



SUMMER READING 2017 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English 9:

During your freshman year in high school, you will be introduced to many different types of literature in English 9. We have compiled a list of novels from the various genres of fiction including mysteries, science fiction, fantasy, and young adult novels. We hope you will read widely from this list during the summer, but you must read at least one of the novels listed below:

Asimov, I, Robot
Berg, Durable Goods
Cisneros, The House on Mango Street
Clark, Mary Higgins, Remember Me
Cline, Ready Player One
Cook, Coma
Crichton, The Andromeda Strain
Green, An Abundance of Katherines
Grisham, Calico Joe
Kingsolver, Bean Trees
Myers, On a Clear Day
Myers, Sunrise Over Fallujah
Pratchett, Nation
Pullman, The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, or The Amber Spyglass
Stork, Marcelo in the Real World



Assignment:

In September, you will be asked to write an essay or do a project or presentation in your English class on the novel that you selected for summer reading. As you read, you should think about the following questions: What are the central conflicts facing the main characters? How are these conflicts developed and resolved? How do the main characters grow or change as the novel progresses? What are the central themes or messages that the author is trying to communicate? How are the themes developed as the novel progresses? What are the important settings of the novel? How does the setting influence the characters in the novel?

Summer Reading for Grade 9



Comments

Asimov, I, Robot:

“The three laws of Robotics:

- 1) A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm
- 2) A robot must obey orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
- 3) A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

With these three, simple directives, Isaac Asimov changed our perception of robots forever when he formulated the laws governing their behavior. In I, Robot, Asimov chronicles the development of the robot through a series of interlinked stories: from its primitive origins in the present to its ultimate perfection in the not-so-distant future--a future in which humanity itself may be rendered obsolete.

Here are stories of robots gone mad, of mind-read robots, and robots with a sense of humor. Of robot politicians, and robots who secretly run the world--all told with the dramatic blend of science fact and science fiction that has become Asimov's trademark”—from Amazon.com

Berg, Durable Goods:

“Narrator Katie lives on a Texas Army base with her 18-year-old sister and volatile father, an officer of unidentified rank. The girls' mother has died of cancer, although Katie never discusses how much time has passed since the loss. Accustomed to a military lifestyle, suspecting that her home will be only a temporary one, Katie leads a fairly ordinary existence. She and her best friend go swimming, talk about puberty and meet boys. When the inevitable happens and the family learns they're being transferred to Missouri, Katie tries to accept the impending change, but her sister, who can no longer tolerate her father's abuse, rebels...”—from *Publishers Weekly*

Cisneros, The House on Mango Street:

This book is about a Hispanic girl and her family growing up in an inner city. The book illustrates the problems and the triumphs in her life.

Clark, Remember Me:

A traumatized travel book writer stays with her husband and new baby in a summer house with a mysterious past on Cape Cod. Follow her as she tries to reveal the mystery behind the house. The book has a twisting, suspenseful plot with lots of surprises!

Cline, Ready Player One:

“In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.... But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.”—from Amazon.com

Cook, Coma:

This is the gripping story of patients who check into a hospital in Boston for “minor” surgeries and never wake up again.

Crichton, The Andromeda Strain:

This is the hair-raising, horrifying story of how scientists attempt to contain a mysterious virus that kills almost all of the inhabitants of a small town.

Green, *An Abundance of Katherines*:

“When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton’s type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has ten thousand dollars in his pocket, a bloodthirsty feral hog on his trail, and an overweight, Judge Judy–loving best friend riding shotgun—but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship, avenge Dumpees everywhere, and finally win him the girl. Love, friendship, and a dead Austro-Hungarian archduke add up to surprising and heart-changing conclusions in this ingeniously layered comic novel about reinventing oneself.”—from Amazon.com

Grisham, *Calico Joe*:

“A surprising and moving novel of fathers and sons, forgiveness and redemption, set in the world of Major League Baseball... Whatever happened to Calico Joe? In the summer of 1973 Joe Castle was the boy wonder of baseball, the greatest rookie anyone had ever seen. The kid from Calico Rock, Arkansas dazzled Cub fans as he hit home run after home run, politely tipping his hat to the crowd as he shattered all rookie records. Calico Joe quickly became the idol of every baseball fan in America, including Paul Tracey, the young son of a hard-partying and hard-throwing Mets pitcher. On the day that Warren Tracey finally faced Calico Joe, Paul was in the stands, rooting for his idol but also for his Dad. Then Warren threw a fastball that would change their lives forever...” --from Amazon.com

Kingsolver, *Bean Trees*:

“Feisty Marietta Greer changes her name to ‘Taylor’ when her car runs out of gas in Taylorville, Ill. By the time she reaches Oklahoma, this strong-willed young Kentucky native with a quick tongue and an open mind is catapulted into a surprising new life. Taylor leaves home in a beat-up ‘55 Volkswagen bug, on her way to nowhere in particular, savoring her freedom. But when a forlorn Cherokee woman drops a baby in Taylor’s passenger seat and asks her to take it, she does....Taylor playfully names her little foundling ‘Turtle,’ because she clings with an unrelenting, reptilian grip; at the same time, Taylor aches at the thought of the silent, staring child’s past suffering. With Turtle in tow, Taylor lands in Tucson, Ariz., with two flat tires and decides to stay. The desert climate, landscape and vegetation are completely foreign to Taylor, and in learning to love Arizona, she also comes face to face with its rattlesnakes and tarantulas. Similarly, Taylor finds that motherhood, responsibility and independence are thorny, if welcome, gifts. This funny, inspiring book is a marvelous affirmation of risk-taking, commitment and everyday miracles.”—From Publishers Weekly

Myers, *On a Clear Day*:

In 2035, Dahlia Grillo, a sixteen-year-old math whiz, joins with six other American teens traveling to England to meet with groups from around the world in hops of stopping C8, the companies that control nearly everything for their own benefit.

Myers, *Sunrise Over Fallujah*:

“Robin ‘Birdy’ Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn’t quite sure why he joined the army, but he’s sure where he’s headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR.”—from Amazon.com Review

Pratchett, *Nation*:

“When a giant wave destroys his village, Mau is the only one left. Daphne—a traveler from the other side of the globe—is the sole survivor of a shipwreck. Separated by language and customs, the two are united by catastrophe. Slowly, they are joined by other refugees. And as they struggle to protect the small band, Mau and Daphne defy ancestral spirits, challenge death himself, and uncover a long-hidden secret that literally turns the world upside down.”—from Amazon.com

Pullman, *The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, or The Amber Spyglass*:

These three books make up Pullman’s *His Dark Materials* trilogy, a fantasy series that unlocks the door to parallel worlds filled with magical creatures, strange places and amazing adventures. (You only need to read one of these novels to meet the summer reading requirement.)

