LAGUNA BLANCA SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST 2019
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 9

All Laguna Blanca students entering Grade 9 in the fall are required to read a minimum of three novels and the class trip Reader this summer. Because these works will form the basis for class discussion and writing assignments in English classes during the opening weeks of school, we ask that students use post-its or a pen/pencil to mark passages that they think are important. You do not need to annotate (in other words, you do not need to write notes in the margins). Please buy only new books or used books that have no marking in them at all. The required books can be purchased at Chaucer's Bookstore, 3321 State Street, Loreto Plaza, Santa Barbara, CA.

THREE REQUIRED READINGS:

Bradbury’s pulse-pounding dystopian science fiction classic is as poignant today as it was upon its release. Crafting a world of oppression that holds up a stark mirror to modern censorship, Fahrenheit succeeds in being a timeless outcry against governmental hypocrisy in the burgeoning digital era. (Please order this Simon and Schuster's 60th anniversary edition.)

“When The Hate U Give came out [in February 2017], it became an instant critical and commercial hit, with more than 100,000 copies in print. The novel — one of several new children’s books that use fiction to address police shootings of unarmed black teenagers — debuted at the top of The New York Times’s Young Adult best-seller list, and has drawn ecstatic praise from critics, librarians, book sellers and prominent young-adult novelists. John Green, the author of *The Fault in Our Stars*, called the work ‘a stunning, brilliant, gut-wrenching novel that will be remembered as a classic of our time.’” — New York Times Book Review, March 2017

Here is the summary of the film adaptation, produced by Fox 2000 and released in October, 2018: Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter lives in two worlds. The first is Garden Heights — a predominantly black neighborhood where her family is ingrained in the community and her dad owns the corner store, but where drugs and gangs are a fact of life. The second is her Williamson life, as a scholarship student at an all-white school. While in her neighborhood one night, a white cop shoots and kills Starr’s childhood best friend at a random pull-over and Starr is the only witness. Suddenly, she finds herself in the middle of a national controversy. With the help of her family, she must find her voice in order for justice to be served.
STEINBECK/MONTEREY SHORT PACKET OF SELECTED READINGS
Families will be mailed a hard copy of the interdisciplinary packet and emailed a scanned version in case they will not be able to access mail at their home address.

IN ADDITION, STUDENTS MUST READ ONE BOOK FROM EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING LISTS:

**SPEAK** Laurie Halse Anderson (1999)
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda’s freshman year in high school. (National Book Award 1999; Best Books for Young Adults 2000; Printz Honor Book 2000)

**THE IMPOSSIBLE KNIFE OF MEMORY** Laurie Halse Anderson (2014)
The daughter of a traumatized war veteran must care for her father and survive senior year.

**THE NAZI HUNTERS: HOW A TEAM OF SPIES CAPTURED THE WORLD’S MOST NOTORIOUS NAZI** Neal Bascomb (2013)
The recent winner of the 2014 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults, this book offers students a thrilling spy mission, a moving Holocaust story, and a first-class work of narrative nonfiction.

**A LONG WAY GONE: MEMOIRS OF A BOY SOLDIER** Ishmael Beah (2007)
Beah describes his experience as a child soldier from Sierra Leone, fleeing attacking rebels and wandering a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. Picked up by the government army by the age of thirteen, Beah learns that he is capable of committing truly terrible acts. Eventually released by the army and sent to a UNICEF rehabilitation center, he struggles to regain his humanity and to re-enter a world of civilians who view him with fear and suspicion. (Best Books for Young Adults 2008)

Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon and French cryptologist Sophie Neveu work to solve the murder of an elderly curator of the Louvre, a case which leads to clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci and a centuries-old secret society.

**THE PERKOS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER** Stephen Chbosky (1999)
This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. More intimate than a diary, Charlie’s letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating. We may not know where he lives. We may not know to whom he is writing. All we know is the world he shares.

