

## Summer Reading 2024

### 11th Grade

*“Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.”*

*-- Oprah Winfrey*

Greetings, eleventh graders! The defining characteristic of eleventh grade is **doing your best** – doing your best at getting good grades, doing your best on your college entrance exams, doing your best to form positive relationships, doing your best to search for the right college, and of course, being the best, happiest, and healthiest version of yourself!

In preparation for 11th grade ELA, this summer read **ONE** title from the 11th Grade Summer Reading Book List or select a book of your choice. We encourage you to read as many additional titles as you wish. As you read, be sure to take notes on the book, focusing on essential literary elements and the essential question: **To what extent, if any, can humanity surface in the face of darkness?** You may use a notebook or post-it notes to keep track of your thoughts and ideas about the book. This will help you to prepare for a Socratic Seminar when you return to school.

**At the end of September, you will be participating in a Socratic Seminar. Each student will be sharing their views and ideas based on the book they read. Your teacher will ask you to reflect on the seminar as an in-class assignment. This will count towards your first-quarter grade.**

## Task

**Task:** When you return to school, following the Socratic Seminar, you will complete a reflection in which, you respond to the essential question:

- *To what extent, if any, can humanity surface in the face of darkness?*

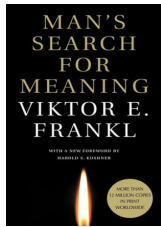
**In order to complete this task, you will need to do the following:**

1. Read **one** text from the *11th Grade Summer Reading Book List* or a **book of your choice** that aligns to the above essential question.
2. Prepare to participate in a Socratic Seminar by:
  - taking notes** to keep track of your thoughts and ideas about the book.
  - selecting 3-4 quotes** from the text that made an impact and support your answer to the essential question.
  - selecting 1-2 meaningful passages** from the beginning, middle, and end of the text (3-6 in total) and **analyzing and reacting** to them in complete sentences; as you read, ask yourself, "In what way do these passages speak to me?" Use those thoughts to help you frame your response.

\* You will need your notes and your quotes when you return to school, so please keep them in a notebook.

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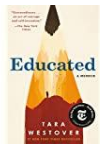
### Summer Reading Book List



#### **Man's Search For Meaning**

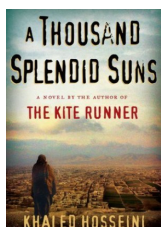
By Viktor E. Frankl

Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl's memoir has riveted generations of readers with its descriptions of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Based on his own experience and the stories of his patients, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose. At the heart of his theory, known as logotherapy, is a conviction that the primary human drive is not pleasure but the pursuit of what we find meaningful. The book is one of the most influential books in America!



#### **Educated** by Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.



#### **A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini

Propelled by the same storytelling instinct that made *The Kite Runner* a beloved classic, this novel is a remarkable chronicle of three decades of Afghan history and a deeply moving account of family and friendship. It is a striking, heart-wrenching novel of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love—a stunning accomplishment. A breathtaking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years - the reign of the Taliban that puts the violence, fear, hope, and faith of this country in intimate, human terms.



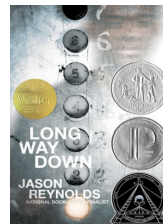
**EQ: To what extent, if any, can humanity surface in the face of darkness?**



#### **A Lily in the Light** by Kristin Fields

A harrowing debut novel of a tragic disappearance and one sister's journey through the trauma that has shaped her life. For eleven-year-old Esme, ballet is everything—until her four-year-old sister, Lily, vanishes.

Unable to cope, Esme escapes the nightmare that is her new reality when she receives an invitation to join an elite ballet academy. Desperate to leave behind her chaotic, broken family and the mystery surrounding Lily's disappearance, Esme accepts. But a call from her older sister shatters the protective world she has built for herself, forcing her to revisit the tragedy she's run from for so long. Will her family finally have the answers they've been waiting for? And can Esme confront the pain that shaped her childhood, or will the darkness follow her into the spotlight?



#### **Long Way Down** by Jason Reynolds

This fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. You can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will

has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. *Revenge*. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if WILL gets *off* that elevator.