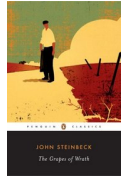


Columbia Prep Summer Reading Symposium!

Juniors and Seniors: As part of your four summer books, you must read at least one of the following fascinating reads:

***The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck**

It's a classic American novel. It won the Pulitzer Prize. It's literary history at its best—it's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Set during the Great Depression, John Steinbeck's novel tells the story of one family's trek across the country in search of the American dream. Travel the road with the Joad family and get a sense of what life was like for migrant workers in the '30s. You'll feel their pain, you'll feel their hardship, and you'll feel satisfied once you have this great novel under your belt!



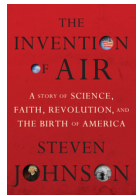
***A Mathematician's Lament: How School Cheats Us Out of Our Most Fascinating and Imaginative Art Form* by Paul Lockhart**

A Mathematician's Lament offers a critical review of high school mathematics and the way it's presented to students. The author argues that most high school instruction is misguided. As a result, students often miss the patterns and beauty that make up mathematics. The frustrated student who feels math is a sequence of steps to be memorized will find some consolation in this book; the curious student who enjoys searching for patterns will find some redemption as well.



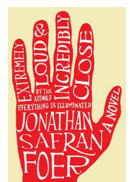
***The Invention of Air: A Story of Science, Faith, Revolution, and the Birth of America* by Steven Johnson**

Plunge into this gripping narrative and come aboard a merchant ship making a turbulent Atlantic crossing in 1764. You will meet the extraordinary protagonist, Joseph Priestly, as he gazes with scientific curiosity at the perilous waterspouts which churn the ocean—which his fellow passengers attribute to evil spirits. From there, you will enter a multi-layered story of scientific discovery and the history of ideas—from geology to the Industrial Revolution to the leading political minds of the day—as you watch the birth of modern thought unfold.



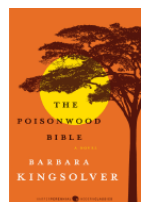
***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

Come join Jonathan Safran Foer's incredible tale, narrated by a quirky 8-year-old named Oskar, who leaves school early on September 11th, 2001, seeking meaning in a time of tragedy and trying to make sense of his own memories and grief. Oskar innocently scours New York City with tambourine in hand, in search of the lock that will match his father's key. The book is set between his grandfather's traumatic WWII experiences and Oskar's own adventures, as this young boy innocently begins a healing process that will reach back through generations.



***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver**

Immerse yourself in the Belgian Congo of 1959. Set against the backdrop of the Congo's independence movement, this novel follows the tragic downfall of the Price family, who travel to a remote Congolese village to perform missionary work during the last years of Belgian control. Readers will be fascinated by the family's experience—particularly the conflicts between the Price family and their Congolese neighbors—and by the tumultuous political events of time.



***Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier**

In her 1938 novel, Daphne Du Maurier narrates this suspenseful tale of a young woman who enters the home of an older, enigmatic man. Reminiscent of gothic tales of old, this classic story forces the shy, reticent heroine to cope with a strange new environment; as secrets are revealed, she must learn to shed her doubt and face her fears. This novel begins slowly but picks up speed as the reader is thrown into the same uncertainty as the heroine herself.

