

June 4, 2018

Humanities

Dear Govies,

I hope you're enjoying the start of a great summer! As returning students know, summer reading is part of our school-wide Humanities course (more on that soon, new students). We don't ask you to write an essay or take a test on your summer reading; we just want you to read carefully/actively so you're ready to write and talk about your reading with a small group of students, faculty, and staff when school starts.

You have five books to choose from, with (you guessed it) one title from each art department. These are all non-fiction, so that's a twist this year. But here's the real kicker: you have to pick a book and join a discussion outside your own art department. That's right: dancers can't read Twyla Tharp and musicians have to choose something other than the biography of Ryan Speedo Green, etc. This is wild experiment in what we might learn when we step outside our own area(s) of interest and expertise. Don't worry. Your faculty and staff are playing along, too. I know of at least a few of them who are very excited to see what happens.

Please see the list below and choose one book to read this summer. Of course, we can't stop you from reading more☺ but one is the requirement. Links to good ol' Amazon are included for more information if you need it. These books are widely available for purchase in bookstores and on-line. Cheap used copies are fine, and several of these are in public libraries statewide. I'm not on e-mail daily during the summer (because, summer) but I'll check in periodically, so please [let me know](#) if you have questions.

All best,



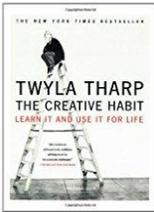
Dr. Jennifer Thomas  
Department Chair  
Academics and Humanities

## Summer Reading 2018

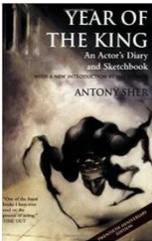
Please choose one of these books. Remember: it has to be outside your art department!



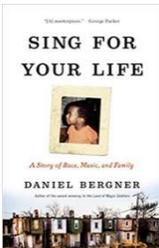
Creative Writing: [One Writer's Beginnings](#) by Eudora Welty (1983). An author's memoir divided into three sections: "Listening" "Learning to See" and "Finding a Voice." Scott Gould (our CW chair) recommended it, but he's willing to give it over to others to explore!



Dance: [The Creative Habit: Learn it and Use it for Life](#) by Twyla Tharp (2006). The choreographer ties her creative process into all art forms, with exercises accompanying each chapter. As her bio puts it, "By combining different forms of movement – such as jazz, ballet, boxing and inventions of her own – Ms. Tharp's work expands the boundaries of ballet and modern dance."



Drama: [Year of the King: An Actor's Diary and Sketchbook](#) by Anthony Sher (1986). A student recommended this reading (Chris Aimone, Drama '18) and Mr. Murray was enthusiastic about what a compelling read it is. The focus is on the actor's preparation to play Shakespeare's king Richard III. Look for this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition if you can!



Music: [Sing for Your Life: A Story of Race, Music, and Family](#) by Daniel Bergner (2016). This is our one biography this year: on a current Metropolitan Opera sensation Ryan Speedo Green. The first sentence—"Ryan Speedo Green did not belong here"—gets at the complexities of his story and the role music plays in his life.



Visual Art: [Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things](#) by Michael Braungart and William McDonough (2002). When this book came up in juries this spring, Mr. Martell and Mr. Gerhardt from the VA department got in touch immediately to let me know what a great fit it would be for summer reading. The authors write about design with an eye to the its environmental impact.