

# Honors 12 Suggested Summer Reading List

## 1. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

*The Alchemist* is the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist.

## 2. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Society* by Jared Diamond

Diamond details the rise and fall of various human societies throughout world history, explaining the dominance of Eurasian cultures due to their technological and

immunologic advantages, stemming from the early rise of agriculture after the last Ice Age.

## 3. *The Forever War* by Dexter Filkins

*The Forever War* is a non-fiction book by American journalist Dexter Filkins about his observations on assignment in Afghanistan and Iraq during the 2001 War in Afghanistan and the Iraq War.

## 4. *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell

Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of “outliers” -- the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band.

## 5. *Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer

A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that “suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down.” He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more - including Krakauer’s-- in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer’s epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

## 6. *Where Men Win Glory* by Jon Krakauer

*Where Men Win Glory*, a 2009 book written by Jon Krakauer, is a biography of Pat Tillman, an American football player who left his professional career in the NFL and enlisted in the United States Army after the 9/11 attacks.

## 7. *John Adams* by David McCullough

David McCullough unfolds the adventurous life journey of John Adams, the brilliant, fiercely independent, often irascible, always honest Yankee patriot who spared nothing in his zeal for the American Revolution; who rose to become the second president of the United States and saved the country from blundering into an unnecessary war; who was learned beyond all but a few and regarded by some as “out of his senses;” and whose marriage to the wise and valiant Abigail Adams is one of the most moving love stories in American history.

## 8. *The Wilderness World of John Muir* by Edwin Way Teale (editor)

As a conservationist, John Muir traveled through most of the American wilderness alone and on foot, without a gun or a sleeping bag. In 1903, while on a three-day camping trip with President Theodore Roosevelt, he convinced the president of the importance of a national conservation program, and he is widely recognized for saving the Grand Canyon and Arizona’s Petrified Forest. Muir’s writing, based on journals he kept throughout his life, gives our generation a picture of an America still wild and unsettled only one hundred years ago.