

Briarcliff High School

12th Grade Honors - Reading Literary

Forms 2021



All incoming 12H students are required to read *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

Assignment:

1. As you read, take careful notes, which should be typed. You will have to bring a copy of your notes on the first day of school and submit them to Turnitin via Blackboard. This assignment will count as a homework grade, so be sure all notes are written in your words and not lifted from an outside internet source.
2. How you take notes is up to you, but you should try to organize them in some way (perhaps by chapter or character) and focus on literary elements such as the following:
 - Irony
 - Voice
 - Characters
 - Setting
 - Themes
 - Mood
 - Point of View
 - Symbols
3. Try to keep a chronological list of major events, particularly as they relate to World War II.
4. Keep a running list of places the protagonists go to. Setting changes over the course of the novel. Make sure you know where the characters have been. Make your notes meaningful to you. Use your own style, your own words, and your own ideas. Please don't consult outside critical sources. Lastly, don't run on for pages and pages – remember that brevity is the soul of wit. Condense information!

You are required to read one book, but it is highly suggested that you choose other books from the Summer Reading List below as a way to supplement your exposure to literature.

Suggested Summer Reading

11th & 12th Grade

Here is a list of suggested books for incoming 11th & 12th grade students. None of these books are required – they're just great books to read and enjoy!

POPULAR TITLES

- Acevedo, Elizabeth *Clap When You Land*: A novel-in-verse. Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. On the day his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people; In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance and Papi's secrets the girls are forced to face a new reality. And when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse *Shout*: Inspired by her fans and enraged by how little in our culture has changed since her groundbreaking novel *Speak* was first published twenty years ago, Anderson has written a poetry memoir that is as vulnerable as it is rallying, as timely as it is timeless. In free verse, Anderson shares reflections, rants, and calls to action woven between deeply personal stories from her life that she's never written about before.
- Austen, Jane *Sense and Sensibility*: Marianne Dashwood wears her heart on her sleeve, and when she falls in love with the dashing but unsuitable John Willoughby she ignores her sister Elinor's warning that her impulsive behavior leaves her open to gossip and innuendo. Meanwhile Elinor, always sensitive to social convention, is struggling to conceal her own romantic disappointment, even from those closest to her. Through their parallel experience of love - and its threatened loss - the sisters learn that sense must mix with sensibility if they are to find personal happiness in a society where status and money govern the rules of love.
- Bronte, Charlotte *Jane Eyre*: Jane Eyre, a penniless orphan, is engaged as governess at Thornfield Hall by the mysterious Mr Rochester. Her integrity and independence are tested to the limit as their love for each other grows, and the secrets of Mr Rochester's past are revealed.
- Brown, Daniel *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*: Daniel James Brown's robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936.
- Bryson, Bill *A Short History of Nearly Everything*: Nature and science writer Bill Bryson examines some of mysteries of science, and attempts to understand not only what scientists know, but how they know it. Covers

the creation of the universe, the size of the Earth, the origins of life, and other topics.

Cameron, Peter

Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You: Eighteen-year-old gay teen James wants to use his college money to buy a house in the Midwest. But for now he works in his mother's Manhattan art gallery and falls for a charming older gentleman, and tries to decide what he wants out of life. It's *Catcher in the Rye* in a different voice--witty, reflective, terse.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi

Between the World and Me: Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men--bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? This is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son.

Doyle, Arthur Conan

Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles: Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.

Dumas, Alexandre

The Count of Monte Cristo: Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantes is confined to the grim fortress of If. There he learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and he becomes determined not only to escape, but also to unearth the treasure and use it to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration. Dumas' epic tale of suffering and retribution, inspired by a real-life case of wrongful imprisonment, was a huge popular success when it was first serialized in the 1840s.

Finney, Jack

Time and Again: When Si Morley is recruited to join a covert government operation exploring time travel, he jumps at the chance to leave his mundane 20th-century existence and step into the past. He finds a Manhattan teeming with a different kind of life, a city on the precipice of great things. At first, Si welcomes these trips as a temporary escape but when he falls in love with a woman he meets in the past, he must choose whether to return to modern life or live in 1882 for good.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

This Side of Paradise: Amory Blaine, a handsome, wealthy Princeton student, experiences love, war, and poverty on his path toward self-realization in the World War I era.

