Dear Students,

Student Council recognizes the need for a renewed focus on conversations surrounding racial and cultural literacy following the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, as well as four centuries of systemic racism in this country. We decided that the summer reading lists were an appropriate place to start our conversation and engagement as we continue to affirm that Black Lives Matter. Over the past weeks, we’ve worked with the English department to analyze the current reading lists and collate a list of titles with a special significance as books, poems, and plays written by authors who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. The lists already contain a rich array of valuable works, but we’ve picked out titles particularly relevant to initiate critical analysis of our own perspectives. Listed below, these works represent a range of cultural experiences. Student Council challenges students to read one of these books, whether it be from the English list or general list, and to think deeply about their implications in relation to current events. We strongly urge you to choose a book outside of your own experience that broadens your thinking.

When we return to school, we plan to host discussions with peers and faculty about these works and their context and ramifications in American society. We encourage you to translate your reading and discussion into tangible action in your community in the span of the next school year. Further, we’ll hold a student-body-wide contest as a way for students to reflect on their role in connecting personal learning to community action through essays, films, and other art forms.

Our ultimate goal is to institute a high school-wide read of a book about race in America next summer, but for now we are making this personal effort to educate ourselves.

If you are interested in helping with facilitating discussions throughout the year and/or being part of a group tasked with choosing the all-school-read, please let us know at studentcouncil@email.usn.org.

Amidst this time of cultural change, we’re using summer reading to learn more about the political and social makings of injustice in America and the world.

We hope you’ll join us.

Oscar Fox, Michael Gordon, Neha Saggi, and Esha Karam
Student Council ‘21
Freshmen

Acevedo, *The Poet X*
Adichie, *Purple Hibiscus*
Ahmed, *Internment*
Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies*
Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
Gaines, *A Lesson Before Dying*
Haley, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*
Karim, *That Thing We Call a Heart*
Lahiri, *The Namesake*
McBride, *The Color of Water*
Mishima, *The Sound of Waves*
Noah, *Born a Crime*
Olivares, *Citizen Illegal +*
Slater, *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives*
Sotomayor, *My Beloved World*
Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
Thomas, *The Hate U Give*
Verghese, *Cutting for Stone*
Wright, *Black Boy*
Yi, *Our Twisted Hero*
Yoon, *The Sun Is Also a Star*

Sophomores

Aaronovitch, *Midnight Riot*
Blackman, *Naughts and Crosses*
Johnson, *Selected Poems, also published as Mi Revalueshanary Fren (poetry) +*
Levy, *Small Island*
Raina, *When Morning Comes*
Shukla, *Run, Riot*
Senior, *Gardening in the Tropics*
Smith, *White Teeth*

Juniors

Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*
Baldwin, *Going to Meet the Man: Stories*
Bennet, *The Mothers*
Brinkley, *A Lucky Man*
Clifton, *Blessing the Boats*
Diaz, *Drown*
Dove, *Thomas and Beluah*
Dyson, *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*
Erdrich, *The Round House*
Harjo, *A Map to the Next World*
Lewis, *Voyage of the Sable Venus*
McBride, *The Good Lord Bird*
Rum, *A Woman Is No Man*
Smith, *Life on Mars*
Stack, *All our Kin: Strategies for Survival in a Black Community*
Wright, *Native Son*

**Seniors**

Achebe, *Anthills of the Savannah*
Adiga, *The White Tiger*
Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*
Gyasi, *Homegoing*
Halberstam, *The Children*
Hosseini, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*
Lee, *Pachinko*
Lispector, *Family Ties*
Lorde, *The Black Unicorn*
Mahfouz, *Fountain and Tomb*
Mai, *The Mountains Sing*
Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude (Translation of Cien Años de Soledad)*
Morrison, *Sula*
Murakami, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*
Naipaul, *A House for Mr. Biswas*
Neruda, *Residence on Earth*
Nguyen, *The Sympathizer*
Obama, *Becoming*
Orange, *There There*
Ozeki, *A Tale for the Time Being*
Rushdie, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*
Smith, *Swing Time*
Soseki, *Botchan*
Tan, *The Bonesetter’s Daughter*
Tsukiyama, *The Samurai’s Garden*
Zafon, *The Shadow of the Wind*