SFA’S WINTER BREAK 2019 RECOMMENDATION LIST
From viewers like you

BOOKS

- **Aristoi**
  About: In the future, some people get crazy techno powers to do videoconferencing and genetic manipulation. There is no way this can go wrong!
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Drama, Fantasy, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Animal Cruelty, Animal/pet injury, Blood, Hospitals, Human abuse or exploitation, Pregnancy loss (miscarriage, stillbirth, etc.), Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Torture - mental, Torture - physical, Violence - Gun

- **Every Heart A Doorway** *(by Seanan McGuire)*
  About: hey, those portal fantasies where the protagonist goes home and leaves the really cool magical world are kind of unsatisfying aren’t they? what if we tore out your heart with a story of kids who WANT to go back but can’t?
  Aspects: Fantasy, Queer
  Content Warnings: [Recommender chose not to include warnings]

- **His Dark Materials** *(book trilogy)*
  About: A alternate universe where a everyone has a piece of their soul that is outside their body and takes the form of some animal. The books have excellent world building, interconnected plots, science-y stuff, and nuanced perspectives on religion and the church.
  Aspects: Child-Focused, Fantasy
  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Animal Cruelty, Animal/pet injury, Blood, Child abuse, Human abuse or exploitation, Violence - Miscellaneous (eg, animal attacks)

- **In Other Lands** *(by Sarah Rees Brennan)*
  About: it’s a queer, incredibly meta Harry Potter
  Aspects: Comedy, Fantasy
  Content Warnings: Blood, Child abuse, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior)

- **On the Edge of Gone** *(by Corinne Duyvis)*
  About: the world is ending; the main character is autistic; caring about people in...
difficult situations is important <3

**Aspects:** Sci-Fi, Queer

**Content Warnings:** [Recommender chose not to include warnings]

- **Partners in Crime** *(by Agatha Christie)*

  **Editor's Note:** *The Secret Adversary*, mentioned in the description, is also featured on this list.

  **About:** The sequel to *The Secret Adversary*, Tommy and Tuppence are now living boring lives post-adventure. It's a good thing the British government has asked Tommy for his help! Tuppence, who was, naturally, listening in, insists that she should get to join in to. The mission? Pretend to be detectives running a detective agency. Why? Well the communists were in contact with the old detective, of course. One problem: Tommy and Tuppence don't know anything about being detectives. In order to keep up appearances, they decided to parody difference classic detectives for every case. (If you finish this, you can read the modern webseries adaptation script I (abbey) helped write based on this book -- it's about 180 pages long so a decent read too!)

  **Aspects:** Mystery, Spy

  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Suicide, general ills of the late 1920s, kidnapping (of an adult), murder, blatant anti-communist propaganda

- **Red Mars**

  **About:** This book follows the first 50 years of the colonization of Mars, from the first scientific outpost to a network of cities. Interpersonal drama scales up to political conflict in this hard sci-fi masterwork.

  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Sci-Fi

  **Content Warnings:** Violence - Miscellaneous (eg, animal attacks), Violence (both environmental and human-induced) present but not in extreme detail. Character death.

- **Redshirts** *(by John Scalzi)*

  **About:** Some background characters in a Star Trek style TV show realize that they keep dying because they are background characters in a Star Trek style TV show.

  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Parody, Sci-Fi

  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Violence - Miscellaneous (eg, animal attacks), There are quite a few deaths and at least one kidnapping

- **The Secret Adversary**

  **About:** One of Agatha Christie's more adventure and spy oriented novels, the
Secret Adversary follows Tommy Beresford and Tuppence Cowley as they reunite after the war. Being enterprising young people without jobs, they decided to advertise themselves as "adventurers for hire." Soon, Tommy and Tuppence find themselves in a world of communist plots and double agents.

**Aspects:** Mystery, Spy

**Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Kidnapping (of adults), Murder, blatant anti-communist propaganda, side characters get married who are cousins

- **The Unbinding of Mary Reade**
  **About:** About a sailor named Mary who spent her whole life disguised as a boy. When she encounters the (oh so beautiful) Anne Bonny during a pirate raid, she decides to join Anne and Captain Jack in the hopes they'll get her to Nassau, and reunite her with her childhood friend, Nat, who she hopes to marry. Only, she seems to find herself falling for both Anne and the sense of freedom she's never had before.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Historical Fiction, LGBT Fiction
  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Sexual assault - implied, Sexual assault - speech referenced (including slang), Sexual assault/rape - explicitly depicted, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Violence - Gun, Racism, Sexism, Objectification of Women, Murder

