

# WHS NON-FICTION SUMMER READING

## Grades 10 - 12

2022

Carreyrou, John. **Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup** An apparent scientific breakthrough rests on a quicksand of deception in this riveting account of the rise and downfall of notorious biotech firm Theranos. The story recounts how Elizabeth Holmes, a charismatic Stanford dropout, started Theranos with claims of a revolutionary blood-testing technology that needed just a few drops from a finger-prick rather than tubefulls drawn from veins with needles. Her start-up became the toast of Silicon Valley, with a \$9 billion valuation. The reality was less stellar: the company's flawed tests did not meet regulatory standards and gave dangerously inaccurate results.

Castaldo, Nancy F. **When the World Runs Dry: Earth's Water in Crisis**. A narrative nonfiction account of the worldwide water crisis, explaining what's happening to the **world's** water supply, from industrial pollution to harmful algal blooms, and what kids can do about it.

Conkling, Winifred. **Ms. Gloria Steinem : a life**. Gloria Steinem was no stranger to injustice even from a young age. She never blamed her single, mentally ill mother for being unable to hold down a job, but rather blamed society's intrinsic hostility toward working women. This was the spark that lit a fire in her that would burn for decades, and continues to burn brightly today. Throughout the years, Gloria Steinem is perhaps the single-most iconic figure associated with women's rights, her name practically synonymous with feminism. Documenting everything from her boundary-pushing journalistic career to the foundation of Ms. magazine to being awarded the 2013 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Cooke, Julia. **Come Fly the World: the jet-age story of the women of Pan Am**. Pan Am once represented the gold standard for jetsetters, largely due to the women that worked for it. In order to meet the requirements for the seemingly glamorous job, hopeful applicants were willing to endure strict height and weight requirements. The author chronicles the rise, and downfall, of Pan Am through the personal stories of the women who were the face of the company: stewardesses. This account is also an engaging work of cultural history. Cooke notes how the job of stewardess, though still rooted in sexism, paradoxically allowed women to find freedom, as they made their own money, lived independently, traveled abroad, and explored countries on their own.

Copeland, Misty. **Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina**. As the first female African American principal dancer in American Ballet Theater history, Misty Copeland has been a constant game changer during her illustrious career. This is a story for all the people who dare to be different, dream bigger, and want to break stereotypes in whatever they do.

Croll, Jennifer. **Bad Boys of Fashion: Style Rebels and Renegades Through the Ages**. Sashay away, ladies: it's the boys' turn for the fashion spotlight. From Louis XIV to Kanye West, Jennifer Croll takes us on a tour of daring and different men throughout history who have all used fashion to get what they want. Just as she did in her award-winning *Bad Girls of Fashion*, Croll shows us the power of clothes and the links between fashion and politics, art, social movements, and more. Croll's lively and engaging prose draws in the reader, providing enough information to satisfy both budding fashionistas and pop-culture junkies alike. Aneta Pacholska's illustrations are modern and fun, perfectly complementing the text and making the book as exciting to look at as it is to read. In-depth features include Louis XIV, Oscar Wilde, Marlon Brando, Malcolm X, Andy Warhol, Karl Lagerfeld, Clyde Frazier, Malcolm McLaren, David Bowie, and Kanye West, with a diverse array of shorter biographies enriching the text.

Davis, Sampson. **Living and dying in Brick City : an E.R. doctor returns home** Presents a narrative exploration of the health-care crisis in inner-city communities as drawn from the author's experiences as an emergency room resident in the Newark community where he grew up, in an account that illuminates the complicated human realities behind the statistics.

Eig, Jonathan. **Ali: A Life**. The book opens with Ali's 1964 fight with Sonny Liston, which would propel a fast-punching and even faster-talking young African-American into the spotlight of a revolutionary era. Rather than focus on boxing highlights, however, Eig broadens his account to include the Clay family heritage, the changing culture of the times, and the long physical decline that silenced the Louisville Lip even as he became a beloved international figure.