**THE LORDS OF DISCIPLINE** Pat Conroy (1991)
A South Carolina military school is the setting of this novel about a young man trying to cope with a harsh system of rules and regulations and a mysterious, secret society.
**PEACE LIKE A RIVER** Leif Enger (2001)
Do you believe in miracles? Young narrator Reuben Land does! He has seen his dad perform them many times. Peace Like a River is the adventurous, often humorous, and magically told story of Reuben, his father Jeremiah, and younger sister Swede as they follow the trail of older brother Davy, who has just recently escaped from jail. Travel across America’s Badlands with the Lands as they try to outrun the FBI. (Alex Award 2002)

**COMPLICATIONS: A SURGEON’S NOTES ON AN IMPERFECT SCIENCE** Atul Gawande (2002)
In the collection of 14 pieces, some of which were originally published in The New Yorker and Slate, Gawande uses real-life scenarios – a burned-out doctor who refuses to quit; a terminal patient who opts for risky surgery, with fatal results – to explore the larger ethical issues that underlie medicine. He asks: How much input should a patient have? How can young doctors gain hands-on experience without endangering lives? And how responsible are these doctors for their mistakes?

**WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** Sara Gruen (2006)
Jacob Jankowski, finding himself parentless and penniless, joins the circus where he meets the freaks, drifters, and misfits who populate his world. Here he meets up with Rosie, the seemingly untrainable elephant he comes to care for.

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor’s dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. (Best Books for Young Adults 2004; Alex Award 2004)

**A FAREWELL TO ARMS** Ernest Hemingway (1929)
This is a war story and a love story, all rolled into one! Set in Italy in the last years of WWI, this modernist novel is considered by some critics to be the greatest war novel of all time.

Set mostly in Afghanistan from the 1970’s to present day, this highly acclaimed novel is the story of Amir, a privileged young man who grows up to witness the changes in his country as the Russians invade and then the Taliban take over. Set amid this politically tumultuous backdrop, Amir comes of age and learns important lessons about friendship, forgiveness, and the effects that class has on any culture.

**THE BEAN TREES** Barbara Kingsolver (1988)
On her way across country, independent Taylor Greer is given an orphaned Cherokee girl to raise as her own.

**THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES** Sue Monk Kidd (2002)
Desperate to escape her cruel father, fourteen-year-old Lily Owen breaks her housekeeper Rosaleen out of jail and searches for answers about her mother’s life and death. She follows the only clue she has, an unusual label off a honey jar, to find sanctuary and a true sense of family with a trio of eccentric beekeeping sisters.

**SOLD** Patricia McCormick (2006)
When she is tricked by her stepfather and sold into prostitution, thirteen-year-old Lakshmi becomes submerged in a nightmare in which her only comfort is the friendship she forms with the other girls. These friendships help her to survive and eventually escape. (National Book Award Finalist 2006; Quill Award 2007; California Young Reader Medal 2008)

**TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR** Ben Mikaelsen (2001)
After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American tradition of Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life. (Best Books for Young Adults 2002; California Young Reader Medal 2003)

**SUNRISE OVER FALLUJAH** Walter Dean Myers (2008)
Robin Perry, who is from Harlem, serves in Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civil Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

**THE CATCHER IN THE RYE** J.D. Salinger (1951; reissued 2001)
Meet teenager Holden Caulfield. He’s got a lot of attitude, and he wants to tell us all about “this madman stuff” that happened to him over a three-day period last winter.

