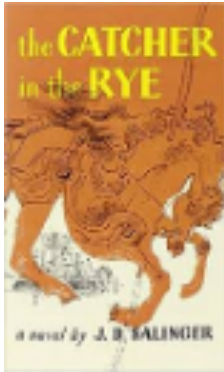


## Junior English Summer Reading Assignment 2019

The West Aurora English Department is excited to share its 2019 Summer Reading Selections. It is our hope that each student will both discover the pleasure that reading provides and maintain his or her current reading level during the summer months. With that in mind, please select one book from the list below and read it before the start of the new school year.

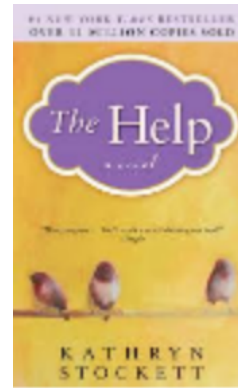
### ***Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger**



*The Catcher in the Rye* is set around the 1950s and is narrated by a young man, Holden Caulfield. Confused and disillusioned, Holden searches for truth amidst the “phoniness” of the adult world. Holden is not specific about his location while he's telling the story, but he makes it clear that he is undergoing treatment in a mental

hospital or sanatorium.

### ***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett**

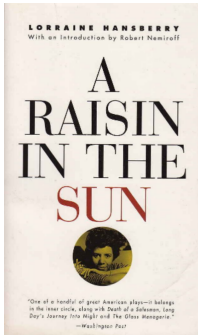


*The Help* is a 2009 novel by American author Kathryn Stockett. The story is about African Americans working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi, during the early 1960s.

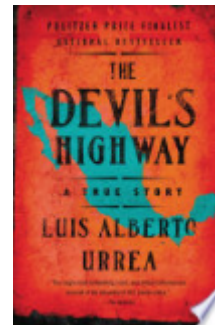
### ***A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry**

*A Raisin in the Sun* portrays a few weeks in the life of the Youngers, an African-American family living on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s. When the play opens, the Youngers are about to receive an insurance check for \$10,000. This money comes from the deceased Mr. Younger's life insurance policy. Each of the adult members of the family has an idea as to what he or she would like to do with this money. The matriarch of the family, Mama, wants to buy a house to

fulfill a dream she shared with her husband. Mama's son, Walter Lee, would rather use the money to invest in a liquor store with his friends. He believes that the investment will solve the family's financial problems forever. Walter's wife, Ruth, agrees with Mama, however, and hopes that she and Walter can provide more space and opportunity for their son, Travis. Finally, Beneatha, Walter's sister and Mama's daughter, wants to use the money for her medical school tuition. She also wishes that her family members were not so interested in joining the white world. Beneatha instead tries to find her identity by looking back to the past and to Africa.



### ***The Devil's Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea**



In May 2001, a group of men attempted to cross the Mexican border into the desert of southern Arizona, through the deadliest region of the continent, the "Devil's Highway." Three years later, Luis Alberto Urrea wrote about what happened to them. The result was a national bestseller, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, a "book of the year" in multiple newspapers, and a work proclaimed as a modern American classic.

**Obtaining the books:**

We strongly suggest you purchase your own copy of the book so that you can annotate and highlight. However, if you are unable to do so, there is a limited number of copies of each novel in the Wigwam that you can obtain before the end of the school year. There should also be multiple copies at the public library, though they will be much more limited in availability. If you chose to read *The Devil's Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea, your teacher can provide you with an access code for the Open eBooks mobile app.

**Students should bring copies of these books on the first day of school and plan to use them for the first two weeks of class.**

### **Assignment:**

Reading becomes a genuinely fun activity when the reader connects with the text personally. Therefore, as you read, ask yourself questions, make personal connections, and form your own opinions and judgments on the characters, the plot, the author's purpose, and on whatever else YOU find engaging and interesting. You will not be required to complete an assignment over the summer, but you will complete a writing reflection within the first few days of class. over the novel that you have selected. When writing this reflection, you will be allowed to use any notes that you take over the course of reading the novel; therefore, although it is not required to take notes, it is strongly encouraged. The questions below are for your reference.

- 1. How did any of the characters or events remind you of yourself? Why?*
- 2. If you could give the main character in your book some advice, what would you tell him or her? Why? How do you think he or she would respond to your advice?*
- 3. If you were in the story, what would your relationship be to the main character? Would you be friends? Enemies? Something else? Why?*
- 4. If you could ask the main character of this book three questions, what would you ask? Why do you want to know the answers to these questions?*
- 5. What is the main conflict that the main character in your book faces? How does the character change or grow as a result of this conflict?*
- 6. What are some important relationships in your book? Why are they important?*
- 7. What do you think the author is trying to say about people? Are they mostly good? Mostly evil? Selfish? Selfless? Something else? Why?*
- 8. What topic or big idea would you say this book is about? What do you think the author is trying to say about that topic?*
- 9. Choose a character that is interesting to you. Do you think that character makes good or bad decisions in this book? Why?*
- 10. How would the story change from another character's point-of-view? Why?*

Each of these novels tells compelling stories about characters facing real-life struggles. They are full of common themes from which all of us can learn. Happy Reading!

### **Questions:**

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email any of the following Junior English teachers. Please remember that because it is summer, teachers may not respond as quickly as they would during the school year.

**Angi Abbott:** [aabbott@sd129.org](mailto:aabbott@sd129.org)

**Lindsay Herwaldt:** [lherwaldt@sd129.org](mailto:lherwaldt@sd129.org)

**Sheila McQuade:** [smcquade@sd129.org](mailto:smcquade@sd129.org)