Farrell, Mary Cronk. **Close Up On War: The Story of Pioneering Photojournalist Catherine Leroy in Vietnam**. tells the story of French-born Catherine Leroy, one of the Vietnam War's few woman photographers, who documented some of the fiercest fighting in the 20-year conflict. Despite being told that women didn't belong in a "man's world," she was cool under fire, gravitated toward the thickest battles, went along on the soldiers' slogs through the heat and mud of the jungle, crawled through rice paddies, and became the only official photojournalist to parachute into combat with American soldiers. Later, Leroy was gravely wounded from shrapnel, but that didn't keep her down more than a month. When captured by the North Vietnamese in 1968, she talked herself free after photographing her captors, scoring a cover story in *Life* magazine.

Feinstein, John. **The Back Roads to March: The Unsung, Unheralded, and Unknown Heroes of the College Basketball Season**. Feinstein follows a handful of players, coaches, and schools who dream, not of winning the NCAA tournament, but of making it past their first or second round games. Every once in a while, one of these coaches or players is plucked from obscurity to continue on to lead a major team or to play professionally, cementing their status in these fiercely passionate fan bases as a legend. These are the gifted players who aren't handled with kid gloves—they're hardworking, gritty teammates who practice and party with everyone else.

Fleischman, Paul. **Alphamaniacs: Builders of 26 Wonders of the Word**. Step right up and read the genuine stories of writers so intoxicated by the shapes and sound of language that they collected, dissected, and constructed verbal wonders of the most extraordinary kind. Jean-Dominique Bauby wrote his memoirs by blinking his left eyelid, unable to move the rest of his body. Frederic Cassidy was obsessed with the language of place, and after posing hundreds of questions to folks all over the United States, amassed (among other things) 176 words for dust bunnies. Georges Perec wrote a novel without using the letter *e* (so well that at least one reviewer didn't notice its absence), then followed with a novella in which *e* was the *only* vowel. A love letter to all those who love words, language, writing, writers, and stories, *Alphamaniacs* is a stunningly illustrated collection of mini-biographies about the most daring and peculiar of writers and their audacious, courageous, temerarious way with words.

Garrett, Leah. **X Troop : the secret Jewish commandos of World War Two**. The incredible World War II saga of the Jewish refugees who fought in Britain's most secretive special-forces unit--but whose story has gone untold until now.

Iftin, Abdirisack Nor. **Call Me American: The Extraordinary True Story of a Young Somali Immigrant**. Abdi Nor Iftin grew up amidst a blend of cultures, far from the United States. At home in Somalia, his mother entertained him with vivid folktales and bold stories detailing her rural, nomadic upbringing. As he grew older, he spent his days following his father, a basketball player, through the bustling street of the capital city of Mogadishu. But when the threat of civil war reached Abdi's doorstep, his family was forced to flee to safety. Through the turbulent years of war, young Abdi found solace in popular American music and films. Nicknamed Abdi the American, he developed a proficiency for English that connected him—and his story—with news outlets and radio shows, and eventually gave him a shot at winning the annual U.S. visa lottery.

Jahren, Hope. **Lab Girl**. Acclaimed scientist Hope Jahren has built three laboratories in which she's studied trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. Her first book is a revelatory treatise on plant life - but it is also so much more. *Lab Girl* is a book about work, love, and the mountains that can be moved when those two things come together. It is told through Jahren's remarkable stories: about her childhood in rural Minnesota; about how she found a sanctuary in science, and learned to perform lab work done "with both the heart and the hands"; and about the inevitable disappointments, but also the triumphs and exhilarating discoveries, of scientific work.

Kankimaki, Mia. **The women I think about at night : traveling the paths of my heroes**. Bored with her life and feeling stuck, Mia Kankimäki leaves her job, sells her apartment, and decides to travel the world, following the paths of the female explorers and artists from history who have long inspired her. She flies to Tanzania and then to Kenya to see where Karen Blixen--of *Out of Africa*--fame lived in the 1920s. In Japan, Mia attempts to cure her depression while researching Yayoi Kusama, the contemporary artist who has voluntarily lived in a psychiatric hospital for decades. In Italy, Mia spends her days looking for the works of forgotten Renaissance women painters of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, and finally finds her heroines in the portraits of Sofonisba Anguissola, Lavinia Fontana, and Artemisia Gentileschi. If these women could make it in the world hundreds of years ago, why can't Mia?

