



Manhasset Public Schools

Brendan J. McGowan
Director for English, Reading, & Libraries K-12
Manhasset Public Schools

June 2025

Dear Members of the Manhasset School Community:

Each year we distribute a summer reading list for students entering grades 7-12 in the Manhasset Public Schools. For 2025, to continue aligning summer reading with expectations of the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards and Manhasset's *Standard of Excellence*, the English department indicates, by course level, title(s) that will be taught or referenced in each English course next year. We call these titles "prerequisite" books; students are expected to read, prior to the start of school in September, the prerequisite literature indicated for the English course in which they will be enrolled. This reading will give your child an advantage in English insofar as these titles will frame the instructional themes of the class or will be taught directly during the school year.

As a reminder, summer reading will not be assessed in the form of a test or essay within the first few days of school but will be integrated into the classroom curriculum during the first marking quarter. Rather, we suggest students read as much as possible, with a particular emphasis on the titles which will be referenced or taught in English courses.

We also strongly urge students to develop their own leisure summer reading list. To this end, you will find the names of reputable websites on the suggested reading page that will allow youngsters to select from among hundreds of suggested titles. In addition, both the Social Studies and Science departments indicate timely and topical subject-specific titles on the suggested reading list. Ms. Greenberg, MHS Librarian, has also curated [a list of suggested titles](#) to encourage reading for pleasure to develop lifelong readers in addition to partnering with the Manhasset Public Library for the summer of 2025.

Students may purchase any titles from local bookstores, obtain them from the Manhasset Public Library, or borrow prerequisite titles from the English department. ***When possible, purchasing titles is strongly encouraged as it allows for greater interactive reading and note-taking in the text, both over the summer and at the start of the school year.***

Students wishing to borrow a copy of prerequisite titles may request a copy by completing this Google form by Monday, June 30: <https://forms.gle/ddMvA9P1nGYoZJn39>.

We will contact you to arrange pick up of the selected texts in the English Writing Center. Borrowed copies must be returned in September or, in the event of loss, paid for by the student.

Thank you very much for your support of English Language Arts!
 Brendan J. McGowan

Manhasset Public Schools

Grade 7 to Grade 12 Summer Reading List – 2024

Please note: These texts will be taught, supported, and discussed in class.

Grade	Course	Prerequisite Titles
7	All Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☰ Summer Reading: GRADE 6 into GRADE 7 • <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum • <i>That Was Then, This is Now</i> by S.E. Hinton
8	All Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Please choose TWO from the list:</i> • <i>Life in a Jar</i> by Jack Mayer • <i>Obsessed: A Memoir of My Life with OCD</i> by Allison Britz • <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> by William Kamkwamba • <i>Salt to the Sea</i> by Ruta Sepetys • <i>I Am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai
9	Regents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd • <i>Of Mice and Men</i> by John Steinbeck
9	Honors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>*Beowulf</i>, translation by Seamus Heaney • <i>Grendel</i> by John Gardner <p>*NOTE: Students must read <i>Beowulf</i> first, then <i>Grendel</i>.</p>
10	Regents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Something Wicked This Way Comes: A Novel</i> by Ray Bradbury • <i>The Arrival</i> by Shaun Tan
10	Honors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee • <i>Outliers</i> by Malcolm Gladwell
11	Regents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald • <i>Lost in Yonkers</i> by Neil Simon
11	Advanced Placement English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen • <i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare
12	Senior English Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science</i> by Atul Gawande • <i>Educated: A Memoir</i> by Tara Westover

12	Advanced Placement English Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Stranger</i> by Albert Camus is required. Students must choose ONE additional title. • <i>The Awakening</i> by Kate Chopin • <i>Antigone</i> by Sophocles • <i>The Nickel Boys</i> by Colson Whitehead
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Summer Reading and Writing Contests

Looking for a challenge over the summer? See below.

