

SUMMER READING 2020

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English 9:

During your freshman year in high school, you will be introduced to many different types of literature. We have compiled a list of suggested 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. You can also read a book of your own choice so long as it is not a book that you have already read in middle school. **You must read at least one book this summer that you will be able to write about when you return to school:**

Asimov, *I, Robot* (E-book – Hoopla)
Berg, *Durable Goods*
Cook, *Coma* (Audiobook – Hoopla)
Crichton, *The Andromeda Strain*
Gout, *Genius: The Game*
Green, *An Abundance of Katherines*
Grisham, *Calico Joe*
Ivey, *The Snow Child*
Kingsolver, *Bean Trees* (Audio & E-book – Hoopla)
Meyer, *Lunar Chronicles: Cinder, Scarlet, or Cress* (all 3 Audiobook – Hoopla)
Myers, *Sunrise Over Fallujah*
Pratchett, *Nation* (Audiobook – Hoopla)
Scott, *The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*
Stork, *Marcelo in the Real World*
Watson, *Piecing Me Together*
Zentner, *Goodbye Days*

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*

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.

Gout, *Genius: The Game*:

“Meet Rex, a 16-year-old programming genius who is determined to find his brother, Teo, no matter what the cost. Rex creates WALKABOUT, a very complicated code that once run will allow him to track down his brother; the only catch is he has to find a quantum computer to run it. Meet Tunde, a 14-year-old self-taught engineering genius who lives in rural Nigeria. It is not until the cruel General Iyabo visits Tunde's village to demand his help in creating a weapon that he realizes that his genius may be the detriment of his family. Meet Painted Wolf, a 16-year-old genius who lives in Shanghai. The infamous teen is one of China's leading microbloggers who takes pride in exposing public officials who take bribes from mob figures. She knows her online presence can never be linked to her true self or her family will be in danger. It is not until the three protagonists learn of a competition called the Game, hosted by one of the biggest names in technology, Kiran Biswas, that they realize their meeting may help to resolve their individual problems. Strong characters who show their bravery throughout, friendships that do not falter, and ethics that do not fail, even when characters are faced with the impossible, are a refreshing change to most teenage novels. VERDICT: Readers will be caught up in the brilliance of the three characters and be surprised at the many twists and turns that they must confront. A gripping must-have”.—Elizabeth Anne Ragain, Springfield Public Schools, MO School Library Journal

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

Ivey, *The Snow Child*:

“Alaska, 1920: a brutal place to homestead, and especially tough for recent arrivals Jack and Mabel....During the season’s first snowfall, they build a child out of snow. The next morning, the snow child is gone—but they glimpse a young, blonde-haired girl running through the trees. This little girl, who calls herself Faina, seems to be a child of the woods. She hunts with a red fox at her side, skims lightly across the snow, and somehow survives alone in the Alaskan wilderness. As Jack and Mabel struggle to understand this child who could have stepped from the pages of a fairy tale, they come to love her as their own daughter. But in this beautiful, violent place things are rarely as they appear, and what they eventually learn about Faina will transform all of them...”--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

Meyer, *Lunar Chronicles: Cinder, Scarlet or Cress*:

Cinder: “Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth’s fate hinges on one girl. . . .Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She’s a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for

her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future. With high-stakes action and a smart, resourceful heroine, *Cinder* is a Cinderella retelling that is at once classic and strikingly original.”—from Amazon.com

Scarlet: “Cinder is back and trying to break out of prison—even though she'll be the Commonwealth's most wanted fugitive if she does—in this second installment from Marissa Meyer. Halfway around the world, Scarlet Benoit's grandmother is missing. It turns out there are many things Scarlet doesn't know about her grandmother, or the grave danger she has lived in her whole life. When Scarlet encounters Wolf, a street fighter who may have information as to her grandmother's whereabouts, she is loath to trust this stranger, but is inexplicably drawn to him, and he to her. As Scarlet and Wolf unravel one mystery, they encounter another when they meet Cinder. Now, all of them must stay one step ahead of the vicious Lunar Queen Levana. The adventure continues in this fresh fairytale retelling that combines elements of Cinderella and Little Red Riding Hood.”—from Amazon.com