Kopelman, Jay. **From Baghdad, with love: A Marine, the War and a Dog Named Lava**. The news from Iraq keeps getting grimmer, but Iraq veteran Kopelman and journalist Roth (*The Man Who Talks to Dogs*) tell a tale of radiant joy about Kopelman's efforts to safely transport Lava, the stray dog his Marine unit found in the wreckage of Fallujah, back to the U.S.

Lee Shetterly, Margo. **Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race**. Shetterly shines a much-needed light on the bright, talented, and wholly underappreciated geniuses of the institution that would become NASA. Called upon during the labor shortage of World War II, these women were asked to serve their country and put their previously overlooked skills to work—all while being segregated from their white coworkers. The author tells the compelling stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden as they navigated mathematical equations, the space race, and the civil rights movement over three decades of brilliant computing and discoveries.

Lloyd, Carli. **All Heart: My Dedication and Determination to Become One of Soccer's Best**. In 2015, the U.S. Women's National Team won its first FIFA championship in sixteen years, culminating in an epic final game that featured a gutsy, brilliant performance by the midfielder Carli Lloyd. But there was a time when Carli almost quit sports. She had just been cut from the Under-21 team and told she wasn't working hard enough to be at this level. Carli was faced with a decision: should she give up or try again?

Mundy, Liza. **Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers Who Helped Win World War II**. As the U.S. headed to war in 1941, two things became clear to military leaders: victory depended on successful code breaking and they didn't have nearly enough people working on it. The solution was for the Army and Navy to recruit women for cryptanalysis. Tens of thousands of women answered the call for this top-secret work. Drawing from recently declassified National Security Agency files, Mundy rescues these women's stories from anonymity and obscurity. She vividly describes the intricacies of code breaking while weaving in crucial historical information about the war and women's participation in it.

Namdev Shahani, Aart. **Here We Are: American Dream, American Nightmare**. Who *really* belongs in America? That question has chased every newcomer and many native-born since the founding of the republic. In this heart-wrenching, vulnerable, and witty memoir, journalist Aarti Shahani digs deep inside herself and her family for an answer—one that she finds in an unlikely place.

Noah, Trevor. **Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood**. Born during apartheid to a Swiss-German father and black Xhosa mother, Noah shares stories from his formative years when he often felt more like an outsider than the shining star he is today. His stories give insight into not only his personal history but the culture and history of South Africa. The subject matter is difficult, with violence, racism, and poverty all being part of his complex narrative. Despite his circumstances, Noah is able to find humor and love even in the worst of times, mostly owing to his strong-willed, independent, and devoutly Christian mother.

Nelson, Marilyn. Augusta Savage: **The Shape of a Sculptor's Life**. A renowned poet brings a Harlem Renaissance artist's story to life. Nelson focuses her poetic skills on Black sculptor and teacher Augusta Savage in this biography for budding historians, artists, and poetry lovers alike. Savage's life makes for great material—she was born in Florida in 1892, a middle child with 13 siblings, into a world of racial discrimination. She was thrice married, the first time at only 15, and in 1921 moved to New York City in search of better opportunities. Savage created a number of stunning sculptures that captured elements and figures of contemporary Black life.

Obama, Michelle. **Becoming**. In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle *Obama* has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America, she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private. A deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations.

Ogle, Rex. **Punching Bag**. This is a searing account of adolescence in a household torn by domestic violence. It is the compelling true story of a high school career defined by poverty and punctuated by outbreaks of domestic abuse. Rex Ogle, describes his struggle to survive; reflects on his complex, often paradoxical relationship with his passionate, fierce mother; and charts the trajectory of his stepdad's anger. Hovering over Rex's story is the talismanic presence of his unborn baby sister. Through it all, Rex threads moments of grace and humor that act as beacons of light in the darkness. Compulsively readable, beautifully crafted, and authentically told. It is a remarkable memoir about one teenager's cycle of violence, blame, and attempts to forgive his parents--and himself.

Owen, Mark. **No Easy Day. The firsthand account of the mission that killed Osama Bin Laden**. In telling the true story of the SEALs whose talents, skills, experiences, and exceptional sacrifices led to one of the greatest victories in the War on Terror, Mark Owen honors the men who risk everything for our country, and he leaves readers with a deep understanding of the warriors who keep America safe.

