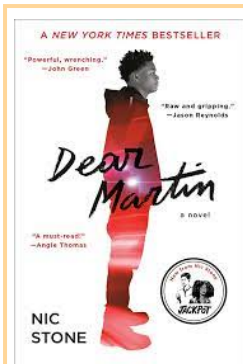


What does it mean to live a good life?

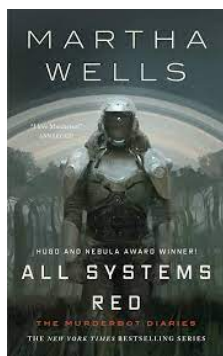
- Sophomore English Summer Reading -

This summer, choose ONE of these books. Read. Think. Enjoy. We encourage you to annotate and/or take notes while reading so you are prepared to thoughtfully and insightfully write about and discuss your selected book in relation to the question, "What does it mean to live a good life?"

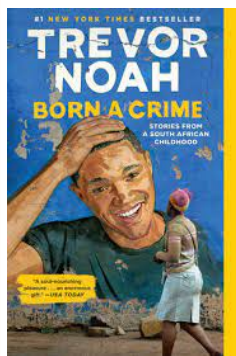
(Arranged roughly from least to most challenging in reading level and subject matter.)



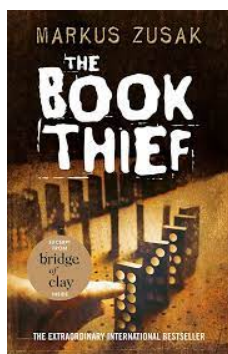
Dear Martin by Nic Stone: Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. (Young Adult Fiction; 240 pages)



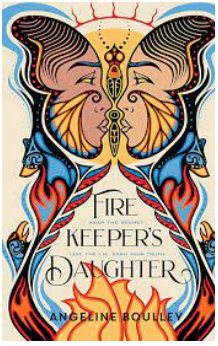
The Murderbot Diaries: All Systems Red by Martha Wells: As a heartless killing machine, I was a complete failure. On a distant planet, a team of scientists are conducting surface tests, shadowed by their Company-supplied 'droid — a self-aware SecUnit that has hacked its own governor module, and refers to itself (though never out loud) as "Murderbot." Scornful of humans, all it really wants is to be left alone long enough to figure out who it is. But when a neighboring mission goes dark, it's up to the scientists and their Murderbot to get to the truth. (Adult Science Fiction; 171 pages)



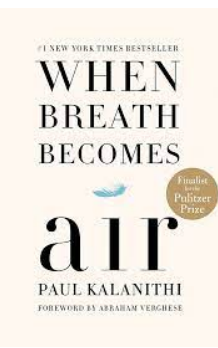
Born a Crime by Trevor Noah: The story of Noah's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life. Noah's poignant prose creates a startling portrayal of his experience growing up in South Africa during apartheid. This memoir, while filled with Noah's quick wit and humor, is a thought-provoking and insightful look into the life of a comedian who, quite literally, was born a crime. (Adult Nonfiction; 304 pages)



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak: When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time. (Young Adult Historical Fiction; 592 pages)



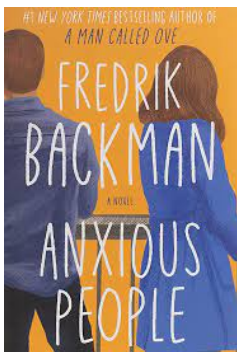
Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley: Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine is a talented athlete and strong minded person who has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but then Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug. Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars. Now, as the deceptions—and deaths—keep growing, Daunis must learn what it means to be a strong Ojibwe woman and how far she'll go for her community. (Young Adult Fiction; 494 pages)



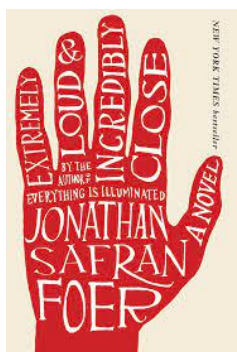
When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi: More about living than dying, this compelling and profound memoir chronicles a doctor's struggle against the ravages of disease and the peace that follows acceptance. At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. When Breath Becomes Air chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student into a neurosurgeon at Stanford and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality. (Adult Nonfiction; 228 pages)



I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson: "We were all heading for each other on a collision course, no matter what. Maybe some people are just meant to be in the same story." At first, Jude and her twin brother are Noah and Jude; inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them. Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways, but then Jude meets an intriguing, irresistible boy and a mysterious new mentor. Noah and Jude each have only half the story, and if they can only find their way back to one another, they'll have a chance to remake their world. (Young Adult Fiction; 400 pages)



Anxious People by Fredrik Backman: Looking at real estate isn't usually a life-or-death situation, but an apartment open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage. Each of them carries a lifetime of grievances, hurts, secrets, and passions that are ready to boil over. None of them is entirely who they appear to be. And all of them—the bank robber included—desperately crave some sort of rescue. As the authorities and the media surround the premises, these reluctant allies will reveal surprising truths about themselves and set in motion a chain of events so unexpected that even they can hardly explain what happens next. (Adult Fiction; 352 pages)



Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer: Nine-year-old Oskar Schell embarks on an urgent, secret mission that will take him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This seemingly impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts of an exhilarating, affecting, often hilarious, and ultimately healing journey. With humor, tenderness, and awe, Jonathan Safran Foer confronts the traumas of our country's difficult history. (Adult Fiction; 368 pages)