HAMMOCK HOMEWORK!

Once again, this summer we would like upper school students to crack a few books! Please select two:

**BOOK ONE**: The Faculty List Book Discussion:

As in the past, please choose one book from the list generated by the upper school faculty. You will share your response to the book in a discussion group in early September. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are available for download through Overdrive as text; those marked with a tilde (~) are available for download through Overdrive as audiobooks.

**BOOK TWO**: Your choice:

In addition to your faculty choice book, we would like you to read any other book of your choice! We value your judgement and want you to find another book that you would enjoy reading. You might talk to friends for recommendations, browse in the public library in your town, look in a bookstore, or ask your parents for ideas. Amazon and Goodreads might be helpful as well, as would Novelist which is part of our EbscoHost databases. This could be an opportunity to explore a different genre, a new subject, or perhaps to dive into the writing of a beloved author. Your teachers and Mrs. Jipson will be delighted to make suggestions, of course! When school starts in the fall, bring your book to your first English class and be ready to talk about it with your teacher and classmates.

*438 Days - An Extraordinary True Story of Survival at Sea*, Jonathan Franklin (Andy Myers)

In late 2012 Jose Salvador Alvarenga, a Salvadoran fisherman, left the fishing village of Costa Azul on a 24' fibreglass skiff, heading out into deep water to catch shark, marlin and dorado. With the weather beginning to turn Alvarenga decided to cut short the planned 30 hours fishing excursion. On his way back to dry land an unfortunate series of events lead to engine failure, and a subsequent failed rescue attempt. After drifting for 438 days, and over 6000 miles, Alvarenga washed up on a remote corner of the Marshall Islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. This book describes Alvarenga's harrowing ordeal, from the challenge of acquiring food, water, and shelter to the contemplation of suicide and the questioning of his faith.

*AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order*, by Kai-Fu Lee (Marco Masoni)

Dr. Kai-Fu Lee—one of the world’s most respected experts on AI and China—reveals that China has suddenly caught up to the US at an astonishingly rapid and unexpected pace.

In *AI Superpowers*, Kai-fu Lee argues powerfully that because of these unprecedented developments in AI, dramatic changes will be happening much sooner than many of us expected. He provides a clear description of which jobs will be affected and how soon, which jobs can be enhanced with AI, and most importantly, how we can provide solutions to some of the most profound changes in human history that are coming soon.
*Amazon Burning*, by Victoria Griffith '79 (Alice Handwerk)

"This is a great opportunity for aspiring authors or journalists! Victoria Griffith from Derryfield's class of 1979 who was a career journalist for The Financial Times in Brazil will be joining us in September for this summer reading book discussion! I am excited to delve into her debut young adult novel, *Amazon Burning* on the beach this summer!

When 22-year-old aspiring journalist, Emma Cohen, is forced to flee the comforts of her NYU student life, she maneuvers an internship from her father at his newspaper in Rio de Janeiro. Emma is immediately swept into a major news story--and a life-threatening situation--when a famous jungle environmentalist is mysteriously murdered.

Emma must now enter the Amazon rainforest with her father to investigate; both awed by the enormity and beauty of the Amazon, and appalled by its reckless destruction. Not only will Emma have to brave the primal world of the Amazon, she must fight to survive the kidnappers, villains, corrupt activists, and indigenous tribes that lay in wait along the ever-twisting trail of the murder case. Stretched to the brink, it’s up to Emma, her father and the dreamy news photographer, Jimmy, to unravel the mystery and live to tell the tale.

Griffith's powerful rendering of the Amazon rainforest forms the perfect, wildly exotic backdrop for this extraordinary tale of a young urban woman coming of age in the midst of intense conflict. " (Goodreads) Note: **There are other books with the same title! Please be sure to get the one by Victoria Griffith!**

*All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr (Susan Grodman)

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, a *New York Times Book Review* Top Ten Book, National Book Award finalist, more than two and a half years on the *New York Times* bestseller list. From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant *New York Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

*~The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, Laurie R. King (Louisa Burdette)

Sherlock Holmes takes on a young, female apprentice in this delightful, well-wrought addition to the master detective's casework. In the early years of WW I, 15-year-old American Mary Russell encounters Holmes, retired in Sussex Downs where Conan Doyle left him raising bees. Mary impresses the sleuth with her intelligence and acumen. Holmes initiates her into the mysteries of detection, allowing her to participate in a few cases. The collaboration is ignited by the kidnapping in Wales of Jessica Simpson, daughter of an American senator. The sleuths find signs of a master criminal, and after Russell rescues the child, attempts are made on their lives (and on Watson's), with evidence piling up that the master criminal is out to get Holmes and all he holds dear. King has created a fitting partner for the Great Detective: a quirky, intelligent woman who can hold her own with a man renowned for his contempt for other people's thought processes. (Publishers’ Weekly)
*Born on a Blue Day* - by Daniel Tammet (Danielle Llewelyn)

