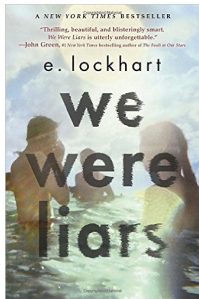


## Sophomore English Summer Reading 2019

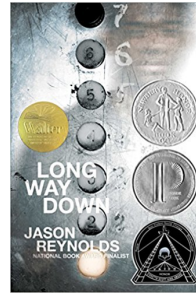
The West Aurora English Department is excited to announce its 2019 Summer Reading Program selections. It is our hope that each student will discover the pleasure that reading provides while also maintaining his or her current reading level during the summer months. With that in mind, please select one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

### *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart



Cadence and her wealthy family spend each summer on their private island, just off the coast of Martha's Vineyard, but after a mysterious accident occurs on the island during "Summer Fifteen," Cadence is left with no memories of what happened to her. After two years away from the island, Cadence returns to find everything and everyone very different. All of the people in her family are suddenly nervous and secretive around her. Cadence's lost memories slowly begin to resurface, revealing secrets she may wish had remained lost...

### *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds



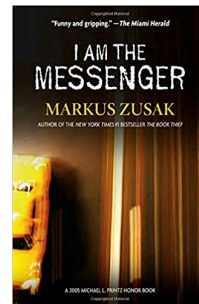
Will's brother Shawn has just been murdered, and Will is out for revenge. He has his brother's gun tucked into the waistband of his jeans, and he knows what he must do. While he rides the elevator of his apartment building down to the first floor to carry out his deed, it stops on each floor and a new passenger steps on. As each one begins to talk to him, he realizes that all of these people are connected to his brother in some way, but more importantly, all of them have one chilling thing in common...

### *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas



Starr spends her time living between two worlds: her poor neighborhood that she grew up in, and the expensive prep school she attends. Her worlds shatter when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend, Khalil, at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Rumors begin to spread across the media about Khalil, turning her neighborhood into a war zone of protests, riots, and people demanding justice. The only one who knows what truly happened that night is Starr, but what she chooses to reveal could turn her community upside down, and even threaten her life as she knows it. **\*\*Heavy use of explicit language\*\***

### *I am the Messenger* by Markus Zusak



Protect the diamonds  
Survive the clubs  
Dig deep through the spades  
Feel the hearts

Ed Kennedy is an underage cab driver and a bit of a low-life. He doesn't have much going for him - that is, until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when he receives the first ace in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. Ed has been chosen to care, and he makes his way through town both helping and hurting (when necessary), but the bigger question is: Who is behind Ed's mission? And, why has Ed been chosen to carry out these deeds over everyone else?

### 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 are a limited number of copies 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. **Students should bring copies of these books on the first day of school.**

**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. During the first weeks of school, teachers will be conducting lessons based on these books, so it is imperative that each student comes prepared having read the selected book and having considered the following questions:*

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 they 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?

**Questions:**

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

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