Stork, Marcelo in the Real World:

“Marcelo Sandoval is a high-functioning, extremely self-aware teenager with Asperger's syndrome. He has an empathetic mother and a father, Arturo, who appears to be less empathetic as he pushes Marcelo to live in the ‘real world.’ The form the real world takes is a summer job in the mailroom at Arturo's law office. The teen is forced to think on his feet, multitask, and deal with duplicitous people who try to take advantage of him. Over the course of a summer, Marcelo learns that he can function in society; he is especially surprised to find that he can learn to read people's expressions, even to the point of knowing whom he can and cannot trust. Writing in a first-person narrative, Stork does an amazing job of entering Marcelo's consciousness and presenting him as a dynamic, sympathetic, and wholly believable character.”—from *School Library Journal*

English 10 – Advanced and Regular:

English 10 at Glen Rock High School is the study of American literature. In order to prepare you for this course, we have compiled a list of books, including classic novels, memoirs, popular fiction, and works of non-fiction by American authors. We hope you will read widely from this list throughout the summer, but students taking English 10 Advanced must read at least TWO books, and students taking English 10 Regular must read at least one of the books listed below:

Alvarez, How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents
Auerbach, Penpal
Card, Ender's Shadow
Cline, Armada
D'Orso, Eagle Blue: A Team, A Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska
Drape, Our Boys
Dunbar, Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge
Flournoy, The Turner House
Goodwin, Wait Till Next Year
Grisham, The Last Juror
Hobbs, The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League
Howey, Wool
Lahiri, Interpreter of Maladies
Lee, Native Speaker
McCammon, Boy's Life
McCourt, Angela's Ashes
Potok, The Chosen
Povich, The Good Girls Revolt
Rowell, Eleanor and Park
Walker, The Age of Miracles



Assignment:

In September, you will be asked to write an essay or do a project or presentation in your English class on the novel that you selected for summer reading. As you read, you should think about the following questions: What are the central conflicts facing the main characters? How are these conflicts developed and resolved? How do the main characters grow or change as the novel progresses? What are the central themes or messages that the author is trying to communicate? How are the themes developed as the novel progresses? What are the important settings of the novel? How does the setting influence the characters in the novel? Who are the minor characters in the novel? How does the author use the minor characters to advance the plot, develop a major theme, or serve as a contrast to a main character?

Summer Reading for Grade 10

Comments



Alvarez, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*:

“This sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic is told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood, when their lives have been shaped by U. S. mores, and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island. Adapting to American life is difficult and causes embarrassment when friends meet their parents, anger as they are bullied and called "spics," and identity confusion following summer trips to the family compound in the Dominican Republic... This unique coming-of-age tale is a feast of stories that will enchant and captivate readers.”—from *School Library Journal*

Auerbach, *Penpal*:

“In *Penpal*, a man investigates the seemingly unrelated bizarre, tragic, and horrific occurrences of his childhood in an attempt to finally understand them. Beginning with only fragments of his earliest years, you'll follow the narrator as he discovers that these strange and horrible events are actually part of a single terrifying story that has shaped the entirety of his life and the lives of those around him. If you've ever stayed in the woods just a little too long after dark, if you've ever had the feeling that someone or something was trying to hurt you, if you remember the first friend you ever made and how strong that bond was, then *Penpal* is a story that you won't soon forget, despite how you might try.”—from Amazon.com

Card, *Ender's Shadow*:

“A companion novel to the beloved, bestselling science fiction classic *Ender's Game*....

If Julian Delphiki, known as ‘Bean,’ has learned anything from living on the streets, it's how to survive. And not with fists—he is too small for that—but with brains. Bean is a genius with a magician's ability to zero in on his enemy and exploit his weakness. What could be a better quality in a future general to lead Earth in a final climactic battle against a hostile alien race? Recruited for Battle School, a military installation designed to select and train children as future officers in the International Fleet, Bean meets Ender Wiggin: soon to become his best friend, and his greatest rival.... Readers can revisit the events of *Ender's Game* through the eyes of Bean in this companion or parallel novel. Readers who have not read *Ender's Game* will want to read it as soon as they finish *Ender's Shadow*....”—from Amazon.com

Cline, *Armada*:

“Zack Lightman has spent his life dreaming. Dreaming that the real world could be a little more like the countless science-fiction books, movies, and videogames he's spent his life consuming. Dreaming that one day, some fantastic, world-altering event will shatter the monotony of his humdrum existence and whisk him off on some grand space-faring adventure. But hey, there's nothing wrong with a little escapism, right? After all, Zack tells himself, he knows the difference between fantasy and reality. He knows that here in the real world, aimless teenage gamers with anger issues don't get chosen to save the universe. And then he sees the flying saucer. Even stranger, the alien ship he's staring at is straight out of the videogame he plays every night, a hugely popular online flight simulator called *Armada*—in which gamers just happen to be protecting the earth from alien invaders. No, Zack hasn't lost his mind. As impossible as it seems, what he's seeing is all too real. And his skills—as well as those of millions of gamers across the world—are going to be needed to save the earth from what's about to befall it.”—from Amazon.com

D'Orso, *Eagle Blue: A Team, A Tribe, and a High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska*:

Eagle Blue follows the Fort Yukon Eagles, winners of six regional championships in a row, through the course of an entire 28-game season, from their first day of practice in late November to the Alaska State Championship Tournament in March. With insight, frankness, and compassion, Michael D'Orso climbs into the lives of these fourteen boys, their families, and their coach, shadowing them through an Arctic winter of fifty-below-zero temperatures and near-round-the-clock darkness as the Eagles criss-cross Alaska in pursuit of their-and their village's-dream.

Drape, Our Boys:

“The football team in Smith Center, Kansas, holders of the nation's longest high-school winning streak, embrace a philosophy of life taught by their legendary coach, Roger Barta: ‘Respect each other, then learn to love each other and together we are champions.’

But as the Redmen embarked on a quest for a fifth consecutive state title, they faced a potentially destabilizing transition: the greatest senior class in school history had graduated, and Coach Barta was contemplating retirement. In Smith Center—population: 1,931—this changing of the guard was seismic. Hours removed from the nearest city, the town revolves around ‘our boys’ in a way that goes to the heart of what America's heartland is today.—from Amazon.com

Dunbar, Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge:

“Never Caught is the compelling story of Ona Judge Staines, the woman who successfully defied George and Martha Washington in order to live as free woman. With vivid prose and deep sympathy, Dunbar paints a portrait of woman whose life reveals the contradictions at the heart of the American founding: men like Washington fought for liberty for themselves even as they kept people like Ona Staines in bondage. There is no way to really know the Washingtons without knowing this story.”—from Annette Gordon Reed, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Hemings of Monticello*.