Cress: “Cinder and Captain Thorne are fugitives on the run, with Scarlet and Wolf in tow. Together they're plotting to overthrow Queen Levana and her army. Their best hope lies with Cress, who has been trapped on a satellite since childhood with only her netscreens as company. All that screen time has made Cress an excellent hacker; unfortunately, she's just received orders from Levana to track down Cinder and her handsome accomplice. When a daring rescue goes awry, the group is separated. Cress finally has her freedom, but it comes at a high price. Meanwhile, Queen Levana will let nothing stop her marriage to Emperor Kai. Cress, Scarlet, and Cinder may not have signed up to save the world, but they may be the only ones who can. Find out what happens in another richly imagined adventure in Marissa Meyer's world of fairytale (with characters based off of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and Rapunzel), science fiction, and intergalactic intrigue.” —from Amazon.com

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

Scott, *The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel:*

“Nicholas Flamel appeared in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter*—but did you know he really lived? And he might still be alive today! Discover the truth in Michael Scott's *New York Times* bestselling series the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel with *The Alchemyst*, book one.

The truth: Nicholas Flamel was born in Paris on September 28, 1330.

The legend: Nicholas Flamel discovered the secret of eternal life.

The records show that he died in 1418.

But his tomb is empty. Nicholas Flamel lives. But only because he has been making the elixir of life for centuries. The secret of eternal life is hidden within the book he protects—the Book of Abraham the Mage. It's the most powerful book that has ever existed. In the wrong hands, it will destroy the world. That's exactly what Dr. John Dee plans to do when he steals it. Humankind won't know what's happening until it's too late. And if the prophecy is right, Sophie and Josh

Newman are the only ones with the power to save the world as we know it. Sometimes legends are true. And Sophie and Josh Newman are about to find themselves in the middle of the greatest legend of all time.”—from Amazon.com

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*

Watson, *Piecing Me Together*:

NPR's Best Books of 2017, A 2017 New York Public Library Best Teen Book of the Year, Chicago Public Library's Best Books of 2017, A *School Library Journal* Best Book of 2017, Kirkus Reviews' Best Teen Books of 2017. “Acclaimed author Renee Watson offers a powerful story about a girl striving for success in a world that too often seems like it's trying to break her. Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some *opportunities* she doesn't really welcome, like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from. She's tired of being singled out as someone who needs help, someone people want to fix. Jade wants to speak, to create, to express her joys and sorrows, her pain and her hope. Maybe there are some things she could show other women about understanding the world and finding ways to be real, to make a difference.”—Amazon.com

Zentner, *Goodbye*

***Days*:**

“It was just a text: Carver wanted to know when his three best friends were going to pick him up. But those three best friends got into a car accident and never made it to him. Carver can't stop blaming himself and his text for their deaths, and things get worse after a judge is also interested in pointing the finger at him. Carver juggles his own feelings of guilt and the blame others direct at him as he decides to honor the memory of his friends through cathartic 'goodbye days.’”—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. Students taking English 10 Advanced must read at least TWO books; you may read one book of your own choice, but you must read at least one book from this list. Students taking English 10 Regular must read at least one book during the summer. You may read a book of your own choice, or you may choose from the books listed below. DO NOT CHOOSE a book from the English 9 list or one that you read in middle school:

Alvarez, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* (E-book – Hoopla)
Arnold, *Mosquitoland*
Bass, *One Goal: A Coach, A Team, and the Game that Brought a Divided Town Together*
Card, *Ender's Shadow*
Carter, *We Were Strangers Once* (Audio & E-book – Hoopla)
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*
Egan, *Manhattan Beach*
Goodwin, *Wait Till Next Year* (Audiobook – Hoopla)
Grisham, *The Last Juror*
Hobbs, *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League* (Audiobook – Hoopla)
Howey, *Wool*
Johnson, *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World.* (Audiobook – Hoopla)
Lee, *Native Speaker*
McCammon, *Boy's Life* (Audio & E-book – Hoopla)
Morgenstern, *The Night Circus*
Potok, *The Chosen*
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*

