



“After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world.”

—Philip Pullman

We at Portola High School **LOVE** fiction! Though we will **not** be requiring summer reading, we do want to encourage our incoming Bulldogs to become life-long book lovers! Below are some staff favorites you may want to consider before beginning your high school studies. Our first unit in Literary and Language Arts will involve a discussion of the cultural and personal importance of “story,” so we thought we might make a few suggestions! (*Be sure your families are aware of what you are reading and that they approve of your selections.*)

Staff Member:	Favorite Books!	Why they are our favorite:
Emily Sheridan Social Studies	<i>Anything Harry Potter!</i>	It is my absolute favorite series, and I would recommend it because it encourages loyalty, bravery, and friendship.
Kris Linville Assistant Principal	<i>Different Seasons</i> by Stephen King	A fabulous collection of four great stories, two of which were made into wonderful films: <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> and <i>Stand by Me</i> .
Peter Abe Physical Education, Football	<i>Heart of a Champion</i> by Carl Deuker	A great read about learning to find the strength to persevere in the face of great adversity.
Erin Arredondo, Science	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen	I enjoyed this love story that was full of drama and witty banter. It featured a strong female character, Elizabeth Bennet, who was not afraid to speak her mind, which I found refreshing considering the setting of the book was in 19 th century England. I also loved being transported back in time and imagining what it would have been like to live during that era.
Kearci Moir	<i>Flipped</i> by Wendelin Van Draanen	“It is a stand-alone teen romance in a he-said she-said style with the two protagonists alternately presenting their perspective on a shared set of events.” I loved it going in to high school and I still love it!
Marci Boden, Attendance	<i>The Nightingale</i> by Kristin Hannah	The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah - A beautifully told story about two sisters in France during WWII. The choices and decisions they must make to survive in both love and war. A memorable read!
Melissa Gibson, Counseling	<i>Catcher in the Rye</i> by J.D. Salinger	Widely read by millions of high school students over the last 50 years, this coming-of-age novel is about a young man named Holden Caulfield who is struggling to deal with the disappointing realities of the world around him.
	<i>*Some Mature Content</i>	
Shelley Godett, Math	<i>What Alice Forgot</i> by Liane Moriarty	This book makes one reflect to their past 10 years and learn to appreciate the present. The stressors of life and raising a family can make you forget your true self. This is a page turner and will keep you laughing!!
Madeline Greenwood	<i>Stargirl</i> by Jerry Spinelli	When Stargirl first arrives at Mica High, Leo and his classmates don't know what to make of her unique personality. In a school that prides itself on conformity, can Stargirl find popularity and acceptance? Told from the perspective of Leo, this beautifully written book is a must-read for all ages.

Wind Ralston	<i>The Stand</i> by Stephen King *Some Mature Content	<i>"The Stand</i> is a post-apocalyptic horror/fantasy novel by American author Stephen King. It expands upon the scenario of his earlier short story "Night Surf" and outlines the total breakdown of society after the accidental release of a strain of influenza that had been modified for biological warfare causes an apocalyptic pandemic which kills off the majority of the world's human population." (Wikipedia)
Jeanne Jelnick, Lit &Lang	<i>Great Expectations</i> by Charles Dickens	A wonderful coming of age novel and love story all in one that focuses on a young orphan named Pip. "The novel is set in Kent and London in the early to mid-19th century and contains some of Dickens's most memorable scenes, including the opening in a graveyard, where the young Pip is accosted by the escaped convict, Abel Magwitch. <i>Great Expectations</i> is full of extreme imagery—poverty, prison ships and chains, and fights to the death ^[4] —and has a colourful cast of characters who have entered popular culture. These include the eccentric Miss Havisham, the beautiful but cold Estella, and Joe, the unsophisticated and kind blacksmith. Dickens's themes include wealth and poverty, love and rejection, and the eventual triumph of good over evil" (Wikipedia)
Katie Levensailor, Athletics	<i>The Lord of the Flies</i>, by William Golding	I like to study what makes people "tick" or how people behave under stress. This is the perfect book for someone who likes sociology and delinquent behavior!
Heidi Martasian	<i>Dark Lord of Derkholm</i> by Dianna Wynne Jones	Dianna Wynne Jones is one of my favorite authors and <i>Dark Lord</i> is my favorite of her books because it is so creative. The book is both a fantasy and a fantasy parody (think <i>The Princess Bride</i> , but far more zany). The setting is in a parallel universe of our world where inhabitants have the opportunity to participate in galactic tourism and travel to a fantastical land where adventure (and possibly death) awaits. This book will definitely appeal to fans of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and J.K. Rowling.
Samantha Gardner	<i>Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> by Stephen Chbosky	<i>"The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> is a coming-of-age epistolary novel by American writer Stephen Chbosky, which was first published on February 1, 1999, by Pocket Books. Set in the early 1990s, the novel follows Charlie, an introverted teenager, through his freshman year of high school in a Pittsburgh suburb. The novel details Charlie's unconventional style of thinking as he navigates between the worlds of adolescence and adulthood, and attempts to deal with poignant questions spurred by his interactions with both his friends and family." Wikipedia
Laura Manriquez, Records	<i>The Notebook</i> by Nicholas Sparks *Some Mature Content	I really love the writing of Nicholas Sparks: his novels are romantic, classy, and realistic. Although some parts are a little risqué he still keeps his appropriateness, and I appreciate the nature of his writing about where he's from and places he knows firsthand.
Amy Paulson, Assistant Principal	<i>1st to Die</i> by James Patterson	I enjoy reading murder mysteries; I can't put them down once the plot begins. I find them intriguing, probably because they are so far removed from my own life, and I try to solve the mystery by writing notes on sticky note as I read. My favorite are the James Patterson women's murder club series with a female police inspector Lindsay Boxer and her female friends. He just released a new novel to this series, <u>14th Deadly Sin</u> , I can't wait to read this!
John Pehrson, Principal	<i>The Firm</i> by John Grisham	What's not to like? A young, bright lawyer getting swayed by a small firm but big dollars.....finds out the firm has hidden secrets! Suspense and intrigue!

