first grade of the year (50 points)!**

## GUIDED READING

Title:

Author:

Read with Eyes or Ears? (**Bold One**)

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Tone

#### Directions:

- a. Describe how the author of this book wants you to feel as you read it.
- b. Defend your answer with **three examples** from the text.

A sample sentence stem for your answer might be:

(Author's name) wants me, the reader, to feel \_\_\_\_\_  
because of the scene when \_\_\_\_\_.

1.

2.

3.

## 2. Character

### Directions:

- a. Pick ONE CHARACTER from your book and make a playlist of THREE SONGS for him or her.
  
- b. For each selection, cite **an example** from the text why that character would enjoy this song.

Character I chose:	
Song	Example from Book
1.	
2.	
3.	

### 3. Rate Your Book

**Directions:**

- a. Rate the book using the five-star rating system (1 star means the book was terrible; 5 stars means the book was awesome).
- b. Defend your rating by giving at least **three reasons** why you did or didn't like the book. Use complete sentences.



I rate my book /5
Reason
1.
2.
3.

#### Tips for Reading

**1. Set daily reading goals.** When you begin the book, make a vow to yourself to read a certain amount per day, and then figure out how long it will take you to read the entire book at that rate. Maybe you decide to read 15-20 pages a day, in which case it will take you a month to get through a four hundred-plus page book like *The Circle*.

**2. Use secondary sources.** Do not rely strictly on the novel to make sense of what you are reading. It is okay to consult with online websites such as Spark Notes or Litcharts. The harder books on this list, such as *The Handmaid's Tale*, include very subtle themes under the surface, and will require some analysis on the reader's part to appreciate what is really going on.

Of course, this is a two-way street. Do not rely strictly on secondary sources, either. *Read the book*, and then consult sources that will help you better understand it.

**3. Research the novel.** A great way to engage with your novel is to research everything about it. Read about the history of the book's publication, its author, other books he or she has written. Knowing more about the novel as you are reading it will make it come alive to you in ways you will not expect.

**4. It's okay to watch the movie.** But, of course, don't *just* watch the movie. Each novel on this year's list has been adapted into a feature film, but none of them are one hundred percent faithful to their source material. If anything, watching the film is a great way to engage with the tone and the environment of the novel. It's perfectly okay to watch the movie, and I encourage it, but it is still necessary to read the book in order to complete this assignment.

**5. Have Fun!** Remember that the primary purpose of summer reading is that it is supposed to be entertaining. If you pick a book and find that you are not enjoying it, choose another one from the list and give it a try.