Arnold, *Mosquitoland*: "After the sudden collapse of her family, Mim Malone is dragged from her home in northern Ohio to the 'wastelands' of Mississippi, where she lives in a medicated milieu with her dad and new stepmom. Before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back in Cleveland. So she ditches her new life and hops aboard a northbound Greyhound bus to her real home and her real mother, meeting a quirky cast of fellow travelers along the way. But when her thousand-mile journey takes a few turns she could never see coming, Mim must confront her own demons, redefining her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane."—Amazon.com

Bass, *One Goal: A Coach, A Team, and the Game that Brought a Divided Town Together*: When thousands of Somali refugees resettled in Lewiston, Maine, a struggling, overwhelmingly white town, longtime residents grew uneasy. Then the mayor wrote a letter asking Somalis to stop coming, which became a national story. While scandal threatened to subsume the town, its high school's soccer coach integrated Somali kids onto his team, and their passion began to heal old wounds. Taking readers behind the tumult of this controversial team--and onto the pitch where the teammates vied to become state champions and achieved a vital sense of understanding--ONE GOAL is a timely story about overcoming the prejudices that divide us.

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

Carter, *We Were Strangers Once*: "Moving and intensely personal, this subtle novel of the immigrant experience in 1940s Manhattan boasts impressive and varied character development... There are multiple read-alikes here: Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* (2015) for Carter's lovely writing style and the pathos in her story; Dinaw Mengestu's *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* (2007) for Carter's evocation of the poverty and yearning to belong that are so often the immigrant's lot; and Natasha Solomons' *Mr. Rosenblum Dreams* (2010) for Carter's endearing characters with their unbridled determination and positive attitude. A memorable, important, and insightful novel."—*Booklist*, starred review

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*.

Egan, *Manhattan Beach*: “With *Manhattan Beach*, Jennifer Egan—who dazzled readers with her Pulitzer Prize-winning, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*—spins a classic historical novel. Classic in the sense that it’s virtually impossible to put down. Classic in its sepia toned portrait of New York: set on the Brooklyn docks during World War II, when mobsters ruled, the war loomed, and a young girl dove her way into becoming the first female diver on the squad. Classic in its quintessentially satisfying characters: crooked gangsters, disappearing fathers, gritty sailors and an intrepid young woman equally at home in a 200 pound diving suit and a green silk dress who unites them all. Classic in its revelation of the dangerous, altruistic and nefarious”—from 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. Daring to 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

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

Johnson, *The Ghost Map: The Story of London’s Most Terrifying Epidemic and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World*:

A *New York Times* Notable Book, and an *Entertainment Weekly* Best Book of the Year:
“It’s the summer of 1854, and London is just emerging as one of the first modern cities in the world. But lacking the infrastructure-garbage removal, clean water, sewers-necessary to support its rapidly expanding population, the city has become the perfect breeding ground for a terrifying disease no one knows how to cure. As the cholera outbreak takes hold, a physician and a local curate are spurred to action-and ultimately solve the most pressing medical riddle of their time....In a triumph of multidisciplinary thinking, Johnson illuminates the intertwined histories of the spread of disease, the rise of cities, and the nature of scientific inquiry, offering both a riveting history and a powerful explanation of how it has shaped the world we live in.”—from Amazon.com

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*

Morgenstern, *The Night Circus*:

“The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called Le Cirque des Reves, and it is only open at night. But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them, this is a game in which only one can be left standing....”--from Amazon.com

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.