Gansworth, Eric L.

Apple Skin to Core: A Memoir in Words and Pictures: Eric Gansworth tells the story of his life and family through poems about their Onondaga heritage, from the horrible legacy of government boarding schools, to watching his siblings leave and return and leave again, to his fight to be an artist who balances multiple worlds. **Printz Honor Book, 2021**

Gibney, Shannon

Dream Country: Three stories in one – first present day Minneapolis where Kollie Flomo is a struggling Liberian refugee. He is too black and not black enough for his African-American peers and his Liberian community. The narrative switches to Togar Somah, an 18-year-old

indigenous Liberian running from government militias that would force him into plantation work for the Congo people – descendants of African American Slaves. Then the story moves to America, 1827, with Yasmine Wright and her children who leave America to go to with the American Colonization Society. With each new section, the novel uncovers fresh hope and resonating heartbreak, all based on historical fact.

- Green, John & Levithan, David ***Will Grayson Will Grayson***: When two teens, one gay and one straight, meet accidentally and discover that they share the same name, their lives become intertwined as one begins dating the other's best friend, who produces a play revealing his relationship with them both.
- Handler, Daniel ***Why We Broke Up***: Sixteen-year-old Min Green writes a letter to Ed Slaterton in which she breaks up with him, documenting their relationship and how items in the accompanying box, from bottle caps to a cookbook, foretell the end. *Yes, Daniel Handler is also known as Lemony Snicket, and this may sound like another story of boy meets girl, but it's all in the delivery!* **Printz Honor Book, 2012**
- Heller, Joseph ***Catch-22***: satire of military bureaucracy, focusing on the story of John Yossarian, a bombardier in World War II who is trying to avoid getting killed while at the same time dealing with a colonel who keeps upping the number of missions he must fly.
- Hillenbrand, Laura ***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption***: A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.
- Ireland, Justina ***Dread Nation***: Jane McKeene was born two days before the dead began to walk the battlefields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania--derailing the War Between the States and changing the nation forever. In this new America laws like the Native and Negro Education Act require certain children attend combat schools to learn to put down the dead. Jane is studying to become an Attendant, trained in both weaponry and etiquette to protect the well-to-do. It's a chance for a better life for Negro girls like Jane. But the restless dead, it would seem, are the least of her problems. ***Sequel: Deathless Divide***
- Kendi, Ibram X. ***How To Be An Anti-Racist***: Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism--and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves
- Kendi, Ibram X. ***Stamped from the Beginning, A Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America***: Some Americans insist that we're living in a post-racial society. But racist thought is not just alive and well in America--it is more sophisticated and more insidious than ever. Kendi argues, racist ideas have a long and lingering history, one in which nearly every great

American thinker is complicit. In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. He uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to drive this history: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. Du Bois, and legendary activist Angela Davis.

King, A.S.

Dig: Only a generation removed from being simple Pennsylvania potato farmers, Gottfried and Marla Hemmings managed to trade digging spuds for developing subdivisions and now sit atop a seven-figure bank account, wealth they've declined to pass on to their adult children or their teenage grandchildren. Now the five teenagers are lost in family secrets. They all have issues and all are estranged from the family. As they come together for Easter dinner, will they be able to find their ways back to each other? **Printz Medal Winner 2020**

King, Stephen

The Stand: When a man escapes from a biological testing facility, he sets in motion a deadly domino effect, spreading a mutated strain of the flu that will wipe out 99 percent of humanity within a few weeks. The survivors who remain are scared, bewildered, and in need of a leader. Two emerge--Mother Abigail, the benevolent 108-year-old woman who urges them to build a community in Colorado; and Randall Flagg, who delights in chaos and violence.

