

Tolle Lege Take Up and Read

Austin Preparatory School

Summer Reading

2022



Upper School students are responsible for reading a **minimum of 2 books*** this summer. All students will:

1. Read [*Carry On: A Story of Resilience, Redemption, and an Unlikely Family*](#) by Lisa Fenn. A test will be given on this nonfiction selection the week of September 12th.
2. Select an additional novel from the Tolle Lege Austin Prep Summer Reading List. Students must purchase a **hard copy of the book and annotate** as they read the book they selected from this list and bring it to their English teacher the week of September 12th. Annotation expectations can be found at the bottom of this document.

AP Language or Literature students are required to read the all-school read as well as these additional texts:

AP Language & Composition-- [*The Element*](#) by Ken Robinson and Chapters 1-5 of [*Reading Like a Writer*](#)

AP Literature-- [*Of Mice and Men*](#) by John Steinbeck, [*1984*](#) by George Orwell, [*Invisible Man*](#) by Ralph Ellison, and [*The Great Gatsby*](#) by F. Scott Fitzgerald

All-School Read- Required for all Upper School students

Tolle Lege - Take Up and Read! Summer Reading List 2022

[*Ms. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs](#)

Recommended by Emma Guthrie Class of 2022 and Member of the State Championship Girls' Hockey Team

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling

ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive.

[The Tattooist of Auschwitz](#) by Heather Morris

Recommended by Patricia Bibeau Class of 2022 Student Body President

In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a Tätowierer (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners. Imprisoned for over two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive. One day in July 1942, Lale, prisoner 32407, comforts a trembling young woman waiting in line to have the number 34902 tattooed onto her arm. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her.

[Murder on the Orient Express](#) by Agatha Christie

Recommended by Maranda Bianchi English Medal Winner and Future English Major at University of Aberdeen

“The murderer is with us—on the train now . . .” Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Without a shred of doubt, one of his fellow passengers is the murderer. Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again.

[The Lighthouse Effect](#) by Steve Pemberton

Recommended by Dr. Driscoll Assistant Head/Head of Upper School and book enthusiast

Our polarized, divisive culture seems to be without heroes and role models. We are adrift in a dark sea of disillusionment and distrust and we need "human lighthouses" to give us hope and direct us back to the goodness in each other and in our own hearts. Steve Pemberton found a lighthouse in an ordinary man named John Sykes, his former high school counselor. John gave Steve a safe harbor after Steve escaped an abusive foster home and together they navigated a new path that led to personal and professional success. Through stories of people like John and several others, you will identify how the hardships you have overcome equip you to be a "human lighthouse," inspiring those around you. The humble gestures of kindness that change the course of our lives can shift the course for America too. With a unique vision for building up individuals and communities and restoring trust, The Lighthouse Effect opens your eyes to those who are quietly heroic. You will reflect on the lighthouses in your own life and be reminded that the greatest heroes are alongside us--and within us.

[A Thousand Splendid Suns](#) by Khaled Housseini *sensitive topics discussed*

Recommended by Stephanie Choate Lumen Award winner and English Department Chair

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her

family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival. A stunning accomplishment, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a haunting, heartbreaking, compelling story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love.

***The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore**

Recommended by Nicole Putney moderator of The Legend Newspaper and Austin Authors

The chilling truth is that his story could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his. In December 2000, the Baltimore Sun ran a small piece about Wes Moore, a local student who had just received a Rhodes Scholarship. The same paper also ran a series of articles about four young men who had allegedly killed a police officer in a spectacularly botched armed robbery. The police were still hunting for two of the suspects who had gone on the lam, a pair of brothers. One was named Wes Moore. After following the story of the robbery, the manhunt, and the trial to its conclusion, he wrote a letter to the other Wes, now a convicted murderer serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. His letter tentatively asked the questions that had been haunting him: Who are you? How did this happen? That letter led to a correspondence and relationship that have lasted for several years. At each stage of their young lives they had come across similar moments of decision, yet their choices would lead them to astonishingly different destinies.

***Yes No Maybe So* by Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed**

Recommended by History Teacher and civics enthusiast Kristen Donnelly

YES. Jamie Goldberg is cool with volunteering for his local state senate candidate—as long as he’s behind the scenes. When it comes to speaking to strangers (or, let’s face it, speaking at all to almost anyone) Jamie’s a choke artist. There’s no way he’d ever knock on doors to ask people for their votes...until he meets Maya. NO. Maya Rehman’s having the worst Ramadan ever. Her best friend is too busy to hang out, her summer trip is canceled, and now her parents are separating. Why her mother thinks the solution to her problems is political canvassing—with some awkward dude she hardly knows—is beyond her. MAYBE SO. Going door to door isn’t exactly glamorous, but maybe it’s not the worst thing in the world. After all, the polls are getting closer—and so are Maya and Jamie. Mastering local activism is one thing. Navigating the cross-cultural crush of the century is another thing entirely.

***Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi**

Recommended by Jennifer Gaudette English teacher and memoir advocate

In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah’s regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran’s last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country. *Persepolis* paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane’s child’s-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, with laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. And, finally, it introduces us to an irresistible little girl with whom we cannot help but fall in love.

***The Omnivore’s Dilemma* by Michael Pollan (Young Readers Edition)**

Recommended by Claudia Colannino Registrar and Barnes and Noble expert

“What’s for dinner?” seemed like a simple question—until journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes. From fast food and big organic to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, this young readers’ adaptation of Pollan’s famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices. In a smart, compelling format with updated facts, plenty of photos, graphs, and visuals, as well as a new afterword and backmatter, *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* serves up a bold message to the generation that needs it most: It’s time to take charge of our national eating habits—and it starts with you.

Austin Prep 2022 Summer Reading Assignments

All Upper School students are expected to **annotate** ALL summer reading books.

You are welcome to listen to the audiobook as you read, but you still need to have a copy of the book to annotate as well.

Annotation expectations can be found [here](#); use this [annotation guide](#) or make your own. *If you make your own guide, please include the meanings of your annotations inside the front cover of your book.

Annotations will be checked the week of September 12th.

Summer reading assessments

During the week of September 12th, all students will complete an in-class assessment on *Carry On: A Story of Resilience, Redemption, and an Unlikely Family*

Choice books: all students will be assessed on their reading of their choice book through a skills-based assignment depending on grade level.

More information will be provided by teachers in the fall.