

Junípero Serra High School English Department

Freshman English 1-2

Summer Reading 2021

All Incoming English 1-2 students must read [*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah](#) and one additional book from the list below (more is encouraged).

For each of the two books you will read, be prepared to:

- Identify the essential conflicts
- Identify the main characters and identify any significant changes that the main character undergoes
- Identify the importance of settings (time and place). Are there any setting shifts that occur?
- Summarize the plot or sequence of events
- Discuss the major stylistic features.
- Identify the point of view
- Identify the essential theme(s)

Students must choose books which they have not yet read. Students will be assessed on these books; however, our primary goal is to encourage students to simply enjoy reading, and to empower students to become lifelong, passionate readers. All titles in this list are linked to Amazon and most are also available at local bookstores. All students must have a paper copy of their summer reading books at the beginning of the school year for all assignments and activities.

English 1-2 Summer Reading List - 2021

ALL ENGLISH 1-2 & ENGLISH 1A STUDENTS MUST READ:

[*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah](#)

In a heart-wrenching, candid autobiography, a human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army.

ENGLISH 1-2 & ENGLISH 1A: CHOOSE ONE ADDITIONAL BOOK TO READ FROM ANY CATEGORY:

[Fiction](#)

[Nonfiction](#)

[Memoir](#)

[Sports Fiction](#)

[Science Fiction & Fantasy](#)

Fiction

[**Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds**](#)

Jason Reynolds' meditation on the plague of gun violence in America is a moral thriller that will remind students to look beyond their immediate surroundings when it comes to race relations and violence in 21st century teen society.

[**Before Jackie by Larry Harper**](#)

In this heartwarming novel, meticulously researched and based on true stories, a group of nine kids in post-World War II California are brought together by baseball. Free of adult prejudices and united by their love of the game, the kids overcome all obstacles poverty, racism, physical disability to become a vision of America's joyous, diverse future. This is an uplifting story with a twist, where the friends, who call themselves The Nine, find themselves on a quest to dig up a communal grave in order to right a wrong. Through their adventures, friends are loyal above all else to each other, to the team of Negro League players who befriends them, to their teacher, Ms. O'Doul, and to the great American pastime of baseball that makes all things possible.

[**Parrot in the Oven \(Mi Vida\) by Victor Martinez**](#)

Manny relates his coming of age experiences as a member of a poor Mexican American family in which the alcoholic father only adds to everyone's struggle.

[**Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng**](#)

Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet. So begins the story of this exquisite debut novel, about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio.

[**All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr**](#)

A blind French girl on the run from the German occupation and a German orphan-turned-Resistance tracker struggle with their respective beliefs after meeting on the Brittany coast.

[**Adrift by Paul Griffin**](#)

Working in Montauk for the summer, Matt and Mike meet three girls who invite them to their Hamptons mansion, where the group decides to sail out into the ocean in a small boat, become lost at sea, and must learn to work together to survive.

[**Monster by Walter Dean Myers**](#)

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

[**Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers**](#)

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

[The Beast by Walter Dean Myers](#)

A visit to his Harlem neighborhood and the discovery that the girl he loves is using drugs give sixteen-year-old Anthony Witherspoon a new perspective both on his home and on his life at a Connecticut prep school.

[Handbook for Boys by Walter Dean Myers](#)

After being offered after-school jobs at a Harlem barbershop, Jimmy and Kevin soon realize that they have gotten a lot more than just employment as Duke explains to these troublemaking boys the rules of life and the game plan for a successful future.

[Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers](#)

After reluctantly taking on the leadership of the Harlem gang, the Scorpions, Jamal finds that his enemies treat him with respect when he acquires a gun--until a tragedy occurs

[An Innocent Soldier by Josef Holub](#)

A sixteen-year-old farmhand named Adam is tricked into fighting in the Napoleonic Wars by the farmer for whom he works, who secretly substitutes him for the farmer's own son.

[The Pigman by Paul Zindel](#)

John and Lorraine, two high school sophomores from unhappy homes, tell of their bizarre relationship with an old man named Mr. Pignati, whom they dub the Pigman

[The Most Dangerous Place on Earth by Lindsey Lee Johnson](#)

Arriving as a replacement teacher in a privileged Bay Area school, Molly becomes intrigued with the hidden lives and challenging ambitions of her students, who are struggling with a tragedy from their middle-school years

[Trapped by Michael Northrup](#)

Seven high school students are stranded at their New England high school during a week-long blizzard that shuts down the power and heat, freezes the pipes, and leaves them wondering if they will survive.

