Baylor School Upper School Summer Reading 2017

Overview
All Upper School students will be required to read three books for summer reading 2017 while keeping a reading log. One book must be from the group of required option titles and the other two may be any titles of the student’s choice. A list of excellent books recommended by Baylor faculty members is available to help students in their book selection. Required summer reading for AP and Honors classes also counts toward the three book total.

Required Reading Group
All Upper School students will be required to read one book from the group below. These titles are primarily student-nominated, and the author of *Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South* will be visiting Baylor on September 11, 2017. Students will be required to write an essay in English class on the book they selected from the Required Reading group. These books represent varying reading genres and levels.

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd  
*The Three Body Problem* by Cixin Liu  
*The Heart and the Fist* by Eric Greitens  
*We are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler  
*Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller  
*Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South (adult edition)* by Andrew Maraniss

Recommended Reading List
Baylor’s summer reading committee, along with several Baylor students, have shared their recommendations for great books from every genre. *Please note that these titles are not required reading, they are simply provided as helpful recommendations.*

*Half a King* by Joe Abercrombie  
*Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
*Foreign Correspondence* by Geraldine Brooks  
*Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
*Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman  
*Sea of Poppies* by Amitav Ghosh  
*The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach  
*Dune* by Frank Herbert  
*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini  
*Life at These Speeds* by Jeremy Jackson  
*The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert  
*First Impressions* by Charlie Lovett  
*Rome 1960: The Olympics that Changed the World* by David Maraniss  
*Road to Valor* by Aili and Andres McConnell
A Sense of Where You Are by John McPhee
The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery
Sabriel by Garth Nix
Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World by Bill Nye
Soul of Baseball by Joe Posnanski
Dark Matter and the Dinosaurs by Lisa Randall
The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scot
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
**STRONG INSIDE: PERRY WALLACE AND THE COLLISION OF RACE AND SPORTS IN THE SOUTH**

*Strong Inside* is the inspiring story of the brilliant and courageous Perry Wallace, the first African American basketball player in the Southeastern Conference. This is much more than the story of a Vanderbilt basketball player, however. Before he even made it to college, Wallace (now a professor of law at American University) was the valedictorian of his class at Nashville’s all-black Pearl High School, a Sunday School teacher, trumpet player, math and science scholar, and perceptive observer of the civil rights sit-ins, not to mention the star center and best slam-dunker on a three-time state champion basketball team.

At Vanderbilt, Wallace encountered a university in transition during a tumultuous time in American history, and this compelling new book places readers in Wallace’s shoes as he navigates through the Deep South of the late 1960s. *Strong Inside* is an insightful story of race, discrimination, courage, faith, empathy, reconciliation, and understanding.

**Praise for Strong Inside:**

“In a magnificently reported, nuanced but raw account of basketball and racism in the South during the 1960s, Andrew Maraniss tells the story of Perry Wallace's struggle, loneliness, perseverance and eventual self-realization. A rare story about physical and intellectual courage that is both shocking and triumphant.” **BOB WOODWARD, Washington Post associate editor and author**

“I covered basketball during the years Perry Wallace was at Vanderbilt, learning first-hand the stories of so many African-American athletes. Many of them were pioneers in one respect or another, but none whom I ever spoke with endured such an experience as did Wallace — as related so thoughtfully and comprehensively in this sensitive biography. No road could have been harder than Perry Wallace’s, no glory more satisfying.” **FRANK DEFORD, Sports Illustrated/NPR**

“What Perry Wallace accomplished in breaking the color line in the Southeastern Conference has been one of the great untold stories of the last 50 years. Now, thanks to Andrew Maraniss and Professor Wallace, it has become one of the great TOLD stories of the last 50 years with this unforgettable book.” **JOHN FEINSTEIN, Best-Selling author**

**About The Author**

This is the first book by Andrew Maraniss, former media relations manager for the Tampa Bay Rays and Vanderbilt men’s basketball team. Andrew attended Vanderbilt University on the Fred Russell-Grantland Rice sportswriting scholarship. He is a contributor to ESPN’s sports, race and culture website, TheUndefeated.com.
Baylor School Upper School Summer Reading Log 2017

Name: __________________________

All Upper School students will be required to read one book from the required reading group, two titles of the student’s choice, and any books required for AP or Honors courses in which they are enrolled. This log provides a convenient way to keep on track, and will be due to advisors in August.

TITLE_________________________________Author____________________
Genre (type of work)____________________________
Brief summary_____________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Brief evaluation____________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

TITLE_________________________________Author____________________
Genre (type of work)____________________________
Brief summary_____________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Brief evaluation____________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

TITLE_________________________________Author____________________
Genre (type of work)____________________________
Brief summary_____________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Brief evaluation____________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________