Pang, Amelia. **Made in China: A prisoner, an SOS letter, and the hidden cost of America's cheap goods**. After an Oregon mother finds an SOS letter in a box of Halloween decorations, a story unfolds about the man who wrote it: a Chinese political prisoner, sentenced without trial to work grueling hours at a "reeducation" camp-manufacturing the products sold in our own big-box stores.

Pitzer, Andrea. **Icebound**. The most astonishing survival tale of all might be that of 16th-century Dutch explorer William Barents and his crew of sixteen, who ventured farther north than any Europeans before and, on their third polar exploration, lost their ship off the frozen coast of Nova Zembla to unforgiving ice. The men would spend the next year fighting off ravenous polar bears, gnawing hunger, and endless winter. In **Icebound**, Andrea Pitzer masterfully combines a gripping tale of survival with a sweeping history of the great Age of Exploration-a time of hope, adventure, and seemingly unlimited geographic frontiers. At the story's center is William Barents, one of the 16th century's greatest navigators whose larger-than-life ambitions and obsessive quest to chart a path through the deepest, most remote regions of the Arctic ended in both tragedy and glory.

Powell, Michael. **Canyon Dreams: A Basketball Season on the Navajo Team**. Deep in the heart of Arizona, in a small and isolated patch of the 17-1/2-million-acre Navajo reservation, sits Chinle High School. Here, basketball is the passion. It's a sport for winters where it can get dark fast; when there is not much else to do, the students and their parents say, but work and drink. The town has 4,500 residents but the high school arena seats 7,000. Fans drive from thirty, fifty, even eighty miles away to see highly competitive matchups that are more than just games to the players and the fans.

Reef, Catherine. **Sarah Bernhardt: The Divine and Dazzling Life of the World's First Superstar**. Sarah Bernhardt was a French stage actor who became a global superstar in the late nineteenth century—the Lady Gaga of her day—and is still considered to be one of the greatest performers of all time. This fast-paced account of her life, filled with provocative detail, brilliantly follows the transformation of a girl of humble origins, born to a courtesan, into a fabulously talented, wealthy, and beloved icon. Not only was her acting trajectory remarkable, but her personal life was filled with jaw-dropping exploits, and she was extravagantly eccentric, living with a series of exotic animals and sleeping in a coffin. She grew to be deeply admired around the world, despite her unabashed and public promiscuity at a time when convention was king; she slept with each of her leading men and proudly raised a son without a husband.

Rosser, Kareem. **Crossing the line : a fearless team of brothers and the sport that changed their lives forever**. Born and raised in West Philadelphia, Kareem thought he and his siblings would always be stuck in a neighborhood devastated by poverty and violence. Riding their bicycles through Philly's Fairmount Park, Kareem's brothers discover a barn full of horses. Noticing the brothers' fascination with her misfit animals, Lezlie Hiner, founder of The Work to Ride stables, offers them their escape: an after school job in exchange for riding lessons. What starts as an accidental discovery turns into a love for horseback riding that leads the Rossers to discovering their passion for polo. Pursuing the sport with determination and discipline, Kareem earns his place among the typically exclusive players in college, becoming part of the first all-Black national interscholastic polo championship team.

Sabic-El-Rayess, Amra. **The Cat I Never Named : A True Story of Love, War, and Survival**. It begins in 1992 when Amra was a top student in Bihac, Bosnia, an integrated city where Muslims, Serbs, and Croats lived together peacefully. Two days after her 16th birthday, Amra arrived at school to find her classroom half-empty; the Serbs had fled overnight ahead of the attack they knew was coming. While running to retrieve her younger brother, Amra turned back for the stray cat that followed her to school and stepped out of the path of a sniper. Maci, the cat, saved her life. The siege of Bihac lasted for four years, and Amra's family suffered a great deal. They also survived harrowing near misses, which she credited to their feline guardian angel.

