Troy School District
Summer Reading Program 2020
12 Literature and Composition

Seniors are to read two books this summer; one will be from teacher-provided lists, and the other is to be selected by the individual student. This program is intended to increase students’ enjoyment of reading and to develop a habit of reading that takes students far beyond the English classroom.

Requirements:
Within the first two weeks of the school year (and throughout the rest of the school year), we will be discussing and writing about your experiences with these texts. What did you get from each? How did your thinking grow or change? What fascinated you, piqued your interest, or challenged you?

Aside from reading the books, there is no other summer assignment. We look forward to beginning the school year with students who have read and enjoyed two engaging pieces of literature.

Where do I get the books?
- New or used books can be purchased through amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and half.com.
- Ebooks can be purchased through many online stores including the Amazon Bookstore or through iTunes via the iBooks app.
- Troy Public Library: Please note that while you may borrow the book from the library, the supply is limited, and, more importantly, owning the books in either paperback or e-reader form will allow necessary access to the texts during the school year.

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**SELECTION #1: WORLD FICTION or NON-FICTION**
Choose one book from either the fiction OR non-fiction lists below.
FYI: You will be reading another book from these lists during the school year. (For example, if you read something from the fiction list in the summer, you will then choose a title from the non-fiction list to read during the school year.)

Reading any book, especially a more difficult book, is easier when you have people with whom to talk it through. Feel free to form a group and read the same book. Discuss it, ask each other questions, help one another.

As all of these selections contain mature themes, please do your research to make sure this book is a “good fit” for your interests and/or world view.

We’ve created this list to offer choices to every reader, regardless of ability, thus the reading difficulty varies widely from title to title. Be sure to do your research. Don’t shy away from a challenging read if it captures your interest!

**WORLD FICTION**

A Thousand Splendid Suns (Afghanistan) Khaled Hosseini
SOLD (Nepal/India) Patricia McCormick
Q&A: A Novel (India) Vikas Swarup
A Walk Across the Sun (India) Corban Addison
Purple Hibiscus (Nigeria) Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Fishermen (Nigeria) Chigozie Obioma
Beasts of No Nation (Africa) Uzodinma Iweala
Never Fall Down (Cambodia) Patricia McCormick
The Sympathizer (Viet Nam) Viet Thanh Nguyen
The Orphan Master’s Son (North Korea)  
Adam Johnson

Pachinko (Japan/Korea)  
Min Jin Lee

Memoirs of a Geisha (Japan)  
Arthur Golden

In the Pond (China)  
Ha Jin

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan (China)  
Lisa See

The Nightingale (France)  
Kristin Hannah

All the Light We Cannot See (Germany/France)  
Anthony Doerr

The Berlin Boxing Club (Germany)  
Robert Sharenow

City of Thieves (Russia)  
David Benioff

Between Shades of Gray (Russia/Siberia)  
Ruta Sepetys

Dark at the Crossing (Syria)  
Eliot Ackerman

Redeployment (US/Afghanistan/Iraq)  
Phil Kaye

Yellow Birds

WORLD NON-FICTION

They Poured Fired on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan  
Benjamin Ajak

Blood and Earth: Modern Slavery, Ecocide, and the Secret to Saving the World Hardcover  
Kevin Bales

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity  
Katherine Boo

The Promise of a Pencil: How an Ordinary Person Can Create Extraordinary Change  
Adam Braun

Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea  
Barbara Demick

The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal  
Jared Diamon

Zeitoun  
Dave Eggers

We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families  
Rachel Lloyd

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide  
Marcus Luttrell

Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale  
Somaly Mam

Lone Survivor  
Mark Mathabane

The Road of Lost Innocence: The Story of a Cambodian Heroine  
Enrique’s Journey

Kaffir Boy  
Sonia Nazario

Born a Crime  
Trevor Noah

The Underground Girls of Kabul: In Search of a Hidden Resistance in Afghanistan  
Jenny Nordberg

In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl’s Journey to Freedom  
Yeonmi Park

The Lightless Sky: A Twelve-Year-Old Refugee’s Extraordinary Journey Across Half the World  
Gulwali Passarlay

City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World’s Largest Refugee Camp  
Ben Rawlence

When I Was Puerto Rican  
Esmeralda Santiago

The Places In Between  
Rory Stewart

The Prince of the Marshes: And Other Occupational Hazards of a Year in Iraq  
Anjan Sundaram

Bad News: Last Journalists in a Dictatorship  
Kenan Trebinacievic

SELECTION #2: INDIVIDUAL CHOICE

Your second selection should be a book that you find. Choose something new to you, something you’ve always wanted to read, or something you just stumbled upon that looks interesting.

Reading any book, especially a more difficult book, is easier and more enjoyable when you have people with whom to talk it through. Feel free to form a group and read the same book. Discuss it, ask each other questions, help one another.