Flournoy, The Turner House:

“Meet the Turners: a big, complicated, loving, feuding, vibrant American family

“There ain’t no haints in Detroit.”

So spoke Francis Turner—patriarch and provider, former preacher and current truck driver—when his children claimed to have seen a ghost. A rising homeowner set to banish all the old ways for the promise of the new, Francis was having none of it. He and his wife worked hard to secure that house, to move up from Arkansas to Detroit, to make this life possible. He would not be haunted by the past.

And so a myth was born, where any one of the Turners might later say this phrase and be telling about so much more than haints.”—Amazon.com

Goodwin, Wait Till Next Year:

This is the story of the author’s childhood in the 1950’s and her relationship with her father who taught her to be an avid Brooklyn Dodgers fan. It is a book about baseball, and it is a book about growing up.

Grisham, The Last Juror:

“In 1970, Willie Traynor comes to Clanton, Mississippi, in a Triumph Spitfire and a fog of vague ambitions. Within a year, the twenty-three-year-old finds himself the owner of Ford County’s only newspaper, famous for its well-crafted obituaries. While the rest of America is in the grips of turmoil, Clanton lives on the edge of another age—until the brutal murder of a young mother rocks the town and thrusts Willie into the center of a storm.

report the true horrors of the crime, Willie makes as many friends as enemies in Clanton, and over the next decade he sometimes wonders how he got there in the first place. But he can never escape the crime that shattered his innocence or the criminal whose evil left an indelible stain. Because as the ghosts of the South’s past gather around Willie, as tension swirls around Clanton, men and women who served on a jury nine years ago are starting to die one by one—as a killer exacts the ultimate revenge.”—from Amazon.com

Daring to

Hobbs, The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League:

The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace encompasses the most enduring conflicts in America: race, class, drugs, community, imprisonment, education, family, friendship, and love. It’s about the collision of two fiercely insular worlds—the ivy-covered campus of Yale University and Newark, New Jersey, and the difficulty of going from one to the other and then back again. It’s about poverty, the challenges of single motherhood, and the struggle to find male role models in a community where a man is more likely to go to prison than to college. It’s about reaching one’s greatest potential and taking responsibility for your family no matter the cost. It’s about trying to live a decent life in America. But most all the story is about the tragic life of one singular brilliant young man. – from Amazon.com

Howey, Wool:

“In a ruined and toxic future, a community exists in a giant silo underground, hundreds of stories deep. There, men and women live in a society full of regulations they believe are meant to protect them. Sheriff Holston, who has unwaveringly upheld the silo’s rules for years, unexpectedly breaks the greatest taboo of all: He asks to go outside. His fateful decision unleashes a drastic series of events. An unlikely candidate is appointed to replace him: Juliette, a mechanic with no training in law, whose special knack is fixing machines. Now Juliette is about to be entrusted with fixing her silo, and she will soon learn just how badly her world is broken. The silo is about to confront what its history has only hinted about and its inhabitants have never dared to whisper. Uprising.”—from Amazon.com

Lahiri, Interpreter of Maladies:

“Navigating between the Indian traditions they've inherited and the baffling new world, the characters in Jhumpa Lahiri's elegant, touching stories seek love beyond the barriers of culture and generations. In "A Temporary Matter," published in *The New Yorker*, a young Indian-American couple faces the heartbreak of a stillborn birth while their Boston neighborhood copes with a nightly blackout. In the title story, an interpreter guides an American family through the India of their ancestors and hears an astonishing confession.”—from Amazon.com Review

Lee, Native Speaker:

“Henry Park has spent his entire life trying to become a true American—a native speaker. But even as the essence of his adopted country continues to elude him, his Korean heritage seems to drift further and further away. Park's Korean upbringing has taught him to hide his emotions, to remember everything he learns, and most of all to feel an overwhelming sense of alienation...But the very attributes that help him to excel in his profession put a strain on his marriage to his American wife and stand in the way of his coming to terms with his young son's death. When he is assigned to spy on a rising Korean-American politician, his very identity is tested, and he must figure out who he is amid not only the conflicts within himself but also within the ethnic and political tensions of the New York City streets. *Native Speaker* is a story of cultural alienation. It is about fathers and sons, about the desire to connect with the world rather than stand apart from it, about loyalty and betrayal, about the alien in all of us and who we finally are.”—from Amazon.com Review

McCammon, Boy’s Life:

“In 1964, 12-year-old Cory Mackenson lives with his parents in Zephyr, Alabama. It is a sleepy, comfortable town. Cory is helping with his father's milk route one morning when a car plunges into the lake before their eyes. His father dives in after the car and finds a dead man handcuffed to the steering wheel. Their world no longer seems so innocent: a vicious killer hides among apparently friendly neighbors...Cory faces hair-raising dangers as he seeks to find the secret of the dead man in the lake. McCammon writes an exciting adventure story. He also gives us an affecting tale of a young man growing out of childhood in a troubled place and time.”—from *Library Journal*

McCourt, Angela’s Ashes:

This is the true story of a young boy living in extreme poverty in Ireland. He survives his alcoholic father, the death of siblings, and several horrible diseases while at the same time learning the facts of life and striving toward his one goal--to get to America.

Potok, The Chosen:

This is the story of the friendship between Reuven, a Modern Orthodox Jew with an intellectual Zionist father, and Danny, the brilliant son of a Hasidic rabbi. The boys form a deep, if unlikely, friendship as they deal with the trials of adolescence, family conflicts, and the crisis of faith brought about when Holocaust stories begin to emerge in the U.S.

