

Welcome to Bookaneers Book Club. We are excited that you're interested in joining our group! The mission of Allatoona's student book club is to expand members' personal literary experiences by reading and discussing works chosen by students in a friendly atmosphere.

We aim to promote

- A love of reading**
- A familiarity with popular books in various genres**
- A willingness to lead and participate in book discussions**

Potential benefits of participation in book club include

- Improved academic achievement**
- Increased reading comprehension**
- Improved verbal communication skills**
- Enhanced appreciation of literature**

MEETING DATES & TIMES

Bookaneers Book Club will meet in the Allatoona Library Reference Room on Thursday mornings and afternoons to accommodate the schedules of all members; Students may choose the meeting that works best for their schedule.

Morning meetings will begin at 7:45 AM and end before the bell rings at 8:20. Afternoon meetings will start at 3:30 and end by 4:30. Meetings center around student-led discussions and snacks.

We will plan to meet in December, February, March, April to discuss our book choices. Our end of year celebration/Book Potluck will be in early May.

Books

We will focus on different literary genres to grow our appreciation for a variety of book types. The following titles were selected by Mrs. Cochran and book club members will vote on the final selections for our meetings this year. Though each has been reviewed for age-appropriateness, interest and literary merit, students are not required to read every single book on this list. Books may be borrowed from the Allatoona Library or from the Cobb Public Library.

Holiday Romance: *10 Blind Dates* by Ashley Elston

Sophie wants one thing for Christmas—a little freedom from her overprotective parents. So when they decide to spend Christmas in South Louisiana with her very pregnant older sister, Sophie is looking forward to some much needed private time with her long-term boyfriend, Griffin. Except it turns out that Griffin wants a little freedom from their relationship. Cue devastation.

Heartbroken, Sophie flees to her grandparents' house, where the rest of her boisterous extended family is gathered for the holiday. That's when her nonna devises a (not so) brilliant plan: Over the next ten days, Sophie will be set up on ten different blind dates by different family members. Like her sweet cousin Sara, who sets her up with a hot guy at an exclusive underground party. Or her crazy aunt Patrice, who signs Sophie up for a lead role in a living nativity. With a boy who barely reaches her shoulder. And a screaming baby.

When Griffin turns up unexpectedly and begs for a second chance, Sophie feels more confused than ever. Because maybe, just maybe, she's started to have feelings for someone else . . .

Someone who is definitely not available.

This is going to be the worst Christmas break ever... or is it? Ages 12 & up

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We will read this during the rest of October/November and gather in December to discuss during our annual Holiday Party!

Potential 2nd Semester Books- we will vote!

Thriller: *Girl Forgotten* by A. Henry

Seventeen years ago, Layla Trello was murdered and her killer was never found. Enter true-crime fan Piper Gray, who is determined to reopen Layla's case and get some answers. With the help of Jonas—who has a secret of his own—Piper starts a podcast investigating Layla's murder. But as she digs deeper into the mysteries of the past, Piper begins receiving anonymous threats telling her to back off the investigation, or else. The killer is still out there, and Piper must uncover their identity before they silence her forever. Ages 12 & u

Whodunnit: *Two Truths and a Lie* by A. Henry

Nell has always wanted to be an actor, but she doubts her ability. As a member of her school's theater program, she prefers working backstage. On the way to a contest, an unexpected blizzard strands her acting troupe in a creepy motel. Soon they meet a group of strangers from another high school—including the mysterious and handsome Knox, who insists they play the game *Two Truths and a Lie*. When it's Nell's turn, she draws a slip of paper written in unfamiliar handwriting: I like to watch people die. I've lost count of how many people I've killed. Suddenly a night of harmless fun turns into a matter of life and death. As guests go missing, it becomes clear that a murderer is hiding in their midst ready to strike again. In a room full of liars and performers, the truth is never quite what it seems. Nell is going to have to act like her life depends on it—because it does. Ages 12 & up.

Dystopian/Sci-Fi: *The Memory Index* by J.Vaca

In an alternative 1987, a disease ravages human memories. There is no cure, only artificial recall. The lucky ones—the recollectors—need the treatment only once a day.

Freya Izquierdo isn't lucky. The high school senior is a “degen” who needs artificial recall several times a day. Plagued by blinding half-memories that take her to her knees, she's desperate to remember everything that will help her investigate her father's violent death. When her sleuthing almost lands her in jail, a shadowy school dean selects her to attend his Foxtail Academy, where five hundred students will trial a new tech said to make artificial recall obsolete.

She's the only degen on campus. Why was she chosen?

Nothing can prepare Freya and her friends for the truth of what that bunker holds. And what kind of memories she'll have to access to survive it. Ages 13 & up.

Historical Fiction: *The Downstairs Girl* by S. Lee

By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for the genteel Southern lady, "Dear Miss Sweetie." When her column becomes wildly popular, she uses the power of the pen to address some of society's ills, but she's not prepared for the backlash that follows when her column challenges fixed ideas about race and gender. While her opponents clamor to uncover the secret identity of Miss Sweetie, a mysterious letter sets Jo off on a search for her own past and the parents who abandoned her as a baby. But when her efforts put her in the crosshairs of Atlanta's most notorious criminal, Jo must decide whether she, a girl used to living in the shadows, is ready to step into the light. With prose that is witty, insightful, and at times heartbreaking, Stacey Lee masterfully crafts an extraordinary social drama set in the New South. Ages 12 & up

Mystery: *The Summer We Forgot* by C. George

Caroline George once again transports readers with lush, evocative prose, leading them to ask the question: what happens when we can't even trust ourselves?

Some memories are better left forgotten. Darby and Morgan haven't spoken for two years, and their friend group has splintered. But when the body of their former science teacher is found in the marsh where they attended camp that summer, they realize they have more questions than answers . . . and even fewer memories. No one remembers—or no one is talking.

The group of reunited friends begins to suspect that a murderer is stalking the coastal highway 30A, and they must try to recover their memories as quickly as possible . . . before the history they can't remember repeats itself. Everyone has a secret. As tensions rise and time runs out, Darby and Morgan begin to wonder if they can believe one another . . . or if they can even trust themselves.

Ages 13 & up

Historical Fiction: *I Must Betray You* by R. Sepetys

Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force. Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe. Cristian risks everything to unmask the truth behind the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country. He eagerly joins the revolution to fight for change when the time arrives. But what is the cost of freedom? Master storyteller Ruta Sepetys is back with a historical thriller that examines the little known history of a nation defined by silence, pain, and the unwavering conviction of the human spirit. Ages 12 & up

Allatoona Bookaneers Book Club Permission Form

My student _____
has my permission to participate in the 2023-24
Bookaneers Book Club.

I understand that my student may, but is not
required to read every book on the list.

Parent/Guardian signature & date

Student signature & date

