
English II TAP Summer Reading 2023
Tomball Memorial High School - Tomball ISD

Dear Students,

We are so excited to have you in our TAP English/Language Arts program! Tomball ISD endorses a summer reading program for all students enrolled in advanced English courses grades 6-12. This summer we are offering a variety of novel choices from which to choose. You will have until August 28th to complete the novel of your choice to be prepared for the discussions and assessments that will take place during the school day.

The selections on the summer reading list have been chosen to encourage the enjoyment of reading and to prepare students for the study of literature. Upon returning to school in the fall, students will be engaged in inquiry circles with classmates who selected the same book. In order to be prepared to discuss the book in such a setting, students must read the book through a critical lens and be prepared to share insights and original observations discovered while reading.

We realize that changes do occur during the summer, and sometimes students find themselves switching schools due to a recent move. **Should you find that you will be attending a different Tomball ISD school, please check with that campus for their reading list, as that campus may have a different reading list than what appears on this page.**

For record keeping purposes, please scan this QR Code or click this link to complete a Google Form which will serve as your acknowledgment that you received this information and that you understand the expectations for summer reading.

<https://forms.gle/gB4xbXQeQzv8oUPF8>

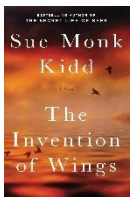


Below is a list of books from which you may choose for your suggested summer reading:



BEFORE WE WERE YOURS by Lisa Wingate

Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong. The novel follows two characters - Rill who was left in charge of her four younger siblings in 1939 when their parents went to the hospital one rainy night; and, Avery, a present day federal prosecutor who comes home to take care of her ailing father and discovers that her grandmother was keeping a shocking secret about her past.



THE INVENTION OF WINGS by Sue Monk Kidd

Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. As the stories of these captivating characters build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements. This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved.



ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE by Anthony Doerr

Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can learn to navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the resistance. Eventually, their stories converge. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

The following ideas are suggested in order to help students engage in **active reading**:

In his essay "How to Mark a Book," Mortimer Adler explains that reading is a "conversation between you and the author."

Adler writes: "Why is marking up a book indispensable to reading? First, it keeps you awake. (And I don't mean merely conscious; I mean awake.) In the second place, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The marked book is usually the thought-through book. Finally, writing helps you remember the thoughts you had, or the thoughts the author expressed."

"There are all kinds of devices for marking a book intelligently and fruitfully. Here's the way I do it:

- Underlining (or highlighting): of major points, of important or forceful statements
- Vertical lines at the margin: to emphasize a statement already underlined
- Star, asterisk, or other doo-dad at the margin: to be used sparingly, to emphasize the ten or twenty most important statements in the book (You may want to fold the bottom corner of each page on which you use such marks. It won't hurt the sturdy paper on which most modern books are printed, and you will be able take the book off the shelf at any time and, by opening it at the folded-corner page, refresh your recollection of the book.)
- Numbers of other pages in the margin: to indicate where else in the book the author made points relevant to the point marked; to tie up the ideas in a book, which, though they may be separated by many pages, belong together
- Circling or highlighting of key words or phrases
- Writing in the margin, or at the top or bottom of the page, for the sake of: recording questions (and perhaps answers) which a passage raised in your mind; reducing a complicated discussion to a simple statement; recording the sequence of major points through the book

If marking your book is not a possibility, there are some other options:

- You can use sticky notes. Place these on the pages/paragraphs where you would underline or highlight and write out your thoughts or ideas on the note.
- Write out notes on paper and keep the paper inside the book. Include page numbers with comments/notations so that you will remember what prompted your thinking.

Should any questions arise, please contact:

Mrs. Carrie Varnell
Tomball Memorial High School English II TAP
carrievarnell@tomballisd.net

Dr. Ashley Schlafly
Director of Secondary ELA and Advanced Academics
ashleyschlafly@tomballisd.net