Land, Stephanie

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay and a Mother's Will to Survive: At 28, Stephanie Land's dreams--breaking free from her hometown, attending university, & becoming a writer--were cut short when a summer fling turned into an unexpected pregnancy. She turned to housekeeping to make ends meet and taking college classes online. She also began to write the stories of overworked and underpaid Americans. Of living on food stamps and WIC. Of the aloof government employees who called her lucky for receiving assistance while she didn't feel lucky at all. Her memoir explores the underbelly of upper-middle class America and the reality of what it's like to be in service to them

Larson, Erik

In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin: In 1933 William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany. Dodd brings along his daughter, Martha. At first Martha is entranced by the parties and the handsome young men of the Third Reich. But as evidence of Jewish persecution mounts, her father sends his concerns to an indifferent US State Dept. As that first year unfolds, the Dodds experience days full of excitement, intrigue, romance—and horror, when a climactic spasm of violence and murder reveals Hitler's true character.

Lu, Marie

The Kingdom of Back: Desperate to be forever remembered for her music, Nannerl Mozart (Wolfgang's sister and a painter and composer in her own right) makes a dangerous pact with a mysterious stranger from a magical land, which may cost her everything.

McCullough, Joy

Blood Water Paint: Based on a True Story - In Renaissance Italy, Artemisia Gentileschi endures the subjugation of women that allows her father to take credit for her extraordinary paintings. She is raped by her mentor and in the ensuing trial, and torture, she is buoyed by her deceased mother's stories of strong women of the Bible.

- McGhee, Alison *What I Leave Behind*: Sixteen-year-old Will spends most of his days the same way: Working at the Dollar Only store, trying to replicate his late father's famous cornbread recipe, and walking the streets of Los Angeles. Will started walking after his father committed suicide, and three years later he hasn't stopped. When Will learns his friend Playa was a victim of a violent crime at a party he was at - he believes he could have stopped the worst from happening if he hadn't left early--it spurs Will to stop being complacent in his own sadness and do some good in the world.
- McManus, Karen *The Cousins*: After receiving an invitation to spend the summer with their estranged grandmother, the Story cousins arrive at her house only to discover that she is not there, and the longer they stay on the island, the more they realize their mysterious family history has some deadly secrets.
- Morrison, Toni *Song of Solomon*: Follows the life of Macon Dead, Jr., the son of the richest black family in a Midwestern town, as he leaves home on a quest for personal freedom.
- Nelson, Jandy *I'll Give You the Sun*: Jude and her twin brother, Noah, are incredibly close. At thirteen, isolated Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude cliff-dives and wears red-red lipstick and does the talking for both of them. But three years later, Jude and Noah are barely speaking. The early years are Noah's story to tell. The later years are Jude's. What the twins don't realize is that they each have only half the story, and if they could just find their way back to one another, they'd have a chance to remake their world. **Printz Medal Winner - 2015**
- Obama, Michelle *Becoming*: An intimate memoir by the former First Lady of the United States. As First Lady - the first African-American to serve in that role - she helped create an inclusive White House, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it.
- Pan, Emily X.R. *The Astonishing Color of After*: Leigh travels to Taiwan to meet her maternal grandparents for the first time. There, she is determined to find her mother, the bird. In her search, she winds up chasing after ghosts, uncovering family secrets, and forging a new relationship with her grandparents. And as she grieves, she must try to reconcile the fact that on the same day she kissed her best friend and longtime secret crush, Axel, her mother was taking her own life.
- Perez, Ashley Hope *Out of Darknes*: "This is East Texas, and there's lines. Lines you cross, lines you don't cross. That clear?" New London, Texas. 1937. Naomi Vargas and Wash Fuller know about the lines in East Texas as well as anyone. They know the signs that mark them. They know the people who enforce them. But sometimes the attraction between two people is so powerful it breaks through even the most entrenched color lines. And the consequences can be explosive. **Printz Honor Book - 2016**