A journey into one of the most fascinating minds alive today—guided by the owner himself. Daniel Tammet is virtually unique among people who have severe autistic disorders in that he is capable of living a fully independent life and able to explain what is happening inside his head. He sees numbers as shapes, colors, and textures, and he can perform extraordinary calculations in his head. He can learn to speak new languages fluently, from scratch, in a week. In 2004, he memorized and recited more than 22,000 digits of pi, setting a record. He has savant syndrome, an extremely rare condition that gives him the most unimaginable mental powers. Fascinating and inspiring, *Born on a Blue Day* explores what it’s like to be special and gives us an insight into what makes us all human—our minds. (From Amazon)

*Circe*, Madeline Miller (Taylor Moon)

This book is a modern story about mythic personalities with a specific focus on a strong female main character. It depicts her struggle with deciding between her heritage - she was born amongst gods- or her chosen family amongst the mortals. *Circe* is suspenseful with well-developed characters and is a great book for those interested in reading about a woman's struggles to find her way in a male dominated world. This theme will also give us material to discuss when we meet in the fall!

*The Devil in the White City*, Eric Larson (Jeff Cousineau)

Not long after Jack the Ripper haunted the ill-lit streets of 1888 London, H.H. Holmes (born Herman Webster Mudgett) dispatched somewhere between 27 and 200 people, mostly single young women, in the churning new metropolis of Chicago; many of the murders occurred during (and exploited) the city's finest moment, the World's Fair of 1893. Larson's breathtaking new history is a novelistic yet wholly factual account of the fair and the mass murderer who lurked within it. The passages about Holmes are compelling and aptly claustrophobic; readers will be glad for the frequent escapes to the relative sanity of Holmes's co-star, architect and fair overseer Daniel Hudson Burnham, who managed the thousands of workers and engineers who pulled the sprawling fair together. (Publishers Weekly)

*Falter*, by Bill McKibben (Ben Dougherty)

Thirty years ago Bill McKibben offered one of the earliest warnings about climate change. Now he broadens the warning: the entire human game, he suggests, has begun to play itself out.
*God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater, or Pearls Before Swine,* Kurt Vonnegut (Steve Young)

Eliot Rosewater, a millionaire who develops a social conscience, abandons New York City, and establishes the Rosewater Foundation in Rosewater, Indiana, "where he attempts to dispense unlimited amounts of love and limited sums of money to anyone who will come to his office."(Wikipedia)

**Good Talk,** by Mira Jacob (Diane Hotten-Somers)

A bold, wry, and intimate graphic memoir about American identity, interracial families, and the realities that divide us...By turns hilarious and heart-rending, it’s exactly the book America needs at this moment. Like many six-year-olds, Mira Jacob’s half-Jewish, half-Indian son, Z, has questions about *everything*. At first they are innocuous enough, but as tensions from the 2016 election spread from the media into his own family, they become much, much more complicated. Trying to answer him honestly, Mira has to think back to where she’s gotten her own answers: her most formative conversations about race, color, sexuality, and, of course, love. Written with humor and vulnerability, this deeply relatable graphic memoir is a love letter to the art of conversation—and to the hope that hovers in our most difficult questions. (Amazon)

**Grenade,** by Alan Gratz (Bill Westenberg)

It's 1945, and the world is in the grip of war. Hideki lives on the island of Okinawa, near Japan. When WWII crashes onto his shores, Hideki is drafted into the Blood and Iron Student Corps to fight for the Japanese army. He is handed a grenade and a set of instructions: Don't come back until you've killed an American soldier. Ray, a young American Marine, has just landed on Okinawa. He doesn't know what to expect -- or if he'll make it out alive. He just knows that the enemy is everywhere. Hideki and Ray each fight their way across the island, surviving heart-pounding ambushes and dangerous traps. But when the two of them collide in the middle of the battle, the choices they make in that instant will change everything. From the acclaimed author of *Refugee* comes this high-octane story of how fear can tear us apart, and how hope can tie us back together.

**Hitler's Last Secretary: A Firsthand Account of Life with Hitler,** Traudl Junge (Brandon Gauthier)

This is a disturbing book about the humanity of one of the worst men who ever lived. Traudl Junge—a young woman in her early twenties—describes what life was like in Hitler's bunkers from 1942 to April 1945. Junge ultimately grapples with her own complicity and guilt in the Nazi regime's crimes against humanity.

