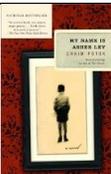
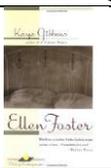
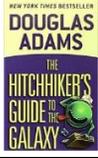
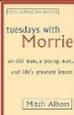


The Big Question: To what degree can one person make a difference?

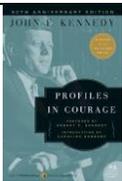
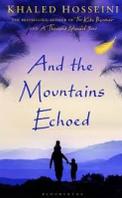
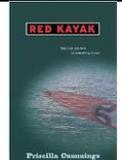
Choose ONE Summer Reading Selection for Grade 9, Abington High School

<p>Inkheart By Cornelia Funke</p>	<p>Characters from books literally leap off the page in this engrossing fantasy. Meggie, 12, has had her father to herself since her mother went away when she was young. Mo taught her to read when she was five, and the two share a mutual love of books. Things change after a visit from a scarred man who calls himself Dustfinger and who refers to Mo as Silvertongue. Meggie learns that her father can “read” characters out of books. When she was three, he read aloud from a book called Inkheart and released Dustfinger and other characters into the real world. At the same time, Meggie’s mother disappeared into the story.</p>
	<p>In this stirring and often visionary novel, Potok traces Asher’s passage between two identities, one consecrated to God, the other subject only to the imagination. Asher Lev grows up in a cloistered community in post WWII Brooklyn, a world suffused by ritual and revolving around a charismatic Rebbe. But in time his artistic talent threatens to estrange him from that world and the parents he adores. As it follows his struggle, <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i> becomes a luminous portrait of the artist, by turns heartbreaking and exultant.</p>
<p>My Name is Asher Lev By Chaim Potok</p>	<p>Ellen Foster is an 11-year-old who has been dealt a rotten hand in life. Her early childhood is spent with a sickly mother and an alcoholic and abusive father. After her mother commits suicide (was it murder?) Ellen goes to live alone with her father, doing the best she can to avoid being abused. When the courts finally take action, she is sent to live with her grandmother, a bitter and spiteful woman. Yet when her grandmother dies, Ellen manages to take charge of her own life. This beautifully written story, compelling in its innocence, is sweet, funny, and sad.</p>
	<p>Join Douglas Adams’s hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You’ll never read funnier science fiction; Adams is a master of intelligent satire, barbed wit, and comedic dialogue. The Hitchhiker’s guide is rich in comedic detail and thought-provoking situations and stands up to multiple reads. Required reading for science-fiction fans, this book (and its follow-ups) is also sure to please fans of Monty Python, Terry Pratchett’s Discworld series and British sitcoms.</p>
<p>Ellen Foster By Kay Gibbons §</p>	<p>A contemporary retelling of the Romeo and Juliet story. Sixteen-year-old Julio Montague’s parents have moved their family to Cincinnati, OH, in order to get their son out of his gang-ridden high school in Corpus Christi, TX. Romiette Cappelle, also 16, is the daughter of successful African-American parents and the granddaughter of college professors. When these two young people, both from proud heritages, begin a romance, they must deal not only with their parents’ prejudices but also with the threats of a local gang.</p>
	<p>This true story about the love between a spiritual mentor and his pupil has soared to the bestseller list for many reasons. For starters: it reminds us of the affection and gratitude that many of us still feel for the significant mentors of our past. It also plays out the fantasy many of us have entertained: what would it be like to look those people up again, tell them how much they meant to us, and maybe even resume the mentorship?</p>
<p>The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy By Douglas Adams</p>	<p>No one knows why Juliette’s touch is fatal. The Reestablishment has plans for her. Plans to use her as a weapon. But Juliette has plans of her own. After a lifetime without freedom, she’s finally discovering a strength to fight back for the very first time—and to find a future with the one boy she thought she’d lost forever. In an electrifying debut, Tahreh Mafi presents a riveting dystopian world, a thrilling superhero story, and an unforgettable heroine.</p>
	<p>Romiette and Julio By Sharon Draper</p>
	<p>Tuesdays with Morrie By Mitch Albom</p>
	<p>Shatter Me By Tahreh Mafi</p>
	

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§ This book was written for adults or young adults and contains some mature language and/or content.

The Big Question: To what degree can one person make a difference?
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<p><u>Profiles in Courage</u> By John F. Kennedy</p> 	<p>In 1954-55, a freshman U.S. senator from Massachusetts wrote a book profiling eight of his historical Senatorial colleagues, such men as John Quincy Adams, Sam Houston, and Robert A. Taft. Instead of focusing on their storied careers, John F. Kennedy chose to illustrate their acts of integrity, when they stood alone against tremendous political and social pressure for what they felt was right.</p>
<p><u>And the Mountains Echoed</u> By Khalid Hosseini §</p> 	<p>Khaled Hosseini, the #1 <i>New York Times</i>–bestselling author of <i>The Kite Runner</i> and <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>, has written a new novel. In this tale revolving around not just parents and children but brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers, Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most. Following its characters and the ramifications of their lives and choices and loves around the globe—from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos—the story expands gradually outward, becoming more emotionally complex and powerful with each turning page.</p>
<p><u>Red Kayak</u> By Priscilla Cummings</p> 	<p>In this satisfying crime and coming of age drama, Brady’s friends commit a mean-spirited prank—but no one was supposed to die. What happens now? Revealing the terrible secret would implicate Brady’s friends in the drowning, and it clouds his whole world with guilt and fear. Cummings’s works plot and characterizations skillfully building suspense as the evidence unfolds and as Brady wrestles with his decision and tries to come to terms with his own responsibility.</p>

*The titles on this list were inspired by the Braintree Public Schools Summer Reading list for Grade 9.

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