



***“Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing.”***

***--Scout in Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird***

We at Portola High School **LOVE** reading! Though we will **not** be requiring summer reading, we do want to encourage our incoming Bulldogs to become life-long book lovers—and deep, thoughtful “breathers of the world of fiction”! 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 value of fiction, so we thought we might make a few suggestions!

<b>Peter Abe, Physical Education, Football</b>	<b><u>Heart of a Champion</u> by Carl Deuker</b>	A great read about learning to find the strength to persevere in the face of great adversity.
<b>Erin Arredondo, Science</b>	<b><u>Pride and Prejudice</u> by Jane Austen</b>	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 <sup>th</sup> century England. I also loved being transported back in time and imagining what it would have been like to live during that era.
<b>Marci Boden, Athletics</b>	<b><u>The Nightingale</u> by Kristin Hannah</b>	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!
<b>Leo Diego</b>	<b><u>Fahrenheit 451</u> by Ray Bradbury</b>	Ironically, the future that Ray Bradbury was referring to in this book predates some of what is happening now with all the new technology (ipads, kindles and ebooks). Who knows what's going to happen with paper books?
<b>Melissa Gibson, Counseling</b>	<b><u>Catcher in the Rye</u> By J.D. Salinger</b>  <i>*Some Mature Content</i>	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.
<b>Shelley Godett, Math</b>	<b><u>What Alice Forgot</u> by Liane Moriarty</b>	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!!
<b>Madeline Mullens</b>	<b><u>Stargirl</u> by Jerry Spinelli</b>	This is a funny, beautifully written story that takes place in the hot desert of Mica, Arizona. On an ordinary day a new student arrives to high school after being homeschooled her entire life. She calls herself Stargirl. First, everyone thinks she's weird, then she quickly gains fame, popularity and a boyfriend. However, a quick rise to popularity is not all it seems. This book examines the balance between being yourself and the deep desire all humans have to be accepted; and the true cost when people abandon one of those dreams.
<b>Jeanne Jelnick, Literary &amp; Language Arts</b>	<b><u>House on Mango Street</u> by Sandra Cisneros</b>	This coming-of-age novel about a young girl named Esperanza illustrates in a simple but very touching way both the loveliness and the challenges inherent in growing up as a

		Latina in Chicago. It is a “must read!”
Katie Levensailor, Athletics	<b><u>The Lord of the Flies</u>, by William Golding</b>	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	<b><u>Dark Lord of Derkholm</u> by Dianna Wynne Jones</b>	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.
Jen Johnson, Student Resource Officer	<b><u>Into the Wild</u> by Jon Krakauer</b>	This book is my all-time favorite. I would have totally enjoyed this book as a high school student, but it wasn’t written yet. This book is a true story about Christopher McCandless, an affluent college graduate who earned a degree from a prestigious school, came from a wealthy family and had a trust fund. Christopher had a seemingly perfect life but felt detached from the material things that surrounded him and wanted to escape. Right after graduation, he set out on a grueling journey, discarding most of his money and material possessions to spend months on a pilgrimage across the United States up to Alaska.
Laura Manriquez, Records	<b><u>The Notebook</u> by Nicholas Sparks</b>  <i>*Some Mature Content</i>	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	<b><u>1<sup>st</sup> to Die</u> by James Patterson</b>	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	<b><u>The Firm</u> by John Grisham</b>  <i>*Some Mature Content</i>	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!
Pam Quiros, Library Media Specialist	<b><u>Between Shades of Gray</u> by Ruta Sepetys</b>	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, Literary and Language Arts	<b><u>The Hunger Games</u> by Suzanne Collins</b>	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. <u>The Hunger Games</u> 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.
<b>Jon Resendez, Social Studies</b>	<b><u>Train to Pakistan</u> by Khushwant Singh</b>	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. Train to Pakistan speaks to these causes using the story of a small fictional village on the boarder of India and Pakistan during the era of Partition, which adds a decidedly human dimension to what is normally a political story.
<b>Christina Sanchez, Administrative Assistant</b>	<b><u>The Lord of the Rings</u> by J.R. Tolkein</b>	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 The Hobbit I could not let go. Drama, romance, danger, awful creatures. I would still love to meet Aragorn....
<b>Desiree Shaffer, Special Ed</b>	<b><u>Pygmalion</u> by George Bernard Shaw</b>	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!
<b>Desmond Stephens, Visual &amp; Performing Arts</b>	<b><u>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</u> by Stephen Chbosky</b>  <i>*Some Mature Content</i>	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.