- Pirsig, Robert *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*: A narration of a summer motorcycle trip undertaken by a father and his son, the book becomes a personal and philosophical odyssey into fundamental questions of how to live. The narrator's relationship with his son leads to a powerful self-reckoning; the craft of motorcycle maintenance leads to an austere beautiful process for reconciling science, religion, and humanism.
- Poehler, Amy *Yes, Please*: The actress best known for her work on 'Parks and Recreation' and 'Saturday Night Live' reveals personal stories and offers her humorous take on such topics as love, friendship, parenthood, and her relationship with Tina Fey.
- Ramos, NoNieqa *The Disturbed Girl's Dictionary*: Fifteen-year-old Macy, officially labeled "disturbed" by her school, records her impressions of her rough neighborhood and home life as she tries to rescue her brother from Child Protective Services, win back her overachieving best friend after a fight, and figure out whether to tell her incarcerated father about her mother's cheating.
- Reynolds, Jason *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You*: This is NOT a history book. This is a book about the here and now. A book to help us better understand why we are where we are. A book about race.
- Reynolds, Jason & Kiely, Brendan *All American Boys*: When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who has served as Quinn's de facto big brother since his father was killed in Afghanistan and happens to be the older brother of his best friend
- Ribay, Randy *After the Shot Drops*: Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. Nasir can't help but wonder why the neighborhood is falling over itself to help Bunny when Wallace is in trouble. When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision--maybe a dangerous one.
- Richtel, Matt *A Deadly Wandering: A Mystery, A Landmark Investigation, and the Astonishing Science of Attention in the Digital Age*: Draws on cutting-edge scientific findings regarding human attention to examine the impact of technology on people's lives through the story of college student Reggie Shaw, who killed two scientists while texting and driving.
- Saenz, Benjamin Alire *The Inexplicable Logic of My Life*: Sal used to know his place with his adoptive gay father, their loving Mexican American family, and his best friend, Samantha. But it's senior year, and suddenly Sal is throwing punches, questioning everything, and realizing he no longer knows himself. If Sal's not who he thought he was, who is he?
- Salinger, J.D. *Catcher in the Rye*: An adolescent boy, knowing he is about to be dropped by his school, spends three days and nights in New York City.
- Shusterman, Neal *Challenger Deep*: A captivating novel about mental illness that lingers long beyond the last page, Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the

deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior. He is designated the ship's artist in residence to document the journey with images. Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head. He is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny. Caden Bosch is torn.

Slater, Dashka

The 57 Bus: If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. A True Story.

Smith, Andrew

Grasshopper Jungle: Austin Szerba narrates the end of humanity as he and his best friend Robby accidentally unleash an army of giant, unstoppable bugs and uncover the secrets of a decades-old experiment gone terribly wrong. **Printz Honor Book 2015**

Steinbeck, John

The Grapes of Wrath: John Steinbeck's classic novel about an Oklahoma farm family driven from their home and forced to travel to California during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Stevenson, Bryan

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption: 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.

Twain, Mark

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: Recounting the exploits of the imaginative adolescent as he and the runaway slave, Jim, raft down the Mississippi River, Twain ultimately addresses far deeper themes - man's inhumanity to man and the hypocrisy of conventional values.

Walker, Alice

The Color Purple: Tells the story of two African-American sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the south, in the medium of their letters to each other and in Celie's case, the desperate letters she begins, "Dear God."

Wein, Elizabeth

Code Name Verity: A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance - her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution. As she gives her confession, Verity uncovers her past, how she became friends with the pilot Maddie, and why she left Maddie in the wrecked fuselage of their plane. But will trading her secrets be enough to save her from the enemy? **Printz Honor Book, 2013**

Westover, Tara

Educated: Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills" bag. In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged metal in her father's junkyard.

Zoboi, Ibi

Pride: When the wealthy Darcy family moves in across the street, Zuri wants nothing to do with their two teenage sons, even as her sister, Janae, starts to fall for the charming Ainsley. She especially can't stand the judgmental and arrogant Darius. Yet as Zuri and Darius find common ground, their initial dislike shifts into understanding. With 4 sisters pulling her in different directions, cute boy Warren vying for her attention, and college applications on the horizon, Zuri fights to find her place in Bushwick's changing landscape, or lose it all.

Zoboi, Ibi

Punching the Air: Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it. *Novel in verse*.

Zusak, Markus

I Am the Messenger: After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, which helps him start to get over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness. **Printz Honor Book, 2007**