[Never Fall Down by Patricia McCormick](#)

Separated from his family and assigned to a labor camp when soldiers invade his home in Cambodia, young Arn volunteers to become a musician for the army and uses his wits to survive and steal food for other child prisoners before he is conscripted as a boy soldier.

[Fortunate Son by Walter Mosely](#)

Sharing a close bond in spite of very different backgrounds, Eric, a handsome white man of privilege, and Tommy, an impoverished black youth with poor health, are separated by tragedy and reunited by a common enemy years later.

[Nailed by Patrick Jones](#)

An outcast in a school full of jocks, sixteen-year-old Brett struggles to keep his individuality through his interest in drama and music, while trying to reconnect with his father.

[The Blue Star by Tony Earley](#)

Teenage Jim falls in love with classmate Crissie Steppe, whose boyfriend has joined the Navy on the eve of World War II and whom Jim vows to win over in the young sailor's absence, until the sobering realities of war bring all of them a new perspective.

[The Last Mission by Harry Mazer](#)

In 1944, as World War II is raging across Europe, fifteen-year-old Jack Raab dreams of being a hero. Leaving New York City, his family, and his boyhood behind, Jack uses a false I.D. and lies his way into the U.S. Air Force.

[Blue Skin of the Sea by Graham Salisbury](#)

Eleven interconnected stories capture a world of exotic beauty, danger, family love, and tragedy as Sonny Mendoza and his cousin, Keo, grow up in a Hawaiian fishing village.

[High School Society of One by Antranig Dereyan](#)

Follow Sevag Hopefulian as he steps out of middle school Special Education and into a tumultuous start to high school where he quickly establishes himself as class rebel.

[Godless by Pete Hautman](#)

When Jason decides to make a mockery of religion by starting his own faith that revolves around the worshipping of a water tower, his friends go along with the gag until "followers" begin to look to them for guidance and Jason's friends get power-hungry in their roles as founders of the new faith.

[Dreamland Burning by Jennifer Latham](#)

When Rowan finds a skeleton on her family's property, investigating the brutal, century-old murder leads to painful discoveries about the past. Alternating chapters tell the story of William, another teen grappling with the racial firestorm leading up to the 1921 Tulsa race riot, providing some clues to the mystery

[The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead](#)

After Cora, a slave in pre-Civil War Georgia, escapes with another slave, Caesar, they seek the help of the Underground Railroad as they flee from state to state and try to evade a slave catcher, Ridgeway, who is determined to return them to the South.

[Dodgers by Bill Beverly](#)

Sent by his uncle along with his hotheaded brother and other teens to kill a major witness, a young thug for a Los Angeles drug gang finds his perspectives changed by his encounters outside of the city.

Sports Fiction

[Slam! by Walter Dean Myers](#)

Despite his talents on the basketball court, sixteen-year-old Greg "Slam" Harris performs poorly in the classroom, and when his teachers confront him, an explosively angry Slam fears for his future for the first time.

[Slam by Nick Hornby](#)

At the age of fifteen, Sam Jones's girlfriend Alicia gets pregnant and Sam's life of skateboarding and daydreaming about Tony Hawk changes drastically, so Sam turns to Hawk's autobiography for answers.

[The Heart of a Champion by Carl Deuker](#)

When Seth Barham's best friend, Jimmy, is kicked off the baseball team, Seth must deal with both his feelings toward the fallen hero and the death of his father (takes place in local setting).

[Night Hoops by Carl Deuker](#)

While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street

[Payback Time by Carl Deuker](#)

Overweight, timid Mitch reluctantly agrees to be the sports reporter for the Lincoln High newspaper because he wants to be a writer, but he senses a real story in Angel, a talented football player who refuses to discuss his past

[Gym Candy by Carl Deuker](#)

Football is the only thing that has ever really mattered to Mick Johnson, who works hard for a spot on the varsity team his freshman year, then tries to hold onto his edge by using steroids, despite the consequences to his health and social life.

[Stupid Fast by Geoff Herbach](#)

Just before his sixteenth birthday, Felton Reinstein has a sudden growth spurt that turns him from a small, jumpy, picked-on boy with the nickname of "Squirrel Nut" to a powerful athlete, leading to new friends, his first love, and the courage to confront his family's past and current problems.

