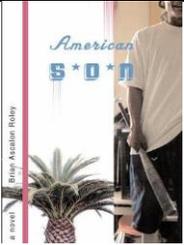
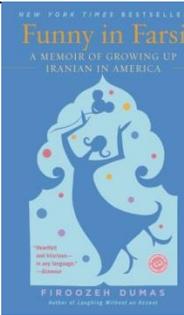


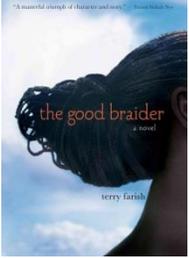
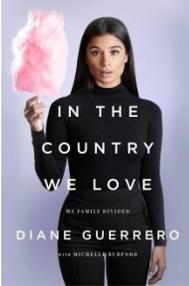
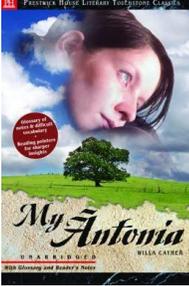
Tantasqua Regional High School Summer Reading 2017

One Question: What is the American Dream?

All of the books on the list below ask students to examine the meaning of the American Dream. The books were reviewed and chosen by students and staff after much deliberation. Factors taken in to consideration were interest level, literary quality, difficulty level, point of view and range of cultures represented. The list aligns with Tantasqua Regional High School's statement of core value and beliefs by providing opportunities to understand and appreciate the experiences of people in our multicultural world. **Students should choose 1 book from this list to read.**

<p>F ROL</p> 	<p><u>American Son</u></p> <p>Told with a hard-edged purity that brings to mind Cormac McCarthy and Denis Johnson, <i>American Son</i> is the story of two Filipino brothers adrift in contemporary California. The older brother, Tomas, fashions himself into a Mexican gangster and breeds pricey attack dogs, which he trains in German and sells to Hollywood celebrities. The narrator is younger brother Gabe, who tries to avoid the tar pit of Tomas's waywardness, yet moves ever closer to embracing it. Their mother, who moved to America to escape the caste system of Manila and is now divorced from their American father, struggles to keep her sons in line while working two dead-end jobs. When Gabe runs away, he brings shame and unforeseen consequences to the family. Full of the ache of being caught in a violent and alienating world, <i>American Son</i> is a debut novel that captures the underbelly of the modern immigrant experience.</p>	<p>Roley, Brian Ascalon</p>
<p>F NG</p> 	<p><u>Everything I Never Told You</u></p> <p>Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet." So begins this exquisite novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia's body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos. A profoundly moving story of family, secrets, and longing, <i>Everything I Never Told You</i> is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another.</p>	<p>Ng, Celeste</p>
<p>YA 92 DUM</p> 	<p><u>Funny In Farsi</u></p> <p>In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since.</p> <p><i>Funny in Farsi</i> chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on <i>Bowling for Dollars</i> and in Las Vegas, and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie, and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot.</p>	<p>Dumas, Firoozeh</p>

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<p>F FAR</p> 	<p><u>The Good Braider</u></p>	<p>Farish, Terry</p>
<p>YA 92 GUE</p> 	<p><u>In the Country We Love: My Family Divided</u></p>	<p>Guerrero, Diane</p>
<p>F CAT</p> 	<p><u>My Antonia</u></p>	<p>Cather, Willa</p>
<p>YA 629.8 DAV</p> 	<p><u>Spare Parts: four undocumented teenagers, one ugly robot, and the battle for the American dream</u></p>	<p>Davis, Joshua</p>

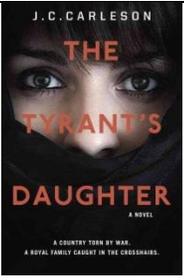
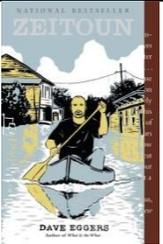
In spare free verse laced with unforgettable images, Viola's strikingly original voice sings out the story of her family's journey from war-torn Sudan, to Cairo, and finally to Portland, Maine. Here, in the sometimes too close embrace of the local Southern Sudanese Community, she dreams of South Sudan while she tries to navigate the strange world of America—a world where a girl can wear a short skirt, get a tattoo, or even date a boy; a world that puts her into sharp conflict with her traditional mother who, like Viola, is struggling to braid together the strands of a displaced life. Terry Farish's haunting novel is not only a riveting story of escape and survival, but the universal tale of a young immigrant's struggle to build a life on the cusp of two cultures.

Diane Guerrero, the television actress from the megahit *Orange is the New Black* and *Jane the Virgin*, was just fourteen years old on the day her parents were detained and deported while she was at school. Born in the U.S., Guerrero was able to remain in the country and continue her education, depending on the kindness of family friends who took her in and helped her build a life and a successful acting career for herself, without the support system of her family. *In the Country We Love* is a moving, heartbreaking story of one woman's extraordinary resilience in the face of the nightmarish struggles of undocumented residents in this country. There are over 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the US, many of whom have citizen children, whose lives here are just as precarious, and whose stories haven't been told.

My Antonia, Willa Cather's vivid portrayal of immigrant life on the American prairie during the nineteenth century, has been a favorite since it first appeared in 1918. The harsh yet forgiving land, the growth and maturity of Jim Burden, the narrator, the intriguing characters, and the force of Antonia's strength all combine to make this novel exceptional. Cather's style perfectly depicts the sparseness of the prairie and the desolation of the immigrants' existence in winter and comes alive when the glory and beauty of spring emerge. Whether you see it as a love story, an indelible portrait of a wise, enduring female character, or a coming-of-age novel, *My Antonia* is deserving of its respected place in American literature.

In 2004, four Latino teenagers arrived at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They were born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where they attended an underfunded public high school. No one had ever suggested to Oscar, Cristian, Luis, or Lorenzo that they might amount to much—but two inspiring science teachers had convinced these impoverished, undocumented kids from the desert who had never even seen the ocean that they should try to build an underwater robot. And build a robot they did. Their robot wasn't pretty, especially compared to those of the competition. They were going up against some of the best collegiate engineers in the country, including a team from MIT backed by a \$10,000 grant from ExxonMobil. The Phoenix teenagers had scraped together less than \$1,000 and built their robot out of scavenged parts. But this is just the beginning for these four, whose story—which became a key inspiration to the DREAMers movement—will go on to include first-generation college graduations, deportation, bean-picking in Mexico, and service in Afghanistan.

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<p>F CAR</p> 	<p><u>The Tyrant's Daughter</u></p>	<p>Carleson, J.C.</p>
<p>976.335 EGG</p> 	<p><u>Zeitoun</u></p>	<p>Eggers, Dave</p>

When her father is killed in a coup, Laila and her mother and brother leave their war-torn homeland for a fresh start in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. At her new high school, Laila makes mistakes, makes friends, and even meets a boy who catches her eye. But this new life brings unsettling facts to light. The American newspapers call her father a brutal dictator and suggest that her family's privilege came at the expense of innocent lives. Meanwhile, her mother would like nothing more than to avenge his death, and she'll go to great lengths to regain their position of power. As an international crisis takes shape around her, Laila is pulled in one direction, then another, but there's no time to sort out her feelings. She has to pick a side *now*, and her decision will affect not just her own life, but countless others. . . .

The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, *Zeitoun* is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.