*~The Hobbit,* J.R.R. Tolkien (Jim Watt)

Recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth recounts of the adventures of a reluctant hero, a powerful and dangerous ring, and the cruel dragon Smaug the Magnificent.
*Killers of the Flower Moon, David Grann (Betty Jipson)

1920s America, and the richest people on the face of the earth are Osage Indians. Yup, Indians. Why? Because oil has been discovered on their lands. White people living in the area would like to get their hands on the oil, so they resort to murdering Indians. At first the police are not pushing hard to find the guilty parties, and this leads to the FBI coming in. Fascinating nonfiction combination of history, murder mystery, a touch of sociology...All in all, a terrific read!

*The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors, by James Hornfischer (Mary Karlin)

"This will be a fight against overwhelming odds from which survival cannot be expected. We will do what damage we can." With these words, Lieutenant Commander Robert W. Copeland addressed the crew of the destroyer escort USS *Samuel B. Roberts* on October 25, 1944, off the Philippine Island of Samar. On the horizon loomed the mightiest ships of the Japanese navy, a massive fleet that represented the last hope of a staggering empire. All that stood between it and Douglas MacArthur’s vulnerable invasion force were the *Roberts* and the other small ships of a tiny American flotilla poised to charge into history.

It's a David and Goliath story -- the Japanese Navy is the Goliath - reads like an action novel.

*Little Fires Everywhere, Celeste Ng (Alex Donovan)

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community (Amazon).

The magic of this novel lies in its power to implicate all of its characters — and likely many of its readers — in that innocent delusion. Who set the little fires everywhere? We keep reading to find out, even as we suspect that it could be us with ash on our hands (New York Times, 2011). Read this before the Hulu limited series, starring Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington, is released!

*~Lord of the Flies by William Golding (Regina Assetta)

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate. This far from civilization they can do anything they want. Anything. But as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far removed from reality as the hope of being rescued. (Amazon)
*~Marrow Thieves, Cherie Dimaline (Lindley Shutz)

"Just when you think you have nothing to lose, they come for your dreams....In a world nearly destroyed by global warming, the people of North America are being hunted for their bone marrow which carries the key to recovering something the rest of the population has lost: the ability to dream. Frenchie and his companions, struggling to survive, don't yet know that one of them holds the secret to defeating the marrow thieves."

Moneyball by Michael Lewis (Chris Induni)

Moneyball concerns a small group of undervalued professional baseball players and executives, many of whom had been rejected as unfit for the big leagues, who turned themselves into one of the most successful franchises in Major League Baseball. The book starts with a simple question: "How did one of the poorest teams in baseball, the Oakland Athletics, win so many games in the early 2000s?" From this point, the story follows an astonishing experiment in finding and fielding a team that nobody else wanted ultimately reaching great success. If you like math and/or baseball, this might be the book for you.

The Passage by Justin Cronin (Dana Laviano)

The first of an epic post-apocalyptic trilogy, The Passage begins with governmental experiments on death row inmates to make humans into weapons (what could possibly go wrong?!) and what happens once that goes horribly awry. From vampire bats to clairvoyants to nuns, this story is full throttle suspense, action and a fascinating look at the strength and hope of those left to rebuild their world. Cronin assembles a fantastic ensemble cast of characters from healers to knife-wielding acrobatic fighters that you will want to follow through books 2 and 3. If you don't like vampire stories don't let that keep you from this great book. It's more "I am Legend" than "True Blood" by a long shot, and you won't regret reading it.

*Red Rising by Pierce Brown (Mary Carter and Shannon Best)

This science fiction thriller about injustice and inequality in a Mars colony is often compared to The Hunger Games. However, Red Rising is more violent, angry, and more overtly a vengeance novel. Familiarity with Greek myths will make the novel even more entertaining.

“Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he works all day, believing that he and his people are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations. Yet he spends his life willingly, knowing that his blood and sweat will one day result in a better world for his children. But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed.” Goodreads
**The Road**, by Cormac McCarthy (Peter Talpey)

A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other. *The Road* is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation. (Amazon)

*Scythe* by Neal Shusterman (Laurie Byron)

Imagine a world with no hunger, no disease, no war, and no misery. A place where humanity has conquered all those things---even death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end a life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. *Scythe* is the first book of this trilogy, and it follows Citra and Rowan on their journeys as apprentices to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking a life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own. *Scythe* is the first novel of a thrilling new series by National Book Award–winning author Neal Shusterman in which Citra and Rowan learn that a perfect world comes with a heavy price. If you enjoy dystopian novels filled with action and adventure, then *Scythe* is the book for you. And, if time allows and your interest is still piqued, once you have finished *Scythe* you can move on to the sequel, *Thunderhead*, where Rowan and Citra take opposite stances on the morality of the Scythedom, putting them at odds, in this chilling sequel.