[The Batboy by Mike Lupica](#)

Landing a dream summer job as a batboy for his hometown's major-league team, 14-year-old Brian longs to win back the baseball-loving father who abandoned the family, a circumstance that is complicated by his unlikely friendship with a player who was banned for using steroids.

[Heat by Mike Lupica](#)

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

[Pop by Gordon Korman](#)

Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.

[Out of Reach by V. M. Jones](#)

Pip McLeod is pressured by his aggressively competitive father to play soccer, but finds fulfillment and success by secretly pursuing indoor rock climbing, a sport he actually enjoys.

[Knights of the Hill Country by Tim Tharp](#)

In his senior year, high school star linebacker Hampton Greene finally begins to think for himself and discovers that he might be interested in more than just football.

[The Runner by Cynthia Voigt](#)

Bullet Tillerman runs. He is the star of the school track team, but he isn't a team man and doesn't want to be. Bullet runs for himself. Then he is asked to coach a new kid and in coaching Tamer Shipp, Bullet learns some things about himself—who he is, and who he can perhaps become.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

[Dragons of Babel by Michael Swanwick](#)

Enslaved by a war-dragon of Babel, young Will evacuates to the Tower of Babel where he meets the confidence trickster, Nat Whilk, and becomes a hero to the homeless living in the tunnels under the city. As he rises from an underling to a politician, Will falls in love with a high-elven woman he dare not aspire to.

[Rash by Pete Hautman](#)

In the late twenty-first century, Bo, after being falsely accused of spreading a rash throughout his school, is sold into forced labor at a pizza factory in the Canadian tundra where he's promised early parole if he joins an illegal football team, while, at home, his school project takes on a life of its own.

[The Ear, The Eye, and the Arm by Nancy Farmer](#)

In Zimbabwe, in the year 2194, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

[The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer](#)

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

[Little Brother by Cory Doctorow](#)

After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

[Shade's Children by Garth Nix](#)

In a savage postnuclear world, four young fugitives attempt to overthrow the bloodthirsty rule of the Overlords with the help of Shade, their mysterious mentor.

[Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi](#)

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

[Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld](#)

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

[The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness](#)

Pursued by power-hungry Prentiss and mad minister Aaron, young Todd and Viola set out across New World searching for answers about his colony's true past and seeking a way to warn the ship bringing hopeful settlers from Old World.

[The Ask and the Answer by Patrick Ness](#)

Alternate chapters follow teenagers Todd and Viola, who become separated as the Mayor's oppressive new regime takes power in New Prentisstown, a space colony where residents can hear each other's thoughts.

[Monsters of Men by Patrick Ness](#)

As a world-ending war surges to life around them, Todd and Viola face monstrous decisions, questioning all they have ever known as they try to step back from the darkness and find the best way to achieve peace.

[The Adoration Of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson](#)

In the not-so-distant future, when synthetic bodies and brains are possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

[Beggars In Spain by Nancy Kress](#)

The product of an experiment in genetic manipulation, superintelligent Leisha Camden is forced to live a life apart from most "ordinary" people and seeks the companionship of other superhumans

[What's Left Of Me: the Hybrid Chronicles by Kat Zhang](#)

Addie and Eva are two sisters born into the same body, and although Eva's soul was supposed to fade away, she still lingers beside Addie's dominant soul, until they meet someone who can change everything for the pair.

[Unwind by Neal Shusterman](#)

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs--and, perhaps, save their own lives.

[Legend by Marie Lu](#)

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy

Nonfiction

[Shadow Divers by Robert Kurson](#)

Recounts the 1991 discovery of a sunken German U-boat by two recreational scuba divers, tracing how they devoted the following six years to researching the identities of the submarine and its crew, correcting historical texts and breaking new grounds in the world of diving along the way.

[The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by Bryan Mealer](#)

Presents a story of how an African teenager built a windmill from scraps to create electricity for his home and his village, improving life for himself and his neighbors.

[Skeletons on the Zahara: A True Story of Survival by Dean King](#)

Chronicles the hardships encountered by twelve American sailors who, in 1815, were shipwrecked on the coast of North Africa, captured, sold into slavery, and sent on a difficult odyssey through the perilous heart of the Sahara.