Povich, The Good Girls Revolt:

“It was the 1960s—a time of economic boom and social strife. Young women poured into the workplace, but the ‘Help Wanted’ ads were segregated by gender and the ‘Mad Men’ office culture was rife with sexual stereotyping and discrimination. Lynn Povich was one of the lucky ones, landing a job at Newsweek, renowned for its cutting-edge coverage of civil rights and the ‘Swinging Sixties.’ Nora Ephron, Jane Bryant Quinn, Ellen Goodman, and Susan Brownmiller all started there as well. It was a top-notch job—for a girl—at an exciting place. But it was a dead end. Women researchers sometimes became reporters, rarely writers, and never editors. Any aspiring female journalist was told, ‘If you want to be a writer, go somewhere else.’ On March 16, 1970, the

day Newsweek published a cover story on the fledgling feminist movement entitled ‘Women in Revolt,’ forty-six Newsweek women charged the magazine with discrimination in hiring and promotion. It was the first female class action lawsuit—the first by women journalists—and it inspired other women in the media to quickly follow suit....Lynn Povich was one of the ringleaders. In The Good Girls Revolt, she evocatively tells the story of this dramatic turning point through the lives of several participants....”—from Amazon.com

Rowell, Eleanor and Park:

“Eleanor is the new girl in town and her wild red hair and patchwork outfits are not helping her blend in. She ends up sitting next to Park on the bus, whose tendencies towards comic books don’t jibe with the rest of his family’s love of sports. They sit in awkward silence every day until Park notices that Eleanor is reading his comics over his shoulder; he begins to slide them closer to her side of the seat and thus begins their love story. Their relationship grows gradually--making each other mixed tapes (it is 1986 after all) and discussing *X-Men* characters--until they both find themselves looking forward to the bus ride more than any other part of the day. Things aren’t easy: Eleanor is bullied at school and then goes home to a threatening family situation; Park’s parents do not approve of Eleanor’s awkward ways. Ultimately, though, this is a book about two people who just really, really like each other and who believe that they can overcome any obstacle standing in the way of their happiness. It’s a gem of a book.” --*Caley Anderson*

Walker, The Age of Miracles:

“*The Age of Miracles* is a beautiful novel of catastrophe and survival, growth and change, the story of Julia and her family as they struggle to live in an extraordinary time. On an ordinary Saturday, Julia awakes to discover that something has happened to the rotation of the earth. The days and nights are growing longer and longer, gravity is affected, the birds, the tides, human behavior and cosmic rhythms are thrown into disarray. In a world of danger and loss, Julia faces surprising developments in herself, and her personal world—divisions widening between her parents, strange behavior by Hannah and other friends, the vulnerability of first love, a sense of isolation, and a rebellious new strength”—from Amazon.com

English 11:

English 11 A.P. Language and Composition:

Students taking English 11 A.P. Language and Composition must read all of the following and complete written assignments given by teacher:

Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

Nazario, Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother (Read the complete, unabridged work, **NOT** the Young Adult Adaptation)

Shetterly, Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race

Summer Reading for English 11 A.P. Language and Composition Comments:

Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City:

"In *Evicted*, Harvard sociologist and MacArthur "Genius" Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as "wrenching and revelatory" (*The Nation*), "vivid and unsettling" (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible." – from Amazon.com

Nazario, Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother:

"Based on the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, one for feature writing and another for feature photography, this page-turner about the power of family is a popular text in classrooms and a touchstone for communities across the country to engage in meaningful discussions about this essential American subject. *Enrique's Journey* recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers."—from Amazon.com

Shetterly, Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race:

"Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as 'human computers' used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.... Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women, some of the brightest minds of their generation. Originally relegated to teaching math in the South's segregated public schools, they were called into service during the labor shortages of World War II, when America's aeronautics industry was in dire need of anyone who had the right stuff. Suddenly, these overlooked math whizzes had a shot at jobs worthy of their skills, and they answered Uncle Sam's call, moving to Hampton, Virginia and the fascinating, high-energy world of the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory.... Even as Virginia's Jim Crow laws required them to be segregated from their white counterparts, the women of Langley's all-black "West Computing" group helped America achieve one of the things it desired most: a decisive victory over the Soviet Union in the Cold War, and complete domination of the heavens. Starting in World War II and moving through to the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement and the Space Race, *Hidden Figures* follows the interwoven accounts of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden, four African American women who participated in some of NASA's greatest successes."—from Amazon.com

English 11 Honors and College Prep (Regular):

English 11 is an intensive genre study in world literature. In order to prepare you for this course, we have compiled a list of books, including classic novels, memoirs, popular fiction and works of non-fiction. We hope you will read widely from this list throughout the summer, but students taking Honors English 11 must read at least two books and students taking regular English 11 must read at least one of the novels listed below:

English 11: (English 11 Honors choose two);

English 11 College Prep, choose one):

Austen, Pride and Prejudice
Boo, Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity
Bronte, Charlotte, Jane Eyre
Brown, The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics
Christie, And Then There Were None, or Murder on the Orient Express
Deraniyagala, Wave
Greene, The Power and the Glory
Hashimi, The Moon Is Low
Henriquez, The World in Half
Highsmith, The Talented Mr. Ripley
Jahren, Lab Girl
Kidd, The Invention of Wings
Kline, Orphan Train
Makos and Alexander, A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story of Combat and Chivalry in the War-Torn Skies of World War II
Murray, Breaking Night
Ozeki, A Tale for the Time Being
Paton, Cry, The Beloved Country
Roy, The God of Small Things
Shelley, Frankenstein
Stockett, The Help
Stevenson, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, or The Return of the King
Walls, The Glass Castle
Yousafzai, I Am Malala



Assignment: In September, you will be asked to write an essay in class on each of the novels that you have read over the summer. As you read, you should think about the following questions: What are the central conflicts facing the main characters? How are these conflicts developed and resolved? How do the main characters grow or change as the novel progresses? How does the main character learn to adapt and relate to his or her society and to his or her environment? What are the central themes or messages that the author is trying to communicate? How are the themes developed as the novel progresses? What are the important settings of the novel? How does the setting influence the characters in the novel? Who are the minor characters in the novel? How does the author use the minor characters to advance the plot, develop a major theme, or serve as a contrast to a main character?



Summer Reading for English 11 Comments:

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*:

This is a tale of love, marriage, and British society in the 18th century. We follow the love lives of the Bennet sisters and especially the relationship between Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. Austen shows that true love takes time to develop.

Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*: Winner of the National Book Award | The PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award

“In this brilliant, breathtaking book by Pulitzer Prize winner Katherine Boo, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. As India starts to prosper, the residents of Annawadi are electric with hope. Abdul, an enterprising teenager, sees “a fortune beyond counting” in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Meanwhile Asha, a woman of formidable ambition, has identified a shadier route to the middle class. With a little luck, her beautiful daughter, Annawadi’s “most-everything girl,” might become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest children, like the young thief Kalu, feel themselves inching closer to their dreams. But then Abdul is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power, and economic envy turn brutal. With intelligence, humor, and deep insight into what connects people to one another in an era of tumultuous change, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, based on years of uncompromising reporting, carries the reader headlong into one of the twenty-first century’s hidden worlds—and into the hearts of families impossible to forget.”—from Amazon.com

Bronte, Charlotte, *Jane Eyre*:

This is the story of an orphan’s growth into a young woman. Jane Eyre grows up to become the governess at the Rochester residence where she becomes entangled in a forbidden love and uncovers lots of secrets. It is a novel about overcoming adversity, pursuing happiness, and finding lasting love and acceptance.