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:

Luiselli, *Tell Me How It Ends. An Essay in Forty Questions* ([E-book – Hoopla](#))

Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*

Westover, *Educated*

CliffsNotes AP English Language & Composition (4th Edition)

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

Luiselli, *Tell Me How it Ends:*

Structured around the forty questions Luiselli translates and asks undocumented Latin-American children facing deportation, *Tell Me How It Ends* (an expansion of her 2016 *Freeman's* essay of the same name) humanizes these young migrants and highlights the contradiction of the idea of America as a fiction for immigrants with the reality of racism and fear both here and back home."
– from *Goodreads*

Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption:*

"A searing, moving and infuriating memoir . . . Bryan Stevenson may, indeed, be America's Mandela. For decades he has fought judges, prosecutors and police on behalf of those who are impoverished, black or both. . . . Injustice is easy not to notice when it affects people different from ourselves; that helps explain the obliviousness of our own generation to inequity today. We need to wake up. And that is why we need a Mandela in this country."—Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*

Westover, *Educated: A Memoir*

"Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University."—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. **Students taking HONORS ENGLISH 11 must read at least TWO books; you may read one book of your own choice, but you must read at least one book from this list. Students taking English 11 College Prep (Regular) must read at least one book during the summer. You may read a book of your own choice, or you may choose from the books listed below. DO NOT CHOOSE a book from the English 9 or 10 lists.**

English 11: (English 11 Honors choose two);
English 11 College Prep, choose one):

Adeyemi, *Children of Blood and Bone: The Legacy of Orisha*
(Book 1) ([Audiobook – Hoopla](#))
Alderman, *The Power*
Austen, *Emma* ([Audio & E-book – Hoopla](#))
Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*
Bronte, Charlotte, *Jane Eyre* ([Audio & E-book – Hoopla](#))
Brown, *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*
Deraniyagala, *Wave*
Esquivel, *Like Water for Chocolate*
Hashimi, *The Moon Is Low* ([E-book – Hoopla](#))
Makos and Alexander, *A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story of Combat and Chivalry in the War-Torn Skies of World War II* ([Audiobook – Hoopla](#))
Ozeki, *A Tale for the Time Being* ([Audiobook – Hoopla](#))
Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*
Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
Walls, *The Glass Castle*

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:

Adeyemi, *Children of Blood and Bone*:

“Tomi Adeyemi’s debut novel is the start of what promises to be an epic, addictive new series. *The Children of Blood and Bone* is influenced by Adeyemi’s West African heritage, and in it she bends religious deities (the Orisha) and a diverse landscape into a refreshing new take on fantasy. *The Children of Blood and Bone* is told from multiple points of view, as Inan and Amari, children of the iron-fisted king, and Zélie and Tzain, siblings who have suffered greatly under the king’s regime, find themselves on a dark, magic-filled quest for power. Their journey is accompanied by violence and betrayal, but friendship and even star-crossed love also play a part. Enriched with themes that resonate in today’s social and political landscape, *The Children of Blood and Bone* takes on injustice, discrimination, and a struggle for change. The action and danger ramp up with each chapter, and I found myself racing through the final pages, holding my breath right up to the cliffhanger ending.” -- *Seira Wilson for the Amazon Book Review*

Alderman, *The Power*:

“In *THE POWER*, the world is a recognizable place: there’s a rich Nigerian boy who lounges around the family pool; a foster kid whose religious parents hide their true nature; an ambitious American politician; a tough London girl from a tricky family. But then a vital new force takes root and flourishes, causing their lives to converge with devastating effect. Teenage girls now have immense physical power—they can cause agonizing pain and even death. And, with this small twist of nature, the world drastically resets.....*THE POWER* is speculative fiction at its most ambitious and provocative, at once taking us on a thrilling journey to an alternate reality, and exposing our own world in bold and surprising ways.”—from Amazon.com

Austen, *Emma*:

