

Juniors, please join us and your peers to jump start your journey through American Literature this summer. The goal of this journey is to increase your enjoyment of reading, to develop a habit of reading that takes you far beyond the English classroom, and to begin exploring the individual stories from the American canon. We encourage you to sit back and enjoy the books that you choose. A good starting point would be to read two from the list, but you may read as many you'd like. Aside from enjoying the books you choose and learning more about the world, there is no other assignment. We look forward to seeing you in the fall and beginning our study of American Literature together!

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 access to the texts once school begins.**

11LC Summer Book Recommendations: As some 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!

If you have read any of these books in a previous English class, please choose something you have not read yet. If you are currently reading one of these novels, you may keep reading that for one of your books in this assignment.

You may substitute a different work from one of these authors.

The Choices:

1. *I Know why the Caged Bird Sings* – Maya Angelou
2. *How does it feel to be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America* – Moustafa Bayoumi
3. *The Boys in the Boat* – Daniel James Brown
4. *In Cold Blood* – Truman Capote
5. *Between the World and Me* – Ta-Nehisi Coates
6. *White Noise* – Don DeLillo
7. *Drown* – Junot Diaz
8. *Invisible Man* - Ralph Ellison
9. *The Beet Queen* – Louise Erdrich
10. *Middlesex* – Jeffrey Eugenides
11. *Fried Green Tomatoes: The Ballad of the Sad Café* – Fanny Flagg
12. *Everything is Illuminated* – Jonathan Safran Foer
13. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* – Jonathan Safran Foer
14. *Cold Mountain* – Charles Frazier
15. *A Lesson Before Dying* – Ernest Gaines
16. *Black Like Me* - John Howard Griffin
17. *Water for Elephants* – Sara Gruen
18. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* - Alex Haley
19. *The Art of Fielding* – Chad Harbach
20. *Catch 22* – Joseph Heller
21. *The Old Man and the Sea* – Ernest Hemingway
22. *Born to Run* – Christopher McDougall
23. *The World According to Garp* – John Irving
24. *The Bean Trees* – Barbara Kingsolver
25. *Into the Wild* – Jon Krakauer
26. *Into Thin Air* – Jon Krakauer
27. *The Color of Water* – James McBride
28. *All the Pretty Horses* – Cormac McCarthy
29. *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy
30. *Angela’s Ashes* – Frank McCourt
31. *Born to Run* – Christopher McDougall
32. *Beloved* – Toni Morrison
33. *The Bluest Eye* – Toni Morrison
34. *In the Lake of the Woods* – Tim O’Brien
35. *The Things they Carried* – Tim O’Brien
36. *The Bell Jar* – Sylvia Plath
37. *Catcher in the Rye* – J.D. Salinger
38. *On Beauty* – Zadie Smith
39. *Slaughterhouse Five* – Kurt Vonnegut
40. *The Color Purple* – Alice Walker
41. *Native Son* – Richard Wright
42. *The Book of Delights* - Ross Gay
43. *The Nickel Boys* - Colson Whitehead
44. *Gilead* - Marilynne Robinson
45. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* - Ken Kesey
46. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* - Betty Smit