Brown, *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*:

“... out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant....

It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington’s eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys’ own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man’s personal quest.”—from Amazon.com

Christie, *And Then There Were None*:

Ten people are invited to a private island as weekend guests of a mysterious millionaire unknown to all of them. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they’re unwilling to reveal—and a secret that will seal their fate, and each has been marked for murder. One by one they fall prey. Before the weekend is out, there will be none. An incredibly suspenseful read!

Christie, *Murder on the Orient Express*:

A strange assortment of characters travel on the Orient Express from Istanbul to Paris when a brutal murder of an American passenger occurs. Join Christie’s famous detective, Hercule Poirot, as he tries to figure out who did it. You will never guess!

Deraniyagala, Wave:

“One of *The New York Times*'s 10 Best Books of the Year, a *Christian Science Monitor* Best Nonfiction Book, a *Newsday* Top 10 Books pick, a *People* magazine Top 10 pick, a Good Reads Best Book of the Year, a *Kirkus* Best Nonfiction Book, and A National Book Critics Circle Award finalist: In 2004, at a beach resort on the coast of Sri Lanka, Sonali Deraniyagala and her family—parents, husband, sons—were swept away by a tsunami. Only Sonali survived to tell their tale. This is her account of the nearly incomprehensible event and its aftermath.”—from Amazon.com

Greene, The Power and the Glory:

Set in Mexico in the 1930's, this is the story of a priest who is on the run from the government which has outlawed religion, destroyed churches, and killed all of the priests. Follow the main character, referred to as the whisky priest, as he is pursued relentlessly by the lieutenant who is determined to rid his country of the evils of the church.

Hashimi, The Moon Is Low:

“Mahmoud's passion for his wife Fereiba, a schoolteacher, is greater than any love she's ever known. But their happy, middle-class world—a life of education, work, and comfort—implodes when their country is engulfed in war, and the Taliban rises to power. Mahmoud, a civil engineer, becomes a target of the new fundamentalist regime and is murdered. Forced to flee Kabul with her three children, Fereiba has one hope to survive: she must find a way to cross Europe and reach her sister's family in England. With forged papers and help from kind strangers they meet along the way, Fereiba make a dangerous crossing into Iran under cover of darkness. Exhausted and brokenhearted but undefeated, Fereiba manages to smuggle them as far as Greece. But in a busy market square, their fate takes a frightening turn when her teenage son, Saleem, becomes separated from the rest of the family. Faced with an impossible choice, Fereiba pushes on with her daughter and baby, while Saleem falls into the shadowy underground network of undocumented Afghans who haunt the streets of Europe's capitals. Across the continent Fereiba and Saleem struggle to reunite, and ultimately find a place where they can begin to reconstruct their lives.”—Amazon.com Review

Henriquez, The World in Half:

“Miraflora never knew her father, and never thought he wanted to know her. But when she returns to the Chicago suburb where she grew up to care for her ailing mother, she discovers that her mother and father were greatly in love, and that her father had wanted a daughter more than she could have imagined. Now, Miraflora secretly plots a trip to Panama, in search of the man she hopes can heal her mother-and who can help her find the pieces of her own identity. What she finds is unexpected, exhilarating, and holds the power to change the course of her life.”—from Amazon.com

Highsmith, The Talented Mr. Ripley:

This crime novel is the story of Tom Ripley, who has a very negative outlook on life. He travels to Europe and falls in love with Italy, where he meets a man, Dickie Greenleaf. Tom involves himself in Greenleaf's life and decides he wants Greenleaf's lifestyle at any cost.

Jahren, Lab Girl:

Finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award

“Geobiologist Hope Jahren has spent her life studying trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. *Lab Girl* is her revelatory treatise on plant life—but it is also a celebration of the lifelong curiosity, humility, and passion that drive every scientist. In these pages, Hope takes us back to her Minnesota childhood, where she spent hours in unfettered play in her father's college laboratory. She tells us how she found a sanctuary in science, learning to perform lab work “with both the heart and the hands.” She introduces us to Bill, her brilliant, eccentric lab manager. And she extends the mantle of *scientist* to each one of her readers, inviting us to join her in observing and protecting our environment. Warm, luminous, compulsively readable, *Lab Girl* vividly demonstrates the mountains that we can move when love and work come together.”—from Amazon.com

Kidd, *The Invention of Wings*:

“Kidd’s novel is set in motion on Sarah’s eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other’s destinies....As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women’s rights movements. Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented, including Handful’s cunning mother, Charlotte, who courts danger in her search for something better.”—Amazon.com Review.

Kline, *Orphan Train*:

“*Orphan Train* is a gripping story of friendship and second chances....Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to ‘aging out’ out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren’t as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance. Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life – answers that will ultimately free them both...”—Amazon.com Review

Makos and Alexander, *A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story of Combat and Chivalry in the War-Torn Skies of World War II*:

THE NEW YORK TIMES AND INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

“December, 1943: A badly damaged American bomber struggles to fly over wartime Germany. At the controls is twenty-one-year-old Second Lieutenant Charlie Brown. Half his crew lay wounded or dead on this, their first mission. Suddenly, a Messerschmitt fighter pulls up on the bomber’s tail. The pilot is German ace Franz Stigler—and he can destroy the young American crew with the squeeze of a trigger...

What happened next would defy imagination and later be called ‘the most incredible encounter between enemies in World War II.’

The U.S. 8th Air Force would later classify what happened between them as “top secret.” It was an act that Franz could never mention for fear of facing a firing squad. It was the encounter that would haunt both Charlie and Franz for forty years until, as old men, they would search the world for each other, a last mission that could change their lives forever.”—Amazon.com

Murray, *Breaking Night*:

“*Breaking Night* is the stunning memoir of a young woman who, at age fifteen, was living on the streets and who eventually made it to Harvard. Liz Murray was born to...drug-addicted parents in the Bronx. In school, she was taunted for her dirty clothing and lice-infested hair, eventually skipping so many classes that she was put into a girls’ home. At age fifteen, Liz found herself on the streets when her family finally unraveled....She decided to take control of her own destiny and go back to high school, often completing her assignments in the hallways and subway stations where she slept. Liz squeezed four years of high school into two; won a *New York Times* scholarship; and made it into the Ivy League. [This] is an unforgettable and beautifully written story of one young woman’s indomitable spirit to survive and prevail, against all the odds.” --bookbrowse.com

Ozeki, *A Tale for the Time Being*:

“*A time being* is someone who lives in time, and that means you, and me, and every one of us who is, or was, or ever will be.”