**CANNERY ROW** John Steinbeck (1945)
“When John Steinbeck was searching for a storytelling method to capture the essence of life on Cannery Row in the early 1940’s (‘the poem and the stink and the grating noise -- the quality of light, the tone, the habit and the dream’), he looked at the way marine biologists collected sea life.” -- New York Times article on present-day Cannery Row in Monterey

**I AM MALALA** Malala Yousufzai (2013) DO NOT CHOOSE THIS BOOK IF YOU READ IT FOR ENGLISH 7. Malala Yousufzai was shot by the Taliban for standing up for the education of girls and has electrified the world with her determination and courage.
KID PICKS (FROM FORMER NINTH GRADERS - CLASSES OF 2019, 2020, 2021)

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY Douglas Adams (1979)
With a dry, biting wit and penchant for outlandish planets and technologies, British writer Douglas Adams introduced the world to the hapless crew of the Heart of Gold, a spacecraft powered by sheer improbability. In this five book series, Adams takes readers on a humorous, surreal, and surprisingly philosophical voyage into the depths of space, time, and human existence.

ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL Jesse Andrews (2012) This is the funniest book about death that you will ever read.

MOSQUITOLAND David Arnold (2015)
Mim Malone ditches her new life in Mississippi and hops aboard a northbound Greyhound bus to her real home and her real mother, meeting a quirky cast of fellow travelers along the way.

NEED Joelle Charbonneau (2015)
The body count rises. In this chilling thriller, the author of the best-selling Testing trilogy examines not only the dark side of social media, but the dark side of human nature.

SEEDFOLKS Paul Fleischman (1997)
This Newbery Medal-winning collection tells thirteen stories from diverse perspectives—young and old, immigrant and native, haunted and hopeful. A fractured neighborhood unites with just a few seeds, turning a drab empty lot in Cleveland into beautiful green garden.

Beautifully written contemplation on belief and loss of identity in post-9/11 American society and the idea of the decline of values and morality. Also darkly hilarious and a wildly entertaining read.

SALEM'S LOT Stephen King (1975)
What if the small town of Salem's Lot, Maine (really a stand-in for the typical small American town) had a vampire problem? This is King at his absolute best.

EVERYTHING LEADS TO YOU Nina LaCour (2014)
When Emi Price, a talented young set designer already beginning to thrive in the LA film scene, finds a mysterious letter at an estate sale, it sends her chasing down the loose ends of a movie icon's hidden life.

THRONE OF GLASS by Sarah Maas (2016)
In a land without magic, where the king rules with an iron hand, an assassin is summoned to the castle. She comes not to kill the king, but to win her freedom.

**THE VISIONS TRILOGY** Lisa McMann (2013-2015)  
What Jules can’t handle is the recurring visions that haunt her. Over and over, she sees a careening truck hit a building and explode...and nine body bags in the snow.

**THE INVENTION OF WINGS** Sue Monk Kidd (2014)  
A fictional novel loosely based on the life of famed abolitionist Sarah Grimke and what led her to become an anti-slavery warrior at a time when women were expected to be satisfied solely in the role of housewife. The book follows Sarah’s friendship and conflicts with former family slave Handful over a thirty-five year period.

**BEHIND CLOSED DOORS** B.A. Paris (2016)  
In a seemingly perfect marriage, Jack and Grace are madly in love... or so everyone thinks. In this adult, psychological thriller, people start to wonder why Grace never answers her phone or can't be left alone with her friends. Why does she have bars on her bedroom window? Maybe their marriage is far from perfect.

**DRUMS, GIRLS, AND DANGEROUS PIE** Jordan Sonnenblick (2014)  
When his brother Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down. A brave and beautiful story that will make readers laugh, and break their hearts at the same time.

**ATTACHMENTS** Rainbow Rowell (2011)  
In this adult, romance/comedy, two best friends at work are constantly emailing each other about their personal lives-- the two women know an IT guy is monitoring their emails, but they can't bring themselves to care. Little do they know, through the extended emails, that the IT guy finds himself falling in love with one of them.

**IT’S KIND OF A FUNNY STORY** Ned Vizzini (2006)  
Like many ambitious New York City teenagers, Craig Gilner sees entry into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School as the ticket to his future. Craig studies night and day to ace the entrance exam, and does. That's when things start to get crazy.