



Dear Incoming Freshmen,

As unbelievable as it may seem, your first year of high school is fast approaching. We are so excited to be learning with you in September. In ninth grade English, we will be exploring the theme of "identity". As we read and analyze different works of literature, we will be asking the following questions as part of the broader theme:

- What is identity?
- How do we form our identities?
- What internal and external factors contribute to this process of forming an identity?
- How do gender roles affect identity and society's expectations of people?

In order to be ready in September to talk about these questions, please read *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. It will be the first work of literature you will explore at the beginning of the school year.

In addition to *The Secret Life of Bees*, we are providing a school wide reading list. Please read **one** book from the list of choices below. There are sixteen books from which to choose, so look through the whole list. You are sure to find something you will enjoy. The list includes fiction and non-fiction; classic and contemporary literature; magical realism and historical fiction. You will write about the book of your choosing in your English class and participate in an in-school book club discussion with teachers and students who chose the same book as you.

You can obtain these works from Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other places where fine works of literature are sold. You may also find a few of them on your eReader.

While reading your selected novel, please keep in mind the following two questions that are relevant to the theme:

- Is experience attained at the expense of innocence?
- What effect does regret have on growing up?

Feel free to highlight and annotate (make notes in the margins) your book or keep a journal of your thoughts about these questions as you read the work.

At Ma'ayanot you will be introduced to a full range of literature that help illuminate the human condition and invite us to understand ourselves and others. In these selections there are also settings, cultures, behaviors, and language that do not always reflect the same values as our community. We are committed to having thoughtful and open discussions with our students about the ways our values differ from mass culture or the literature we read, and we encourage you to do so at home as well.

For the summer reading choices, you can explore the books' sensitive content by using this very helpful website. Just type in the name of the novel to check its rating. [Click here.](#)

Steps to choosing your book:

1. Read the list of books below and click on the Amazon links to see what the books are about.
2. Choose one that you will read over the summer.
3. Fill out your choice on the attached Google form.
4. Read the book.
5. We encourage you to annotate, highlight and fill your book with your thoughts and observations.
6. Feel free to read more than one book.
7. Come to school in September ready to write and talk about the book you chose.
8. Participate in an in-school book club discussion with teachers and students who chose the same book as you.
9. Enjoy reading!

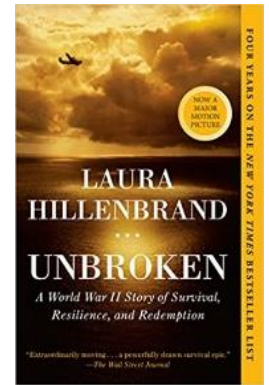
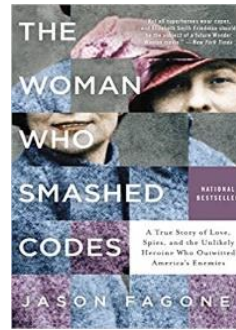
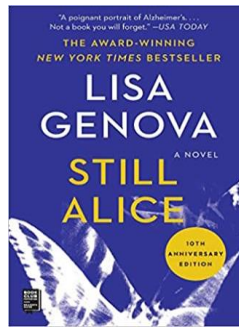
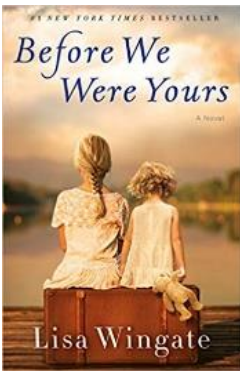
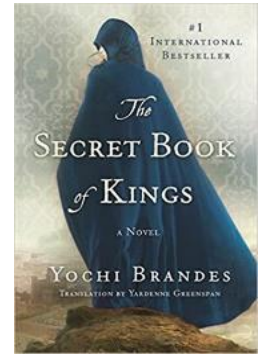
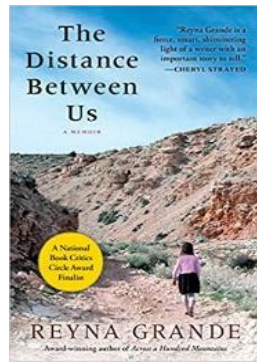
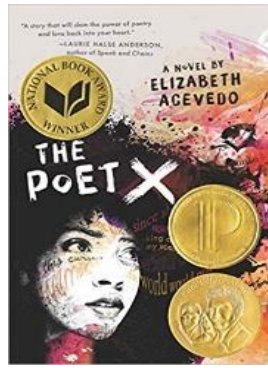
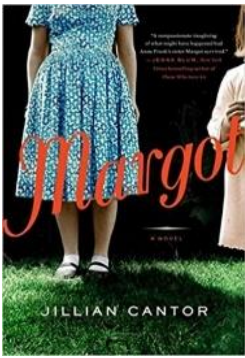
Please fill out this form to indicate your choice: [Click here](#)

We are looking forward to meeting you in person and exploring literature together.

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!

Ms. Kur and Mrs. Isseroff

Please choose **one** work from the list below.



2021 Summer Reading Choice Novels
Click on the images to learn more about the books.