“In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there’s only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates’ bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun who’s lived more than a century. A diary is Nao’s only solace—and will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine. Across the Pacific, we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao’s drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future.”—from Amazon.com

Paton, Cry, The Beloved Country:

This novel is set in the 1940's in South Africa. It tells the story of Stephen Kumalo, a Zulu pastor, and his son, Absalom, as they experience the tragedies of a South African community struggling with the injustice of apartheid.

Roy, The God of Small Things:

“Set in Kerala, India, during the late 1960s when Communism rattled the age-old caste system, the story begins with the funeral of young Sophie Mol, the cousin of the novel's protagonists, Rahel and her fraternal twin brother, Estha. In a circuitous and suspenseful narrative, Roy reveals the family tensions that led to the twins' behavior on the fateful night that Sophie drowned. Beneath the drama of a family tragedy lies a background of local politics, social taboos and the tide of history all of which come together in a slip of fate, after which a family is irreparably shattered.”—from Amazon.com

Shelley, Frankenstein:

This is a suspense-filled tale of a devout intellectual, Victor Frankenstein, whose insatiable lust for knowledge ultimately leads to the creation of a monster. The story is told in two parts: the development of the young scientist who seeks to create life and the efforts of the monster to acclimate to society once he is abandoned by his creator. We follow the monster's agonizing struggle to be accepted into a world that, in blind ignorance, shuns him. Ultimately, we have to ask the question: who is the real monster in Shelley's masterpiece?

Stockett, The Help:

The Help takes place in the 1960's in Mississippi. A young white woman is appalled at the treatment of the many black “ladies' maids” who work at the homes of neighbors, friends, and family. The Civil Rights movement, a woman's role in society, and the values of the time are all under discussion in this novel.

Stevenson, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption:**Winner of the Carnegie Medal for Nonfiction and Winner of the NAACP Image Award for Nonfiction**

“Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. *Just Mercy* is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.”—from Amazon.com

Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring:

This is the first part in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and the beginning of a great adventure involving hobbits, wizards, elves, dwarves, and the other folk of Middle Earth. In this novel, Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, tries to give up the Ring of Power that he obtained in *The Hobbit*, but this proves to be no easy task.

Tolkien, The Two Towers:

This is the second volume in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy in which Frodo and Sam continue their travels to Mordor, while Pippin and Merry are held by the Orcs.

Tolkien, The Return of the King:

This is the conclusion of the epic in which the armies of Middle Earth and Mordor clash. Follow the continuing adventures of Frodo and Sam as they journey to Mordor to try to destroy Sauron's ring at Mount Doom. If you liked the first two volumes of the trilogy, this is a must-read!

Walls, The Glass Castle:

“Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an ‘excitement

addict.'...Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to a dismal West Virginia mining townAs the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home. [Walls'] is a story of triumph against all odds..."--from Amazon.com

Yousafzai, I Am Malala:

A MEMOIR BY THE YOUNGEST RECIPIENT OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

“When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. *I AM MALALA* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. I AM MALALA will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.”—from Amazon.com

English 12:

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition:

Students taking English 12: Advanced Placement Literature and Composition must read all of the following books and complete the written assignment given by teacher:

Foster, How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines (Revised Edition, 2014)

Hosseini, The Kite Runner

Shakespeare, Hamlet (Folger Edition)

Copies of The Kite Runner and Hamlet will be provided by the teacher prior to the beginning of summer; however, you will need to obtain a copy of How to Read Literature Like a Professor on your own.



Comments:

Foster, How to Read Literature Like a Professor (REVISED EDITION, 2014):

“A thoroughly revised and updated edition of Thomas C. Foster’s classic guide—a lively and entertaining introduction to literature and literary basics, including symbols, themes and contexts, that shows you how to make your everyday reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable. While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings interwoven in these texts. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes—and the literary codes—of the ultimate professional reader, the college professor. What does it mean when a literary hero is traveling along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he’s drenched in a sudden rain shower? Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices and form, Thomas C. Foster provides us with a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—and shows us how to make our reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.”—from Amazon.com

Hosseini, The Kite Runner:

“The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father’s servant, The Kite Runner is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies...A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years, The Kite Runner is an unusual and powerful novel that has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic.”—from Amazon.com

Shakespeare, Hamlet: (Folger Edition)

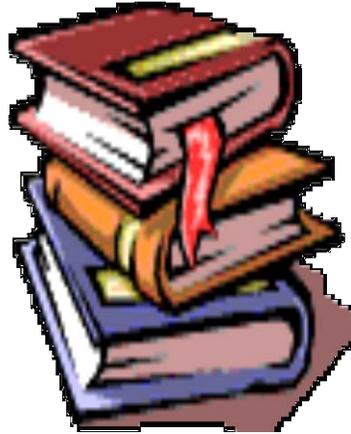
Prince Hamlet of Denmark is deep in mourning for the recent death of his father, King Hamlet, and for his mother Gertrude’s hasty remarriage to the King’s brother, Claudius. Overcome with grief, young Hamlet is visited by the ghost of his father, who demands that his son avenge the king’s death. Tortured by uncertainty, Prince Hamlet, one of the most psychologically complex characters in all of literature, must find a way to exact his revenge, but only at very great cost.

English 12:

Contemporary Fiction (Honors):
Read two of the following.

Contemporary Fiction (Non-Honors):
Read one of the following.

Brunt, [Tell the Wolves I'm Home](#)
Connelly, [The Reversal](#) or [The Fifth Witness](#)
(both from The Lincoln Lawyer Novels)
Doerr, [All the Light We Cannot See](#)
Ellison, [The Invisible Man](#)
Hannah, [The Nightingale](#)
Heller, [The Dog Stars](#)
Ishiguro, [Never Let Me Go](#)
Mandel, [Station Eleven](#)
McCann, [Let the Great World Spin](#)
Ng, [Everything I Never Told You](#)
Patchett, [State of Wonder](#)
Paull, [The Bees](#)
Shaara, Jeff, [Gods and Generals](#)
Sloan, [Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore](#)
Verghese, [Cutting for Stone](#)
Whitehead, [The Underground Railroad](#)



Contemporary Fiction Comments:

Brunt, [Tell the Wolves I'm Home](#):

