



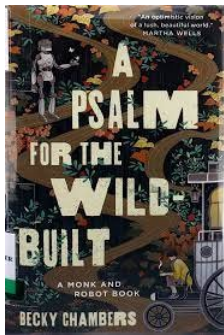
# EPS Upper School Summer Reading 2023-24

Happy Summer! We are going to be doing summer reading in full grade levels this year!

**Instructions:** Read the book which corresponds to your grade level. Then, in your Literature course on Canvas be prepared to upload **one page** on something that interests you about this book. The form of this one single page is up to you – it could be a creative writing piece, short analytical response, a personal reaction, a poem– but it should capture your thinking on the book and **use two quotes**. Additionally, upload **two discussion questions**.

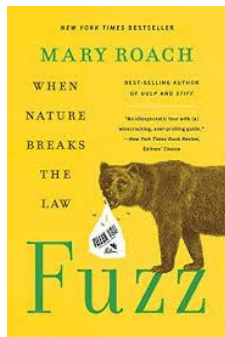
You will review these in your Literature class and then have a book discussion in your advisory group. **This assignment will be due on the first full day of block classes Tuesday, September 5/Wednesday, September 6.**

## 9th grade: *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers



It's been centuries since the robots of Panga gained self-awareness and laid down their tools; centuries since they wandered, en masse, into the wilderness, never to be seen again; centuries since they faded into myth and urban legend. One day, the life of a tea monk is upended by the arrival of a robot, there to honor the old promise of checking in. The robot cannot go back until the question of "what do people need?" is answered. But the answer to that question depends on who you ask, and how. They're going to need to ask it a *lot*. In a world where people have what they want, does having more matter? (from [Amazon](#))

## 10th grade: *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach



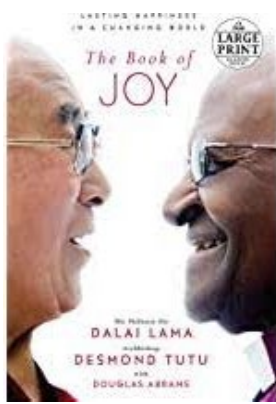
Science writer Mary Roach investigates the unpredictable world where wildlife and humans meet. What's to be done about a jaywalking moose? A bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? Roach tags along with animal-attack forensics investigators, human-elephant conflict specialists, bear managers, and "danger tree" faller blasters. She travels from leopard-terrorized hamlets in the Indian Himalaya to St. Peter's Square in the early hours before the pope arrives for Easter Mass, when vandal gulls swoop in to destroy the elaborate floral display. She taste-tests rat bait, learns how to install a vulture effigy, and gets mugged by a macaque. When it comes to "problem" wildlife, she finds, humans are more often the problem—and the solution. (adapted from [Amazon](#))

**11th grade:** *The Sasquatch Hunter's Almanac* by Sharma Shields



Eli Roebuck was nine years old when his mother walked off into the woods with "Mr. Krantz," a large, strange, hairy man who may or may not be a sasquatch. What Eli knows for certain is that his mother went willingly, leaving her only son behind. For the rest of his life, Eli is obsessed with the hunt for the bizarre creature his mother chose over him, affecting every relationship he has in his long life—with his father, with both of his wives, his children, grandchildren, and colleagues. The Roebuck family members each battle a monster of his or her own, revealing a real portrait of the demons that human beings all face. (from [Amazon](#))

**12th grade:** *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Douglas Carlton Abrams



Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships—or, as they would say, because of them—they are two of the most joyful people on the planet. In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering? They traded intimate stories, teased each other continually, and shared their spiritual practices. By the end of a week filled with laughter and punctuated with tears, these two global heroes had stared into the abyss and despair of our time and revealed how to live a life brimming with joy. (from [Amazon](#))

**Psst...by the way! A good discussion question can be...**

- Clear and easy to understand
- Foster a dialogue
- Something that can't be answered with a yes or no
- Part of the book you liked and see if others liked it for the same reason (or not)
- Identifying a theme or a universal truth within the text
- Something that connects to something outside of the text
- Something that shows your deeper thinking about the language
- Considers an author's point of view, argument, purpose
- Asks for opinions on a character
- Compares two things in the book
- Opens up space for others to offer their own opinions

If you are having trouble accessing these books, or have questions about the assignment contact:

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