“The culmination of Jane Austen’s genius, a sparkling comedy of love and marriage.... Beautiful, clever, rich—and single—Emma Woodhouse is perfectly content with her life and sees no need for either love or marriage. Nothing, however, delights her more than interfering in the romantic lives of others. But when she ignores the warnings of her good friend Mr. Knightley and attempts to arrange a suitable match for her protegee Harriet Smith, her carefully laid plans soon unravel and have consequences that she never expected. With its imperfect but charming heroine and its witty and subtle exploration of relationships, *Emma* is often seen as Jane Austen’s most flawless work.”—Penguin Classics

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

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

Esquivel, *Like Water for Chocolate*:

"Earthy, magical, and utterly charming, this tale of family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico became a best-selling phenomenon with its winning blend of poignant romance and bittersweet wit. The classic love story takes place on the De la Garza ranch, as the tyrannical owner, Mama Elena, chops onions at the kitchen table in her final days of pregnancy. While still in her mother's womb, her daughter to be weeps so violently she causes an early labor, and little Tita slips out amid the spices and fixings for noodle soup. This early encounter with food soon becomes a way of life, and Tita grows up to be a master chef. She shares special points of her favorite preparations with listeners throughout the story."—from Amazon.com

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

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

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

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

Tan, *The Joy Luck Club:*

“Four Chinese women, drawn together by the shadow of their past, meet in San Francisco to play mah jong, invest in stocks, eat dim sum, and to “say” stories to each other. Nearly 40 years later, one of the women has died, and her daughter arrives to take her place. However, the daughter never expected to learn of her mother's secret lifelong wish - and the tragic way in which it has come true. The revelation creates among the women an urgent need to remember the past. What is lost between generations and among friends - and what is salvaged - resonates throughout this novel of friendship among women and the relations between mothers and daughters.”—from Amazon.com

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

English 12:

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 assignment given by teacher:

Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Folger Edition)

E-book available here: <https://shakespeare.folger.edu/shakespeares-works/hamlet/>

Audiobook - Hoopla

Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Audio & E-book – Hoopla)

Comments:

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*:

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.

Shelley, *Frankenstein*: Written by Mary Shelley when she was only 18 years old, this novel tells the story of young Victor Frankenstein who is consumed by his obsession to discover the secrets of life. He devotes all of his studies at the university to creating a human being which he constructs from body parts of corpses, and he reanimates his creature. Victor is then horrified at the sight of the newborn monster that he has created, and he flees from it. The creature then enters into the world as a rejected outcast struggling to make sense of his own identity. What follows is a gripping tale of murder and a search for justice and revenge.

English 12: Contemporary Fiction Honors and Contemporary Fiction College Prep (Regular)

Students taking Contemporary Fiction HONORS must read at least TWO books; you may read one book of your own choice, but you must read at least one book from this list. Students taking Contemporary Fiction College Prep (Regular) must read at least one of the book during the summer. You may read a book of your own choice, or you may choose from the books listed below. DO NOT CHOOSE a book from the English 9, 10, or 11 lists, however.

Backman, *Beartown*
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*
Green, *Turtles All the Way Down*
Hannah, *The Nightingale* (Audiobook – Hoopla)
Heller, *The Dog Stars*
Mandel, *Station Eleven*
McCann, *Let the Great World Spin*
Ng, *Everything I Never Told You*
Orange, *There There*
Patchett, *State of Wonder* (Audio & E-book – Hoopla)
Paull, *The Bees* (E-book – Hoopla)
Powers, *The Overstory*
Sloan, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* (Audiobook – Hoopla)
Ward, *Salvage the Bones*
Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*
Wolitzer, *The Female Persuasion*

Contemporary Fiction Comments:

Backman, *Beartown*:

"...A tiny community nestled deep in the forest, it is slowly losing ground to the ever-encroaching trees. But down by the lake, stands an old ice rink, built generations ago by the working men who founded this town. And in that ice rink is the reason people in Beartown believe tomorrow will be better than today. Their junior ice hockey team is about to compete in the national semi-finals, and they actually have a shot at winning. All the hopes and dreams of this place now rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys....Being responsible for the hopes of an entire town is a heavy burden, and the semi-final match is the catalyst for a violent act that will leave a young girl traumatized and a town in turmoil. Accusations are made and, like ripples on a pond, they travel through all of Beartown, leaving no resident unaffected...."--from Amazon.com

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

Green, *Turtles All the Way Down*:

“Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there’s a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett’s son, Davis.

Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

In his long-awaited return, John Green, the acclaimed, award-winning author of *Looking for Alaska* and *The Fault in Our Stars*, shares Aza’s story with shattering, unflinching clarity in this brilliant novel of love, resilience, and the power of lifelong friendship.”—from Amazon.com

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 etan, 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.

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

Orange, *There There*:

Winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award, One of the New York Times 10 Best Books of the Year, 2018

“Tommy Orange’s...novel follows twelve characters from Native communities to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to each other in ways they may not yet realize....Together this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American--grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism...”--from Amazon.com

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

Powers, *The Overstory*:

Winner of the 2019 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, New York Times Notable Book, and Kirkus Review Best Book of 2018

“Richard Powers’ novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe...”--from Amazon.com

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 gnomic 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

Ward, *Salvage the Bones*:

Winner of the National Book Award

“Jesmyn Ward, two-time National Book Award winner and author of *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, delivers a gritty but tender novel about family and poverty in the days leading up to Hurricane Katrina. A hurricane is building over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, and Esch’s father is growing concerned. A hard drinker, largely absent, he doesn’t show concern for much else. Esch and her three brothers are stocking food, but there isn’t much to save. Lately, Esch can’t keep down what food she gets; she’s fourteen and pregnant. Her brother Skeetah is sneaking scraps for his prized pitbull’s new litter, dying one by one in the dirt. Meanwhile, brothers Randall and Junior try to stake their claim in a family long on child’s play and short on parenting. As the twelve days that make up the novel’s framework yield to their dramatic conclusion, this unforgettable family—motherless children sacrificing for one another as they can, protecting and nurturing where love is scarce—pulls itself up to face another day. A big-hearted novel about familial love and community against all odds, and a wrenching look at the lonesome, brutal, and restrictive realities of rural poverty, *Salvage the Bones* is muscled with poetry, revelatory, and real.”—from Amazon.com

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

Wolitzer, *The Female Persuasion*:

“Bright and ambitious, Greer Kadetsky, the child of former hippies, attends her fallback school while her high school sweetheart, Cory, an academic powerhouse, enrolls at Yale. During her first weekend in college, she's groped at a frat party by a serial abuser, and she becomes inspired to stand up for herself by a speech given by Faith Frank, a charismatic icon whom Greer later engages in conversation. Greer's burgeoning friendship with a feminist freshman, Zee, also motivates her. After college, Cory sets off to capitalize on his Ivy League degree in international finance, while Greer reaches out to Faith, and both women embark on a new venture, a foundation to empower and support women around the world. It's a testament to Wolitzer's skill that few characters remain unexplored. Greer, Faith, and Cory are all unflinchingly defined. The three true-to-life protagonists face struggles that will interest young adult readers because of the book's weighty and relevant themes. Here, they will also find a powerful character-driven coming-of-age story told in a stark, wry voice. VERDICT: for discerning teens and... academic high flyers.—Suzanne Gordon, Lanier High School, Sugar Hill, GA, *School Library Journal*

English 12:

Humanities and the Arts:

Students taking Humanities and the Arts must read the following:

Riordan, *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods* ([E-book – Hoopla](#))

(**NOTE:** This is for **ALL HUMANITIES CLASSES:** Regular College Prep, Collaborative, and Adapted)

Humanities and the Arts Comments:

Riordan, *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods:*

“The son of Poseidon adds his own magic and sarcastic asides to the classics in this collection of myths, retold in Percy’s unique voice. He explains how the world was created, then gives readers his personal take on a who’s who of ancients from Apollo to Zeus...” –from Scholastic.com