Laguna Blanca School  
Summer Reading List 2019  
For Students Entering Grade 5

All Laguna Blanca students entering grades 5-12 next fall are expected to read at least two books this summer. These works will form the basis for class discussion and writing assignments in English classes during the opening weeks of school. The required book can be purchased at Chaucer’s Bookstore, 3321 State Street, Loreto Plaza, Santa Barbara, CA.

REQUIRED READING:

**WONDER**  R.J. Palacio  
Auggie Pullman was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school—until now. He’s about to start fifth grade at Beecher Prep, and if you’ve ever been the new kid, then you know how hard it can be. The thing is, Auggie is just an ordinary kid with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he is just like them, despite appearances? (Available in hardback or digital download)

**IN ADDITION, STUDENTS MUST READ ONE BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:**

**THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE** by Avi (Mystery/Adventure)  
During the storm, First Mate, Mr. Hollybrass is killed with the knife that Zachariah gave Charlotte earlier. Charlotte is tried for the murder and found guilty by Captain Jaggery. When she is about to be hung, the captain falls and dies, and the crew names Charlotte the new captain.

**THE GREAT AMERICAN DUST BOWL**  Don Brown (Historical Nonfiction)  
A speck of dust is a tiny thing. In fact, five of them could fit into the period at the end of this sentence. On a clear, warm Sunday, April 14, 1935, a wild wind whipped up millions upon millions of these specks of dust to form a duster—a savage storm—on America’s high southern plains. The sky turned black, sand-filled winds scoured the paint off houses and cars, trains derailed, and electricity coursed through the air. Sand and dirt fell like snow—people got lost in the gloom and suffocated... and that was just the beginning. Don Brown brings the Dirty Thirties to life with kinetic, highly saturated, and lively artwork in this graphic novel of one of America’s most catastrophic natural events: the Dust Bowl.

**CATHERINE, CALLED BIRDY** by Karen Cushman (Historical Fiction/Humorous)  
Catherine, Called Birdy discusses everything from the mundane events of her life (killing fleas, spinning and embroidery) to festivals and holidays (such as Easter or May Day, many of which are celebrated by the entire village) to her travels in England, which are limited. Catherine’s father wants her to marry an old, repulsive man whom she calls “Shaggy Beard” in her diary. She refuses to marry him, and though she realizes that her father may be able to physically force her to, she comes up with many different plots to escape.

**MATILDA**  Roald Dahl (Humorous)  
Matilda befriends her school teacher, Miss Honey, who soon realizes Matilda’s talents but is later amazed to see the full extent of Matilda’s powers. This is the story of a sweet, bright little girl named Matilda, who is a child of wondrous intelligence. Unfortunately, she is also different from the rest of her family.

**NATHAN HALE’S HAZARDOUS TALES: ONE DEAD SPY**  Nathan Hale (Historical Nonfiction High Interest)  
Nathan Hale, the author’s historical namesake, was America’s first spy, a Revolutionary War hero who famously said, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country” before being hanged by the British. In the Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales series, author Nathan Hale channels his namesake to present history’s roughest, toughest, and craziest stories in the graphic novel format.
One Dead Spy tackles the story of Hale himself, who was an officer and spy for the American rebels during the Revolutionary War. Author Hale highlights the unusual, gruesome, and just plain unbelievable truth of historical Nathan Hale—from his early unlucky days at Yale to his later unlucky days as an officer—and America during the Revolutionary War.

NATHAN HALE’S HAZARDOUS TALES: THE UNDERGROUND ABDUCTOR: AN ABOLITIONIST TALE ABOUT HARRIET TUBMAN  Nathan Hale (Historical Nonfiction High Interest)

Araminta Ross was born a slave in Delaware in the early 19th century. Slavery meant that her family could be ripped apart at any time, and that she could be put to work in dangerous places and for abusive people. But north of the Mason-Dixon line, slavery was illegal. If she could run away and make it north without being caught or killed, she’d be free. Facing enormous danger, Araminta made it, and once free, she changed her name to Harriet Tubman. Tubman spent the rest of her life helping slaves run away like she did, every time taking her life in her hands. Nathan Hale tells her incredible true-life story with the humor and sensitivity he’s shown in every one of the Hazardous Tales.

A DOG CALLED HOMELESS by Sarah Lean

Fifth-grader Cally Louise Fisher stops talking, partly because her father and brother never speak of her mother who died a year earlier, but visions of her mother, friendships with a homeless man and a disabled boy, and a huge dog ensure that she still communicates.

THE GREAT FIRE Jim Murphy

This is a primary source-based account (Scholastic, 1995) of the October 1871 fire that wiped Chicago from the map. This account weaves together technical details of the personal accounts of firefighters, journalists, and ordinary citizens as they endured physical and emotional traumas as events unfolded across the twenty-four hours of the fire.

WE ARE THE SHIP: THE STORY OF NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL  Kadir Nelson (Historical Fiction) Using an "everyman" narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920’s through the decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the Majors in 1947.

HATCHET  Gary Paulsen (Adventure)

Since it was first published in 1987, the story of thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson’s survival following a plane crash has become a modern classic. Stranded in the desolate wilderness, Brian uses his instincts and his hatchet to stay alive for nearly two harrowing months.

THE LIGHTNING THIEF  Rick Riordan (Fantasy/Adventure)

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns from his mother the truth that his father is literally a Greek god. Percy is sent to Camp Half-Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and begins a journey to retrieve Zeus’s lightning bolt. (Percy Jackson Series; Book 1)

ECHO by Pam Munoz Ryan (Fantasy)

Music, magic, and a real-life miracle meld in this genre-defying masterpiece from storytelling maestra Pam Muñoz Ryan. Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.

THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET  (Caldecott Medal 2008)  Brian Selznick (Mystery)

Hugo Cabret, a clever mechanically-minded orphan living in Paris in the 1930’s, has fascinating secrets and amazing adventures in the train station where he lives. Sequences of text and drawings combine to tell this suspenseful tale.
**THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY** (Notable Children’s Book 2008) Trenton Lee Stewart (Fantasy)
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected to go on a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. *(The Mysterious Benedict Society Series; Book 1)*

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS-PAUL REVERE** George Sullivan (Historical Nonfiction)
This book brings Paul Revere’s legendary midnight ride to life and reveals that Revere was active in many of the events that led to the American Revolution. Readers will also learn about other famous Americans of the time, including John Hancock and Sam Adams.