Salaam, Yusef. **Better Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice**. They didn't know who they had. So begins Yusef Salaam telling his story. No one's life is the sum of the worst things that happened to them, and during Yusef Salaam's seven years of wrongful incarceration as one of the Central Park Five, he grew from child to man, and gained a spiritual perspective on life. Yusef learned that we're all 'born on purpose, with a purpose.' Despite having confronted the racist heart of America while being 'run over by the spiked wheels of injustice,' Yusef channeled his energy and pain into something positive, not just for himself but for other marginalized people and communities. Better Not Bitter is the first time that one of the now Exonerated Five is telling his individual story, in his own words.

Sengor, Shaka. **When You Hear Me (You Hear Us) : Voices on Youth Incarceration**. This is an anthology of poetry and personal stories centering the voices of those directly impacted by the incarceration of young people in the United States. This rich collection includes firsthand accounts from both the young people charged and incarcerated in the adult criminal legal system and from the community at large: the mothers, the loved ones, the correctional staff, public defenders, prosecutors, and others harmed and left with unhealed trauma. These critical voices, uniquely combined, illustrate the ecosystem that surrounds youth who are incarcerated--and expose the ripple effects that touch us all.

Simard, Suzanne. **Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest**. Forest ecologist Simard has been studying intricate, mutually sustaining forms of communication and interconnectivity among trees and fungi for decades, initially as a determined and controversial researcher for the Canadian Forest Service, then as a professor who attained TED Talk fame. In her galvanizing first book, she interleaves her family's history as British Columbia homesteaders and loggers with detailed accounts of her innovative and exacting fieldwork and paradigm-altering discoveries. As Simard elucidates her revolutionary experiments, replete with gorgeous descriptions and moments of fear and wonder, a vision of the forest as an "intelligent system, perceptive and responsive," comes into focus, leading to her revelation of how "mother trees" not only nourish and protect seedlings but also "continuously gauge, adjust, and regulate" their support of the entire forest through a finely calibrated web that mirrors our own neural network and cardiovascular system.

Smith, Clint. **How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning With The History of Slavery in America**. Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks--those that are honest about the past and those that are not--that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves. A deeply researched and transporting exploration of the legacy of slavery and its imprint on centuries of American history, *How the Word Is Passed* illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view--whether in places we might drive by on our way to work, holidays such as Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods like downtown Manhattan, where the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women, and children has been deeply imprinted.

Turrell, Arthur. *The Star Builders*: **Nuclear Fusion and the Race to Power the Planet**. A look at one of the most compelling and historic turning points of our time--the race to harness the power of the stars and produce controlled fusion, creating a practically unlimited supply of clean energy. The most important energy-making process in the universe takes place inside stars. The ability to duplicate that process in a lab, once thought out of reach, may now be closer than we think. Today, all across the world teams of scientists are being assembled by the world's boldest entrepreneurs, big business, and governments to solve what is the most difficult technological challenge humanity has ever faced: building the equivalent of a **star** on earth. If their plans to capture **star** power are successful, they will unlock thousands, potentially millions, of years of clean, carbon-free energy.

Wallace-Wells, David. **The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming** "The threat from climate change is more total than from the bomb. It is also more pervasive." The author observes, almost every major moment of "evolutionary reset" in Earth's history has been precipitated by climate change produced by an overproduction of greenhouse gases and there is now more carbon in the air than at any point in the last 15 million years, leading him to open, grimly, with the warning, "It is worse, much worse, than you think." The results will be catastrophic, from untold millions of environmental refugees to summers that, even in Scandinavia, will be accompanied by killer heat waves.

Wind, Lee. **No Way, They Were Gay?: Hidden Lives and Secret Loves**. What's that you say? Abraham Lincoln was gay? No way! Uh, way! declares Wind, asserting Lincoln was, indeed, gay, as were 11 others he profiles: 3 men, 4 women, and 4 individuals who lived outside gender boundaries. Some of them are well-known-Shakespeare, Eleanor Roosevelt-others, not so: for example, M'E Mpho Nthunya and We'wha. How does Wind know all of them were gay when none of them is living? That can be difficult, since sometimes homophobic history has, Wind points out, erased evidence of some people's sexual identity. Happily, to correct that, he has searched out primary-source materials-letters in the cases of Lincoln, Gandhi, and Roosevelt; autobiographies (Catalina de Erauso and Sarah Churchill); anthropological field notes (We'wha)-and a clutch of secondary sources.