**Secrets of the Moon** by Tema Encarnacion (Judy Reynolds)

In this debut novel, Tema Encarnación tells the compelling stories of young Luz and her mother, Esperanza, as they flee violence in El Salvador and are reunited in los Estados Unidos. Through alternating narratives, a poignant tale unfolds as mother and daughter reveal why they emigrated to the United States and the sacrifices they made to start a new life there. In search of safety, Esperanza leaves her six-year-old daughter behind in El Salvador and moves to Maryland. Although she intends to send for her daughter in short order, six years pass before they are reunited. At age twelve, Luz arrives in the United States a different person than her mother expects, and they struggle to build a new relationship in an often unwelcoming country. Luz eloquently expresses the common feelings of abandonment and loss associated with being left when a parent is forced to emigrate. *Secrets of the Moon* is an earnest, sometimes painful, yet hopeful tale that mirrors the experiences of countless families seeking safety from extreme violence in Central America. This novel shows what it means to sacrifice for family and future and rebuild, and will enthral young adult and adult readers alike. (Amazon)
Shrill by Lindy West (Becky Barsi)

Hailed by Lena Dunham as an "essential (and hilarious) voice for women," Lindy West is ferociously witty and outspoken, tackling topics as varied as pop culture, social justice, and body image. She is a catalyst for a national conversation in a world where not all stories are created equal and not everybody is treated with equal respect. *Shrill* is comprised of a series of essays that bravely shares West’s life, including her transition from quiet to feminist-out-loud, coming of age in a popular culture that is hostile to women (especially fat, funny women), and how keeping quiet is not an option for any of us. (Amazon)

~The Spy Who Came in from the Cold, John LeCarre (Ryan Tanner-Read)

"When this novel by a former British spy was first released in 1963, it caused a sensation in the British and American press. Most previous espionage fiction had presented Western spies as dashing, debonair heroes acting for moral and upstanding reasons as they triumphed over the evils of Communism. For the first time, Western spies were being presented as morally compromised individuals willing to use whatever methods necessary to achieve sometimes hollow victories in the Cold War. Readers in Britain and the United States were fascinated by the story of burnt out British spy Alec Leamas and his trip behind the Iron Curtain as a double agent. Filled with realistic detail about the espionage practices of this period and complicated portraits of the flawed men and women who engaged in that espionage, *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold* revolutionized writing about spies and the Cold War, but also changed the way that readers thought about those same subjects forever."

~Start with Why, Simon Senik (Brennan Barnard)

As the title suggests, Sinek stresses the importance of understanding why we do what we do. If you want a teaser, watch his wildly popular TED Talk and listen to the ways that he weaves together examples of inspirational leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, inventors like the Wright brothers and business innovators like Steve Jobs. The tie that binds these individuals is their ability to focus less on the outcome and more on articulating the reason behind their intentions and actions.

~To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee (Melanie Hawthorne)

Voted America's Best-Loved Novel in PBS's *The Great American Read*. The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, *To Kill A Mockingbird* became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, *To Kill A Mockingbird* takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos.
*Where the Crawdads Sing*, Delia Owens (Mia Ek)

For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. In late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

Perfect for fans of Barbara Kingsolver and Karen Russell, *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps. (Goodreads)

*Where the Forest Meets the Stars*, Glendy Vanderah (Kathleen Rutty-Fey)

After the loss of her mother and her own battle with breast cancer, Joanna Teale returns to her graduate research on nesting birds in rural Illinois, determined to prove that her recent hardships have not broken her. She throws herself into her work from dusk to dawn, until her solitary routine is disrupted by the appearance of a mysterious child who shows up at her cabin barefoot and covered in bruises.

The girl calls herself Ursa, and she claims to have been sent from the stars to witness five miracles. With concerns about the child’s home situation, Jo reluctantly agrees to let her stay—just until she learns more about Ursa’s past. (Amazon)

*A Woman Is No Man*, Etaf Rum (Jenny Boesch)

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a young woman and leave your conservative Arab family in Palestine for an arranged marriage in America? Isra's mother warns her, “There is nothing out there for a woman but her bayt wa dar, her house and home. Marriage, motherhood — that is a woman’s only worth.” Yet Isra dreams of more and knows that the Qu'ran speaks of the respected place of women in Muslim society. When she is only able to produce daughters and not sons, Isra earns the disapproval of her new husband and his family and realizes with horror that her girls are destined to live the same life.

While this could be seen as another anti-Muslim, anti-Arab condemnation, Rum writes from the point of view of someone who was in an arranged marriage which provides authenticity. She also portrays male characters who have suffered the indignities of living in an occupied territory, refugee camps and economic impoverishment. Can this cycle of conservative male patriarchy survive in America where women are encouraged to become educated and speak their minds? Read with me and find out!