[The Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards](#)

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)3 organization based in Santa Barbara, California, hosts an annual poetry contest called the Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards. The awards contest is an annual series of awards to encourage poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit. The Poetry Awards include three age categories: Adult, Youth 13-18, and Youth 12 & under. *Deadline: July 1st*

[Bennington College Young Writers Awards](#)

Students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades enter one of the following categories: poetry (a group of three poems), fiction (a short story or one-act play), or nonfiction (a personal or academic essay). First-place winners in each category are awarded a prize of \$500; second-place winners receive \$250. Runs from September 1 – November 1

[NY State Assembly Summer Reading Challenge](#)

K-12 students are invited to enter the titles of three books read over the summer. Deadline: September 6th

[NY Times 16th Annual Summer Reading Contest](#)

Middle and high school students are invited to tell the NY Times what they're reading in the Times and why. It runs from June 6th-August 15^h

[VFW: Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Program](#) (High School Only)

2025-26 theme is "How Are You Patriotism and Support for Our Country?" Deadline: October 31st

Suggested Reading Websites for Literature

Middle School Suggested Summer Reading Websites for Literature. Wide-ranging lists that reflect books for almost everyone. Look carefully to find titles that best suit you.

- [YALSA Book and Media Awards for Libraries](#)
- American Library Association's Best Fiction for Young Adults

- American Library Association's Best Non-Fiction for Young Adults

High School Suggested Summer Reading Websites for Literature

- 25 Essential High School Reads from the Last Decade
- College Board's 101 Books for the College-Bound Reader

Manhasset Public Library's Summer Programs!

<https://manhassetlibrary.org/site/2024-summer-reading-program/>



Science Related Titles for Suggested Reading

- Ariely, Dan. *Predictably Irrational*
- Bodanis, David. *E=mc²: A History of the World's Most Famous Equation*
- Bryson, Bill. *A Short History of Nearly Everything*.
- Burke, James. *Connections*
- Dawkins, Richard. *The Selfish Gene*
- De Kruif, Paul. *Microbe Hunters*
- Feynman, Richard. *The Meaning of it All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist*
- Gould, Stephen Jay. *The Mismeasure of Man*
- Hakim, Joy. *The Story of Science: Aristotle Leads the Way*
- Harari, Yuval Noah. *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*
- Johnson, Steven. *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How it Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World*
- Kandel, Dr. Eric. *In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of the Mind*
- Kean, Sam. *The Disappearing Spoon*
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life As We Knew It*
- Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma*
- Preston, Richard. *The Hot Zone: A Terrifying True Story*
- Sacks, Oliver. *The River of Consciousness*
- Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
- Watson, James. *The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA*





Manhasset Public Schools

Margaret Ronai
District Coordinator, Social Studies
Manhasset Schools

Social Studies Department: Required Summer Reading and Assignments 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The Social Studies department recommends summer reading to enhance students' understanding of the course curriculum for most of our Advanced Placement courses. We believe these readings and assignments introduce students to the level of reading they will encounter during the school year and prepare students for success in these rigorous classes.

The Suggested Summer Reading information can be found below.

If you have any questions about Social Studies summer reading, please contact me at 267-7576 or via email at Margaret_Ronai@manhassetsschools.org

We encourage our students to continue developing the habits of good readers and to include reading as a part of their academic and leisure activities. To this end, below is a list of suggested titles for summer reading. These are not required but merely a suggestion for interested students. Thank you for your support of the summer reading program.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ronai
District Coordinator, Social Studies

Social Studies Related Titles for Suggested Reading

These books are not required, but students may find these titles interesting for further study.

Grade 8

- Hersey, John. *Hiroshima*
- Marrin, Albert. *The Great Adventure: Theodore Roosevelt and the Rise of Modern America*,

Grade 9:

- Weatherford, Jack. *The Secret History of the Mongol Queens: How the Daughters of Genghis Khan Rescued His Empire*

Grade 10

- Harden, Blaine. *Escape from Camp 14*
- Lipiner, Lucy. *Long Journey Home: A Young Girl's Memoir of Surviving the Holocaust*

Grade 11

- McCullough, David. *1776*
- Pattillo Beals, Melba. *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High*

Grade 12

- Friedman, Thomas. *The World Is Flat*
- Levitt, Steven, & Dubner, Stephen. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*