**MOVIES**

- **Descendants 3**
  **About:** Mal and the squad invite over four more villain kids from the Isle. Audrey, mad at how she's been treated and angry at the idea of more vks going to auradon prep, steals maleficents staff and begins cursing all of Auradon. Will Mal be able to use the power of friendship to save the day, or will her lies catch up to her? Also, jammin music and pretty well choreographed dance scenes.
  **Aspects:** Child-Focused, Fantasy, Live Action, Musical
  **Content Warnings:** Character in a coma (discussed or on-screen)

**PODCASTS/AUDIO DRAMAS**

- **The Adventure Zone**
  **About:** DnD Campaign with masterful storytelling and hilarious dynamics
Aspects: Comedy, Drama, Fantasy
Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blood, Gore

TV SHOWS

- **Avatar: The Last Airbender**
  About: Long ago the four nations lived together in harmony, but everything changed when the fire nation attacked. Aang, the Avatar, must stop them. Also all his friends. I cannot tell you how good this is without spoilers, but I promise it is a very good show. Did I mention that it's good?
  Aspects: Cartoon, Child-Focused, Fantasy
  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Animal/pet injury, Violence - Miscellaneous (eg, animal attacks)

- **Doctor Who**
  About: You know that Doctor Who show we've been watching this term? This is like that show, because it is that show. But there's more of it. You should watch more of it.
  Aspects: Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blood, Character in a coma (discussed or on-screen), Insects - Closeup, Insects - flying, Insects - giant, Pregnancy, Spiders or spider-like creatures (esp. closeups), Torture - physical, Violence - Gun, It varies greatly from episode to episode

- **The Dragon Prince**
  About: Two humans and an elf go on a quest to deliver a dragon egg and prove that the humans didn't murder the dragon baby after all! Yay?
  Aspects: Cartoon, Child-Focused, Fantasy
  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Animal/pet injury, Blood, Insects - giant, Spiders or spider-like creatures (esp. closeups)

- **Goblin/Guardian: the Lonely and Great God**
  About: An immortal Korean deity dude and it has great characters. I don't really want to say much because the first episode sets the show up so much better than I could.
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Fantasy, Live Action, it isn't other world type fantasy, it is more like our world but with fantasy in it.
  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blood, Hospitals, Insects - Closeup, Insects - flying, This is a very tear jerker-y show. The first episode has made me cry. Also, this is a korean show, and korean censors are pretty strict, so
it really doesn't get to hardcore. The insects that are in the show is a butterfly, just fyi.

- **Leverage**
  About: Five thieves who steal from the rich and evil. Found family, the evils of capitalism.
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Dramedy, Live Action
  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Character in a coma (discussed or on-screen), Hospitals, Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Needles (injections, IVs, other), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (eg, animal attacks)

- **One Day at a Time (2017)**
  About: I don't feel like doing a summary so here's a quote from Wikipedia: "The show revolves around a Cuban-American family living in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Echo Park, focusing on a single mom who is an Army veteran dealing with PTSD, her kids and her Cuban mother. The re-imagination of the original CBS sitcom tackles issues like mental illness, immigration, sexism, homophobia, and racism that Latinos living in the United States face." It has a canonically nonbinary character so that's neat.
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Comedy, Live Action
  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Character in a coma (discussed or on-screen), Hospitals, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), racism, mental health issues, alcoholism

- **Red Dwarf**
  About: After being put into stasis for bringing an unauthorized pet cat on board, Dave Lister of the mining ship Red Dwarf wakes up three million years in the future as the last human being alive. His only companions are a hologram of his dead bunkmate, and a humanoid creature evolved from his cat. There's typical britcom bickering and parody as they travel through deep space in search of a way back to Earth.
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Comedy, Live Action, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Hospitals, Sexual assault - speech referenced (including slang), 80s period attitudes to sex and the like-nothing shown on screen, but some dialogue hasn't aged well.

**VIDEO GAMES**
- **Celeste**
  
  **About:** A girl named Madeline sets out to climb Mount Celeste. As it turns out, the mountain brings out the hidden parts of a would-be climber's mind, which mixes quite poorly with Madeline's anxiety and depression...

  This is probably the best of the indie retro platformers out there, tough with enough extra challenges for those who want them, but simple enough that just about anyone can get through it with some effort. Also, Madeline is probably, very-likely trans, in case that's important.

  **Aspects:** Fantasy, Platformer, Pixel-Art, Retro Game

  **Content Warnings:** Self harm, Violence - Miscellaneous (eg, animal attacks), creepy old person, an instagram personality, self-harm via evil mirror duplicate, ghoooooooosts, temple of eyes everywhere, heights (on a mountain), water stops all falls, dysphoria, depression, blunt metaphor

- **Chef Boyardee's Presents: Barkley Shut Up and Jam Gaiden: Chapter 1 of the Hoopz-Barkely Saga**
  
  **About:** The events of this game are Canon.

  In 2041, the world changed. At an otherwise ordinary basketball game in New York, a cybernetically augmented Charles Barkley performed the first Chaos Dunk, an ability so powerful it leveled half the city and killed millions. As a result, basketball is outlawed, and the authoritarian B-Ball Removal Squad slaughters all remaining B-ballers en mass.

