**Summer Reading Recommendations**

**High School**

**Non Fiction**

Dau, John Bul. *God Grew Tired of Us*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2007.

Dau recounts life in Sudan before civil war and his escape to Ethiopia. As one of the Lost Boys of Sudan,

Dau left Ethiopia and walked through Sudan to Kenya where he lived in a refugee camp for many years

before coming to the United States.

Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and*

*Hope*. New York: William Morrow, 2009.

The autobiography of a young Malawian boy whose village suffers extreme drought and famine. His

interest in inventions and science leads him to build a windmill for his village, bringing electricity and

water.

Kidder, Tracy. *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. New York: Random House, 2003.

A biographical look at Dr. Paul Farmer, the founder of Partners in Health, and the work of the

organization in Haiti and Central America.

Maathai, Wangari. *Unbowed: A Memoir*. New York: Anchor Books, 2007.

Kenyan environmentalist, feminist, and political activist Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace

Prize, tells her life story.

Margonelli, Lisa. *Oil on the Brain: Petroleum’s Long, Strange Trip to Your Tank*. New York: Broadway Books,

2008.

An account of the oil industry -- the people, economies, and pipelines that bring us petroleum -- brilliantly

illuminating a world we encounter every day.

Marlowe, Jen. *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival*. New York: Nation Books, 2006.

A collection of true stories recounting the history, hopes, fears, and resilience of dozens of Darfurians who

survived the violence of the 2003 rebellion against the Sudanese government.

Yunus, Muhammad. *Banker to the Poor: Microlending and the Battle Against World Poverty*. New York:

PublicAffairs, 2003.

Yunus discusses the obstacles he overcame in setting up a bank devoted to providing the poor of

Bangladesh with small loans.

**Fiction**

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. *Ten Things I Hate About Me*. New York: Orchard Books, 2009.

A story about a Lebanese-Australian teenager and her struggle with her identity.

Adichie, Chimamanda. *Purple Hibiscus: A Novel*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 2003.

The tragic story of a privileged family in Nigeria.

Draper, Sharon M. *Copper Sun*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006.

A Coretta Scott King Award winner. About the Slave Trade through the eyes of an Ashanti girl forced into

slavery.

Kwok, Jean. *Girl in Translation*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2010.

The story of a mother and daughter who immigrate to Brooklyn in the 1980s and their trials and resilience.

Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out & Back Again*. New York: Harper, 2011.

The most recent National Book Award winner. About a young Vietnamese refugee and her family, forced

to leave the country during the Vietnam War and settled in Alabama. Written in free-verse.

Marston, Elsa. *Santa Claus in Baghdad: Stories about Teens in the Arab World*. Bloomington: Indiana University

Press, 2008.

Also published as *Figs and Fate*, this collection of short stories explores teen life in Iraq, Tunisia, Egypt, the

West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and a Palestinian refugee camp.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2002.

A collection of poetry about the Middle East, from the author of *Habibi*.

**Graphic Novels**

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*. New York: Pantheon Books, 2003.

Satrapi’s accounts of her childhood growing up in Iran in the 1970s.

Tran, G.B. *Vietnamerica: A Family’s Journey*. New York: Villard Books, 2010.

A memoir in graphic novel format about the author’s experiences as the son of Vietnamese immigrants

who fled to America during the fall of Saigon.

Vaughan, Brian. *Pride of Baghdad*. New York: DC Comics, 2006.

A pride of lions escapes from the Baghdad Zoo during the Iraq War and question the meaning of

freedom.

Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese*. New York: First Second, 2006.

Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate

in the popular culture.