



Summer Reading List for Upcoming 9th – 12th Grade Students

Regular English & Honors English Courses 2024

Please keep track of the title and author of the book(s) you have read on the graphic organizer. Within the first two weeks of your return to school, you will be given an assignment to complete related to your book choice(s).

9th Grade

English 1/Pre-AP English 2 - Choose ONE of the following titles and complete one graphic organizer.

***Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card (science fiction, 780L)**

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin was six years old when it began. He will grow up fast. [bullying, some violence; mild language]

***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers (realistic fiction/ 670L)**

This New York Times bestselling novel from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives. *Monster* is a multi-award-winning, provocative coming-of-age story that was the first-ever Michael L. Printz Award recipient, an ALA Best Book, a Coretta Scott King Honor selection, and a National Book Award finalist. [racial discrimination, injustice, the dehumanization of people caught in the justice system, and violence]

***The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd (Historical Fiction, 840L)**

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted Black fist and-in mother, "Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of Black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story that women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come. [some description of violence, racism]

***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sanchez (realistic fiction, 730L)**

Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia is left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia had failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first kiss, first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?



Summer Reading List for Upcoming 9th – 12th Grade Students

Regular English & Honors English Courses 2024

10th Grade

English 2/Honors English 2 - Choose ONE of the following titles and complete one graphic organizer (see end of document).

AP Seminar – book list and assignment are on a separate document

AP Research – book list and assignment are on a separate document

***Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (realistic/adventure fiction, 770L)**

When a planeload of British schoolboys crash-lands on a deserted Pacific island, the surviving boys struggle to create order among themselves so that they have a chance at being rescued. Differing leaders emerge, but as their terror of the island's mysteries and their own fears about survival overtake them, the boys become increasingly violent. What starts with bullying a little-liked peer eventually descends into madness, murder, and anarchy. [some descriptive violence scenes]

***The Old Man and The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway (realistic fiction, 940L)**

The Old Man and the Sea is one of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal, a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Here Hemingway recasts, in strikingly contemporary style, the classic theme of courage in the face of defeat, of personal triumph won from loss. Written in 1952, this hugely successful novella confirmed Hemingway's power and presence in the literary world and played a large part in his winning the 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature.

***Summer of the Mariposas* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall (magical realism, 840L)**

When Odilia and her four sisters find a dead body in the swimming hole, they embark on a hero's journey to return the dead man to his family in Mexico. But returning home to Texas turns into an odyssey that would rival Homer's original tale. *Summer of the Mariposas* promotes the bond of sisterhood and the love between mother and daughters. [some mild violence]

***Fuzz: When Nature Breaks The Law* by Mary Roach**

What's to be done about a jaywalking moose? A bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? Three hundred years ago, animals that broke the law would be assigned legal representation and put on trial. The answers are best found not in jurisprudence but in science: the curious science of human-wildlife conflict, a discipline at the crossroads of human behavior and wildlife biology. Mary Roach is considered one of the funniest nature writers. This book explores the zany scenarios where wildlife and humans meet.

11th Grade

English 3/Honors English 3 - Choose ONE of the following titles and complete one graphic organizer.

AP Language & Composition – book list and assignment are on a separate document

AP Seminar – book list and assignment are on a separate document

AP Research – book list and assignment are on a separate document

***The Water is Wide: A Memoir* by Pat Conroy (nonfiction/local author, 1000L)**

The island is nearly deserted, haunting, and beautiful. Across a slip of ocean lies South Carolina. But for the handful of families on Yamacraw Island, America is a world away. For years the people here lived proudly from the sea, but now its waters are not safe. Waste from industry threatens their very existence unless, somehow, they can learn a new way. But they will learn nothing without someone to teach them, and their school has no teacher—until one man gives a year of his life to the island and its people. [racism, poverty, adult themes]

***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver (realistic fiction, 960L)**

The Poisonwood Bible is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them all they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. [animal death, colonialism, racism, poverty, adult themes]



Summer Reading List for Upcoming 9th – 12th Grade Students

Regular English & Honors English Courses 2024

***Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie (mystery/640L)**

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the famous Orient Express in its tracks as it travels through the mountainous Balkans. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for this time of the year but, by the morning, it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. One of the passengers is none other than detective Hercule Poirot. On vacation, isolated and with a killer on board, Poirot must identify the murderer—in case he or she decides to strike again. [violence, alcohol, smoking, adult themes]

***Dry* by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman (science fiction/790L)**

When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family in this harrowing story of survival from New York Times bestselling author Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman. The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone’s lives have become an endless list of don’ts: don’t water the lawn, don’t fill up your pool, don’t take long showers...until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don’t return and her life—and the life of her brother—is threatened, Alyssa must make impossible choices if she’s going to survive. [mild language, violence, adult themes]

12th Grade

English 4/Honors English 4 - Choose ONE of the following titles and complete one graphic organizer.
AP Literature & Composition – book list and assignment are on a separate document

***Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler (science/historical fiction, 580L)**

Kindred is a novel by American writer Octavia E. Butler that incorporates time travel and is modeled on slave narratives. Dana’s torment begins when she suddenly vanishes on her 26th birthday from California, 1976, and is dragged through time to antebellum Maryland to rescue a boy named Rufus, heir to a slaveowner’s plantation. She soon realizes the purpose of her summons to the past: protect Rufus to ensure his assault of her Black ancestor so that she may one day be born. As she endures the traumas of slavery and the soul-crushing normalization of savagery, Dana fights to keep her autonomy and return to the present. [racism, violence, discrimination, adult themes]

***All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr (historical fiction, 880L)**

From Anthony Doerr, the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning authors of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. [war, violence, adult themes]

***Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier (mystery/fiction, 880L)**

The novel begins in Monte Carlo, where our heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady’s maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realizes how large a shadow his late wife will cast over their lives—presenting her with a lingering evil that threatens to destroy their marriage from beyond the grave. [violence, adult themes]

***Dracula* by Bram Stoker (gothic horror/fiction, 960L)**

When Jonathan Harker is summoned to the Carpathian Mountains in Transylvania for a real estate transaction, he does not know he is entering the lair of the bloodthirsty vampire, Count Dracula. What follows is a race to stop Dracula from spreading his curse beyond Transylvania. The tale of *Dracula* unfolds through various letters, diary entries, and newspaper clippings. [violence, adult themes]



Summer Reading List for Upcoming 9th – 12th Grade Students

Regular English & Honors English Courses 2024