  It is now 2053. A Chaos Dunk is performed in Manhattan, again killing millions. The B-Ball Removal Squad is now hot on the heels of the presumed culprit, Charles Barkley and his young son Hoopz, living in the ruins of Post Cyber-Apocalyptic Neo New York. As Barkley, you must find your way through this dark and twisted world to prove your innocence, escape the B-Ball Removal Squad's forced led by the resurrected robotic Michael Jordan, and figure out what the secret organization B.L.O.O.D.M.O.S.E.S. has to do with all of this.

  Also, this is an (un)official sequel to Space Jam, so take a guess how it ends.

  **Aspects:** Comedy, Dramedy, Fantasy, Mystery, Sci-Fi, Space Jam

  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blood, Gore, Hospitals, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (eg, animal attacks), Chaos Dunks, Space Jams, half-human/half-basketballs, general cyberpunk body horror, the aliens from Space Jam, Cuchulain's Tomb, sentient basketballs, cliffhanger ending,
unfinished sequel, RPG Maker ported to Game Maker, bad 90s "slang", Space Jam remixes, constant copyright infringement

- **Danganronpa Ultra Despair Girls**
  
  **About:** Spin-off of the Danganronpa series. In the future "The Most Awful Event in Human History" has thrown the entire world into chaos and DeSpAiR. In the midst of the violence brought on by the tragedy, a girl named Komaru Naegi awakens in Towa City, a once peaceful city thrown into civil war by a group of kids trying to kill all of the adults using an army of Monokumas. Targeted by the group of kids, known as The Warriors of Hope, Komaru must navigate through the city and search for an escape, aided by Toko Fukawa of the Future Foundation. Plus, my boi Nagito is in it and he's wonderful, and also has marker all over his face what.
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Live Action, Anime
  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Child abuse, Human abuse or exploitation, Sexual assault - speech referenced (including slang), Surprise/unwelcome physical contact or affection, Torture - mental, Violence - Gun

- **Slime Rancher**
  
  **About:** You are a young person on an alien world. This world is full of bouncy creatures made of slime. They're called Slimes. If you feed them, they make Plorts, which are valuable little crystals that you can sell on the galactic market. Your only tool to interact with this world is your VacPack. It has two settings: suck things in, and shoot things out. You ranch Slimes. You explore the alien world. You are soothed by the happy little Slimes and their relaxing antics.
  
  **Aspects:** Sci-Fi, Comforting
  
  **Content Warnings:** Cute things being eaten, goop monsters

**OTHER**

- **9MOTHER9HORSE9EYES9 (The Interface Series)** *(Disparate Reddit posts that have been archived and collected by others)*

  **About:** A series of connected narratives posted in comments on various subreddits by user 9MOTHER9HORSE9EYES9, wherein a narrator describes 'flesh interfaces' (biopunk/meat moss gateways to the unknown created through the usage of LSD), the affects of VR immersion on a near future dystopia, the horse-eyed corpse that replaced his mother for one summer, and how he, outside of these things he's writing a book about, is experiencing his nightmares seeping into reality. It's very weird and very good, and will stick with you. here's a good place to read it: [https://www.reddit.com/r/9M9H9E9/wiki/narrative](https://www.reddit.com/r/9M9H9E9/wiki/narrative)

  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Fantasy, Horror, Sci-Fi, surreal, lovecraftian horror,
speculative fiction

**Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blood, Body horror - General, Child abuse, Gore, Hospitals, Human abuse or exploitation, Needles (injections, IVs, other), Tooth horror (trauma, mutilation, or teeth in weird places), Torture - mental, Torture - physical, There's just a lot going on! John Carpenter's The Thing level body-horror, on a bigger scale.

- **Desert Bus for Hope** *(Annual Internet Livestream/Charity Fundraiser)*

  **About:** Like A Billion (fifty) Internet People (comedians, voice actors, livestreamers, and more) do Internet Things (performing skits, singing songs, talking about All Manner of Thing, driving a virtual bus) for Like a Week straight. I can't properly explain Desert Bus— just go to their YouTube channel and immerse yourself in ham ("Ham?" "I thought you'd never ask"). Happens to coincide with ninth week of fall term each year, which makes it an excellent if dangerous way to procrastinate.

  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Child-Focused, Comedy, Horror, Live Action, Mystery, Parody, So many desert bus in-jokes could go here. You have no idea (unless you do).

  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], [Recommender chose not to include warnings], Being a live event, the content is a little unpredictable— but the crew will often give warnings themselves! And they've promised that Gangnam Hell won't happen again.