Emerson Summer Read 2016
Here are FIVE summer books to keep you reading throughout the summer. Please choose at least ONE book to read. You will join a discussion group during our 2016 EPIC days in September. If you read more than one (or all five!), you can select your favorite and join that book club for the discussion. Enjoy!

Non-Fiction
**The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights** by Steve Sheinkin
On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks, critically injuring off-duty men in their bunks, and shattering windows up to a mile away. On August 9th, 244 men refused to go back to work until unsafe and unfair conditions at the docks were addressed. When the dust settled, fifty were charged with mutiny, facing decades in jail and even execution. This is a fascinating story of the prejudice that faced black men and women in America's armed forces during World War II, and a nuanced look at those who gave their lives in service of a country where they lacked the most basic rights.

Fiction
**Zen and the Art of Faking It** by Jordan Sonnenblick
Meet San Lee, a (sort of) innocent teenager, who moves against his will to a new town. Things get interesting when he (sort of) invents a new past for himself, which makes him incredibly popular. In fact, his whole school starts to (sort of) worship him, just because he (sort of) accidentally gave the impression that he's a reincarnated mystic.

When things start to unravel, San needs to find some real wisdom in a hurry. Can he patch things up with his family, save himself from bodily harm, stop being an outcast, and maybe even get the girl?

Fantasy
**The Conch Bearer** by Chitra Banerjee Divakarun
In a dingy shack in the less-than-desirable neighborhood in India that he calls home, twelve-year-old Anand is entrusted with a conch shell that possesses mystical powers. His task is to return the shell to its rightful home many hundreds of miles away. Accompanying him are Nisha, a headstrong but resourceful child of the streets, and a mysterious man of indeterminate age and surprising resources named Abadhyatta. His quest will take him farther from home than he's ever been and will teach him more than he ever imagined -- and it will force him to make a poignant decision that will change him forever.

Graphic Novel
**Awkward** by Svetlana Chmakova
On her first day at her new school, Penelope--Peppi--Torres reminds herself of the basics. But when she trips into a quiet boy in the hall, Jaime Thompson, she's already broken the first rule, and the mean kids start calling her the "nerder girlfriend." How does she handle this crisis? By shoving poor Jaime and running away!
Falling back on rule two and surrounding herself with new friends in the art club, Peppi still can't help feeling ashamed about the way she treated Jaime. Things are already awkward enough between the two, but to make matters worse, he's a member of her own club's archrivals—the science club! And when the two clubs go to war, Peppi realizes that sometimes you have to break the rules to survive middle school!


Classic

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

Tom and Huck Finn conceal themselves in the town cemetery, where they witness a grave robbery and a murder. Later, the boys, feeling unappreciated, hide out on a forested island while the townspeople conduct a frantic search and finally mourn them as dead. The friends triumphantly return to town to attend their own funeral, in time for a dramatic trial for the graveyard murder. A three-day ordeal ensues when Tom and his sweetheart, Becky Thatcher, lose their way in the very cave that conceals the murderer.

With its hilarious accounts of boyish pranks and its shrewd assessments of human nature, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* has captivated generations of readers of all ages.


Buy the books through your favorite local or online retailer, or order one of these books through Emerson's textbook retailer, MBS Direct at [http://www.mbsdirect.net/](http://www.mbsdirect.net/) (search for Emerson School).