“1987. There’s only one person who has ever truly understood fourteen-year-old June Elbus, and that’s her uncle, the renowned painter Finn Weiss. Shy at school and distant from her older sister, June can only be herself in Finn’s company; he is her godfather, confidant, and best friend. So when he dies, far too young, of a mysterious illness her mother can barely speak about, June’s world is turned upside down. But Finn’s death brings a surprise acquaintance into June’s life—someone who will help her to heal, and to question what she thinks she knows about Finn, her family, and even her own heart. At Finn’s funeral, June notices a strange man lingering just beyond the crowd. A few days later, she receives a package in the mail. Inside is a beautiful teapot she recognizes from Finn’s apartment, and a note from Toby, the stranger, asking for an opportunity to meet. As the two begin to spend time together, June realizes she’s not the only one who misses Finn, and if she can bring herself to trust this unexpected friend, he just might be the one she needs the most. An emotionally charged coming-of-age novel, *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* is a tender story of love lost and found, an unforgettable portrait of the way compassion can make us whole again.”—
from Amazon.com

Connelly: [The Reversal](#) (A Lincoln Lawyer Novel):

“Longtime defense attorney Mickey Haller is recruited to change stripes and prosecute the high-profile retrial of a brutal child murder. After twenty-four years in prison, convicted killer Jason Jessup has been exonerated by new DNA evidence. Haller is convinced Jessup is guilty, and he takes the case on the condition that he gets to choose his investigator, LAPD Detective Harry Bosch.

Together, Bosch and Haller set off on a case fraught with political and personal danger. Opposing them is Jessup, now out on bail, a defense attorney who excels at manipulating the media, and a runaway eyewitness reluctant to testify after so many years. With the odds and the evidence against them, Bosch and Haller must nail a sadistic killer once and for all. If Bosch is sure of anything, it is that Jason Jessup plans to kill again.”—from Amazon.com

Connelly, *The Fifth Witness*:

“Mickey Haller has fallen on tough times. He expands his business into foreclosure defense, only to see one of his clients accused of killing the banker she blames for trying to take away her home. Mickey puts his team into high gear to exonerate Lisa Trammel, even though the evidence and his own suspicions tell him his client is guilty. Soon after he learns that the victim had black market dealings of his own, Haller is assaulted, too--and he's certain he's on the right trail. Despite the danger and uncertainty, Haller mounts the best defense of his career in a trial where the last surprise comes after the verdict is in.”—from Amazon.com

Doerr, *All the Light We Cannot See*:

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, a *New York Times Book Review* Top Ten Book, National Book Award finalist, more than two and a half years on the *New York Times* bestseller list

“From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant *New York Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.”—from Amazon.com

Ellison, *The Invisible Man*:

This novel is the journey of an African-American man finding his way through adolescence and young adulthood. He has faced prejudice but tried to be accepted anyway. Misunderstanding his role in society by always trying to please white men, he is doomed to years of frustration until he withdraws from society, making himself invisible--but no more so than when he had been mistreated and neglected.

Hannah, *The Nightingale*:

“FRANCE, 1939

In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France ... but invade they do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop bombs upon the innocent. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything. Without food or money or hope, as danger escalates all around them, she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive. Vianne's sister, Isabelle, is a rebellious eighteen-year-old girl, searching for purpose with all the reckless passion of youth. While thousands of Parisians march into the unknown terrors of war, she meets G aetan, a partisan who believes the French can fight the Nazis from within France, and she falls in love as only the young can ... completely. But when he betrays her, Isabelle joins the Resistance and never looks back, risking her life time and again to save others....With courage, grace and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. The *Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France--a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.”—from Amazon.com

Heller, The Dog Stars:

A San Francisco Chronicle and Atlantic Monthly Best Book of the Year

“Hig somehow survived the flu pandemic that killed everyone he knows. Now his wife is gone, his friends are dead, and he lives in the hangar of a small abandoned airport with his dog, Jasper, and a mercurial, gun-toting misanthrope named Bangley. But when a random transmission beams through the radio of his 1956 Cessna, the voice ignites a hope deep inside him that a better life exists outside their tightly controlled perimeter. Risking everything, he flies past his point of no return and follows its static-broken trail, only to find something that is both better and worse than anything he could ever hope for.”—Amazon.com Review.

Ishiguro, Never Let Me Go:

“As a child, Kathy – now thirty-one years old – lived at Hailsham, a private school in the scenic English countryside where the children were sheltered from the outside world, brought up to believe that they were special and that their well-being was crucial not only for themselves but for the society they would eventually enter. Kathy had long ago put this idyllic past behind her, but when two of her Hailsham friends come back into her life, she stops resisting the pull of memory. And so, as her friendship with Ruth is rekindled, and as the feelings that long ago fueled her adolescent crush on Tommy begin to deepen into love, Kathy recalls their years at Hailsham. She describes happy scenes of boys and girls growing up together, unperturbed – even comforted – by their isolation. But she describes other scenes as well: of discord and misunderstanding that hint at a dark secret behind Hailsham’s nurturing facade. With the dawning clarity of hindsight, the three friends are compelled to face the truth about their childhood—and about their lives now...” from *Goodreads*

Mandel, Station Eleven:

“Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander, the famous Hollywood actor, had a heart attack on stage during a production of *King Lear*. That was the night when a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end.Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. They call themselves The Traveling Symphony, and they have dedicated themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive. But when they arrive in St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who will threaten the tiny band’s existence. And as the story takes off, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed.” --Amazon.com

McCann, Let the Great World Spin:

“This is the sort of book that you will take off your shelf over and over again as the years go along. It’s a story of the early 1970s, but it’s also the story of our present times. And it is, in many ways, a story of a moment of lasting redemption even in the face of all the evidence....There are dozens of intimate tales and threads at the core of *Let the Great World Spin*. On one level there’s the tightrope walker making his way across the World Trade Center towers. But as the novel goes along the ‘walker’ becomes less and less of a focal point and we begin to care more about the people down below, on the pavement, in the ordinary throes of their existence. There’s an Irish monk living in the Bronx projects. There’s a Park Avenue mother in mourning for her dead son, who was blown up in the cafés of Saigon. There are the original computer hackers who ‘visit’ New York in an early echo of the Internet. There’s an artist who has learn to return to the simplicity of love. And then--in possibly the book’s wildest and most ambitious section--there’s a Bronx hooker who has brought up her children in ‘the house that horse built’—‘horse’... being the heroin that was ubiquitous in the '70s....The stories are interweaved so that it is one story, on one day, in one city, and yet it is also a history of the present time.”—by *Frank McCourt*

Ng, Everything I Never Told You:

“A teenage girl goes missing and is later found to have drowned in a nearby lake, and suddenly a once tight-knit family unravels in unexpected ways. As the daughter of a college professor and his stay-at-home wife in a small Ohio town in the 1970s, Lydia Lee is already unwittingly part of the greater societal changes going on all around her. But Lydia suffers from pressure that has nothing to do with tuning out and turning on. Her father is an American born of first-generation Chinese immigrants, and his ethnicity, and hers, make them conspicuous in any setting. Her mother is white, and their interracial marriage raises eyebrows and some intrusive charges of miscegenation. More troubling, however, is her mother’s frustration at having given up medical school for motherhood, and how she blindly and selfishly insists that Lydia follow her road not taken. The cracks in Lydia’s perfect-daughter foundation grow slowly but erupt suddenly and tragically, and her death threatens to destroy her parents and deeply scar her siblings.