[Desperate Passage: The Donner Party's Perilous Journey West by Ethan Rarik](#)

An intimate portrait of the Donner party and their unimaginable ordeal: a mother who must divide her family, a little girl who shines with courage, a devoted wife who refuses to abandon her husband, and a man who risks his life merely to keep his word.

[Two Years Before the Mast by Richard Henry Dana](#)

Richard Henry Dana is only nineteen when he abandons the patrician world of Boston and Harvard for an arduous voyage among real sailors, amid genuine danger.

[Canoeing with the Cree by Eric Sevareid](#)

In 1930 two novice paddlers launched a secondhand 18-foot canvas canoe into the Minnesota River at Fort Snelling for an ambitious summer-long journey from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay.

[The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club by Phillip Hoose](#)

Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested.

[The Art of Manliness: Classic Skills and Manners for the Modern Man by Brett and Kate McKay](#)

This book contains a wealth of information that ranges from survival skills to social skills to advice on how to improve your character. Whether you are braving the wilds with your friends, courting your girlfriend or raising a family, inside you'll find practical information and inspiration for every area of life.

[King of the World: Muhammad Ali and the Rise of an American Hero by David Remnick](#)

Traces the baseball legend's initial signing as a teenager with the Boston Red Sox in 1938, his record-setting batting averages that remained unchallenged for more than sixty years, his two-time service as a fighter pilot, and his love-hate relationship with fans and the media.

[Ted Williams: The Biography of an American Hero by Leigh Montville](#)

Traces the baseball legend's initial signing as a teenager with the Boston Red Sox in 1938, his record-setting batting averages that remained unchallenged for more than sixty years, his two-time service as a fighter pilot, and his love-hate relationship with fans and the media.

[The Teammates: A Portrait of a Friendship by David Halberstam](#)

Follows the friendship of Boston Red Sox teammates Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, Dom DiMaggio, and Johnny Pesky from their playing days in the 1940s to Ted Williams' death in 2002.

[The Sports Gene: Inside the Science of Extraordinary Athletic Performance by David Epstein](#)

A Sports Illustrated senior writer's controversial exploration of the genetic underpinnings of athletic success explores the roles of both biology and training, arguing that nature and training are equally necessary components of athletic achievement while considering such topics as race, gender and genetic testing.

Memoir

[Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer](#)

The author describes his spring 1996 trek to Mt. Everest, a disastrous expedition that claimed the lives of eight climbers, and explains why he survived.

[Miracle in the Andes by Nando Parrado](#)

A survivor of the horrific 1972 plane crash that stranded his rugby team in the Andes for seventy-two days--popularized in the best-selling *Alive*--provides his own chilling account of the ordeal and of his desperate expedition across seventy miles of frozen wilderness to find help.

[Adrift: Seventy-six Days Lost at Sea by Steven Callahan](#)

The author recalls his seventy-six-day ordeal adrift in the Atlantic Ocean in a five-foot inflatable raft after the sinking of his sailboat, recounting his problems surviving the weather, shark attacks, a leaking raft, and, above all, the lack of food and water.

[Boy Kings of Texas: A Memoir by Domingo Martinez](#)

Presents a memoir of growing up in 1980s Brownsville, Texas, describing intense relationships in a family surrounded by violence and poverty and caught between the conflicting values of two cultures.

[A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me by Jason Schmidt](#)

In his searing, honest, and ultimately inspiring memoir, Jason Kovacs tells the story of growing up with an abusive father, who contracted HIV and ultimately died of AIDS when Jason was a teenager.

[Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi](#)

The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life.

[The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls](#)

The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

[Unlikely Warrior: A Jewish Soldier in Hitler's Army by Georg Rauch](#)

Retells the journey of an eighteen-year old part-Jewish youth who, despite his heritage, is drafted into Hitler's army and sent to serve on the Russian front, where he survives starvation, the brutal Russian winter, and Soviet labor camps.

[I Love Yous Are for White People by Lac Su](#)

Traces the author's experiences as an Asian-American immigrant as well as his efforts to understand his identity and transcend the dangers of gang life in Los Angeles, in a personal account that describes his early life in Vietnam, his devastation at the contrast between real life and his impressions about the American dream, and his educational pursuits.

[They Call Me a Hero: A Memoir of My Youth by Daniel Hernandez](#)

A University of Arizona student and political intern credited with saving the life of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords during the Tucson shooting in January 2011 shares the story of his young life while exploring the character qualities that have helped him rise above adversity and pursue remarkable goals.