	<i>*Some Mature Content</i>	
Pam Quiros, Library/Media	<i>Between Shades of Gray</i> by Ruta Sepetys	This novel tells the story of a 15 year-old Lithuanian girl and her family as they are relocated during World War II by Stalin's regime. It describes the brutality and deplorable conditions they experience as they are deported to Siberian work camps. It's a heartbreaking story of resilience and hope.
Brianna Rapp, Lit & Lang	<i>The Hunger Games</i> by Suzanne Collins	I read the first book of <u>The Hunger Games</u> during my lunch breaks working in corporate marketing. It was the part of my day I most looked forward to, and I was always reluctant to bring myself out of the world of Panem and return to work. <i>The Hunger Games</i> is one of the most compelling pieces of young adult fiction I have read in recent years, and Katniss Everdeen is a protagonist we can all become emotionally invested in.
Jon Resendez, Social Studies	<i>Train to Pakistan</i> by Khushwant Singh	The conflicts that arise between the followers of various religions have always fascinated me. A burning desire to find the root causes of these conflicts has inspired many of my reading choices over the years. <i>Train to Pakistan</i> speaks to these causes using the story of a small fictional village on the border of India and Pakistan during the era of Partition, which adds a decidedly human dimension to what is normally a political story.
Christina Sanchez, Administrative Assistant	<i>The Lord of the Rings</i> by J.R. Tolkein	There is nothing better than to lose yourself in the fantasy world of <u>The Lord of the Rings</u> and <u>The Hobbit</u> . From first picking up <i>The Hobbit</i> I could not let go. Drama, romance, danger, awful creatures. I would still love to meet Aragorn....
Desiree Shaffer, Special Ed	<i>Pygmalion</i> by George Bernard Shaw	This is a fabulous play that explores how the forces of social class and gender affect the development of a young woman's sense of self—and it is a terrific love story, too!
Desmond Stevens, Visual & Performing Arts	<i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> by Stephen Chbosky	This book definitely has some mature content a la <u>Catcher in the Rye</u> . It is a coming-of-age novel written through a series of letters from the introverted and troubled main character, Charlie. The letters cover Charlie's experiences during his first year in high school as he grows and discovers himself and others.
	<i>*Some Mature Content</i>	
Kate Avery, Lit & Lang	<i>The Kite Runner</i> by Khaled Hosseini	If you are looking to for a challenge, I recommend picking up <i>The Kite Runner</i> . A heartbreaking, yet fantastically written story about two unlikely friends in Afghanistan and how their friendship is torn apart by one friend's unbearable decision to abandon his friend. Years later, the friend tries to right the wrongs with the only true friend he ever had.
	<i>*Some Mature Content</i>	
Lyndsey Hicks, Lit and Lang	<i>Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English</i> by Natasha Solomons	I checked this book out at the library a couple summers ago and within days I had finished it. This is a novel about the challenges of immigration, family ties, and the sacrifices made to achieve big dreams. It had me laughing and crying.