Tantalizingly thrilling, Ng's emotionally complex debut novel captures the tension between cultures and generations...". --Carol Haggas

Patchett, State of Wonder:

"...Pharmaceutical researcher Dr. Marina Singh sets off into the Amazon jungle to find the remains and effects of a colleague who recently died under somewhat mysterious circumstances. But first she must locate Dr. Anneck Swenson, a renowned gynecologist who has spent years looking at the reproductive habits of a local tribe where women can conceive well into their middle ages and beyond. Eccentric and notoriously tough, Swenson is paid to find the key to this longstanding childbearing ability by the same company for which Dr. Singh works. Yet that isn't their only connection: both have an overlapping professional past that Dr. Singh has long tried to forget. In finding her former mentor, Dr. Singh must face her own disappointments and regrets, along with the jungle's unforgiving humidity and insects, making *State of Wonder* a multi-layered atmospheric novel that is hard to put down."—from Amazon.com

Paull, The Bees:

"Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion. But Flora is not like other bees. With circumstances threatening the hive's survival, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw but her courage and strength are an asset. She is allowed to feed the newborns in the royal nursery and then to become a forager, flying alone and free to collect pollen. She also finds her way into the Queen's inner sanctum, where she discovers mysteries about the hive that are both profound and ominous. But when Flora breaks the most sacred law of all—daring to challenge the Queen's fertility—enemies abound, from the fearsome fertility police who enforce the strict social hierarchy to the high priestesses jealously wedded to power. Her deepest instincts to serve and sacrifice are now overshadowed by an even deeper desire, a fierce maternal love that will bring her into conflict with her conscience, her heart, her society—and lead her to unthinkable deeds. Thrilling, suspenseful and spectacularly imaginative, *The Bees* gives us a dazzling young heroine and will change forever the way you look at the world outside your window."—Amazon.com Review

Shaara, J., Gods and Generals:

This book presents major events early in the Civil War as seen by important figures on both sides. The battle of Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville bring into sharp focus the tragedies of a split country and lost leaders.

Sloan, Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore:

"The Great Recession has shuffled Clay Jannon away from life as a San Francisco web-design drone and into the aisles of Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore. But after a few days on the job, Clay discovers that the store is more curious than either its name or its gnomish owner might suggest. The customers are few, and they never seem to buy anything—instead, they "check out" large, obscure volumes from strange corners of the store. Suspicious, Clay engineers an analysis of the clientele's behavior, seeking help from his variously talented friends. But when they bring their findings to Mr. Penumbra, they discover the bookstore's secrets extend far beyond its walls. Rendered with irresistible brio and dazzling intelligence, Robin Sloan's *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* is exactly what it sounds like: an establishment you have to enter and will never want to leave"—from Amazon.com Review

Vergheze, Cutting for Stone:

"Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, *Cutting for Stone* is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles--and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined."—Amazon.com Review

Whitehead, The Underground Railroad:

"**Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award**, the #1 *New York Times* bestseller from Colson Whitehead, a magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hell for all the slaves, but especially bad for Cora; an outcast

even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood—where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned—Cora kills a young white boy who tries to capture her. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted.

In Whitehead’s ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora and Caesar’s first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But the city’s placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. And even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels. Forced to flee again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom....

.... Cora encounters different worlds at each stage of her journey—hers is an odyssey through time as well as space. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is at once a kinetic adventure tale of one woman’s ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share.”—from Amazon.com

English 12:

Humanities and the Arts:

Students taking Humanities and the Arts must read the following:

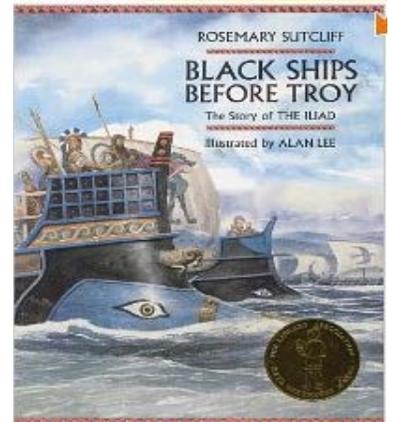
Sutcliff, Rosemary. Black Ships Before Troy

Humanities and the Arts

Comments:

This book is available in a paperback version, or in a beautifully illustrated hardcover edition (illustrations by Alan Lee). Amazon.com has both editions.

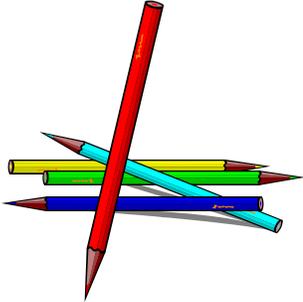
This story of Homer’s epic poem, *The Iliad*, captures the excitement, intrigue and history of the Trojan War. When Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world, is abducted, all of Greece goes to war against Troy. In this great adventure, meet Achilles, Hector, Odysseus and many other heroes who fight for life and death in a brutal, ten-year battle. Discover extraordinary tales such as Aphrodite and the golden apple and the Trojan horse. Rosemary Sutcliff introduces the reader to the dramatic Greek gods and goddesses who intervene in the conflict. This reading will provide necessary background information and an important introduction to the Humanities course.



English 12:
Modern Drama Literature:
Read both of the following:

Albee, The Zoo Story
Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest

Modern Drama Literature
Comments:



Albee, The Zoo Story:

A lonely man, coping with the experience of living in an apartment full of lunatics and his landlady's savage dog, confronts an upper-middle-class stranger. Though the two appear to have nothing in common, there is a sense that both the compulsive talker and his reluctant listener are doomed to empty, unfulfilling lives.

Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest:

This play is a satire of the upper classes whose lives are filled with the ennui of nothing important to do. Two gentlemen living in the 1890's, both of whom have no problem bending the truth, each invent a character called Earnest. Things start to go awry when they end up together in the country and their deceptions are revealed threatening to destroy their romantic endeavors.