The Book
*Climbing the Stairs, by Padma Venkatraman*
This work of historical fiction follows the life of fifteen-year-old Vidya and her coming of age while dealing with the political instability in her homeland of India. The year is 1941, and her country strives for independence while fending off World War II. Caught between the Indian belief in non-violence and the brutality and horror of war, Vidya and her family must search for their place in a quickly changing world.
This assignment aligns with Common Core curriculum and fiction reading strands.
*The summer assignment can also be found on the Diman website, www.dimanregional.org.

The Assignment
Every student in grade 9 shall be required to read this novel. Students are also required to complete a graphic organizer for the book, which will be handed in on the first day of school. This graphic organizer is required to be handwritten. An in-class assessment will take place on Friday, Sept. 13, for A cycle freshmen, and Monday Sept. 16, for B cycle freshmen. English teachers will also use this book as part of class discussions during the first few weeks of classes.
*Please see the reverse side of this page for honors and IEP student information.

Weight
Summer reading is a mandatory category in all English language arts courses at Diman. Summer reading weighs five percent of the full year’s grade. The graphic organizer will be worth 50 points, while the in-class assessment will account for the other 50 points.

Why this book?
Through the use of this book, students are challenged to look at fellow teenage characters in a cultural setting.

Please read the full description of the book at: https://www.amazon.com/Climbing-Stairs-Padma-Venkatraman/dp/0142414905/ref=sr_1_fkmrnull_1?crid=4D2EF0369204&keywords=climbing+the+stairs+by+padma+venkatraman&qid=1552925623&s=gateway&spprefix=climbing+the+stairs%2Caps%2C251&sr=8-1-fkmrnull
Purchasing the Book
This book is available for purchase on Amazon for $9.49 or as a Kindle or Google ebook for $9.99. Copies are also available to loan from the school library. Library copies are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Attention Honors Parents and Students:
Please contact Mrs. Trish Beaudoin, the ELA department head, at tbeaudoin@dimanregional.org for more information on additional honors work, or go to the summer reading page on www.dimanregional.org.

Attention Parents of Students with IEPs for ELA:
In our continuing effort to best serve students, Diman has expanded our inclusion classes in the areas of English language arts and mathematics. In June, as a parent of a student with an IEP for ELA, you will receive a letter from the Director of Special Education confirming your student’s placement in a substantially separate classroom with a special education instructor or in an inclusion ELA classroom with a general education and a special education teacher. Students in inclusion ELA classes will be required to complete the ELA summer reading assignment with the graphic organizer. Students in the substantially separate ELA classes will not be required to complete the ELA summer assignment.
*Summer assignments and the book graphic organizer can also be found on the Diman website at www.dimanregional.org