

**Upper School
English Department
Summer Reading
2026-2027**



Some Strategies for Understanding, Appreciating, and Enjoying Your Reading More This Summer

1. When given a choice in your reading, **CHOOSE WISELY**. Read reviews, find sample pages if you can. Pick a book that suits your interests and your preferences. Personal choice should be empowering. Make the most of it.
2. First **review** all the information the book offers: Book covers, inside flaps, chapter headings to orient yourself to what the book is about to offer. **Make predictions** about what the text will present. Even **ask some initial questions** about the text.
3. **Write while you read**, making marginal notes at key points, asking questions, and making outlines and summaries at the end of chapters/sections. Have a conversation with the text.
4. **Visualize as you read**: See characters, hear their voices, picture the setting, engage your powerful imagination with the author's. **BE ACTIVE**, not passive, in your reading.
5. **Make connections** between the text you are reading and your knowledge of the world, your previous reading, and your life experiences. Find the heartbeat in every book by connecting it to yours.
6. When you finish a text, walk away from it a couple of days. Let it simmer in your brain a bit. Then return to it: Remind yourself of characters and the plot's key moments. **Letting some time lapse will stretch your muscle memory.**
7. **Reflect on the text as a whole work of art**: What major ideas has this author spent her time exploring? What major ideas does she want you, a fellow human being, to ponder and understand more deeply? How has this author compelled you to think about these ideas through the artistic/rhetorical choices she has deliberately made?
8. Authors, especially fiction writers, write primarily to ENTERTAIN you through language. Remember that and **be entertained.**



English I: The Journey to the Self (9th)

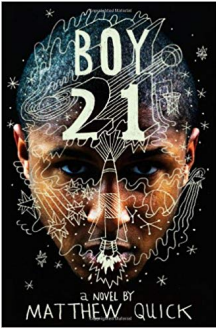
Students may use a physical book or an e-book.

Choose TWO of the Following twenty-five Books

***Boy 21* by Matthew Quick**

ISBN-10: 9780316127974

ISBN-13: 978-0316127974



Two lovers of the game of basketball, brought together by stunning circumstances. One a “minimalist” speaker who suffers from a terrible family loss; the other a self-proclaimed spaceman named Boy21 who has his own heartbreaking brush with family tragedy. Together they find their way to their own answers on how to overcome suffering and a violent neighborhood and stay true to themselves.

***Alas, Babylon* by Pat Frank**

ISBN-10: 0062421034

ISBN-13: 978-0062421036

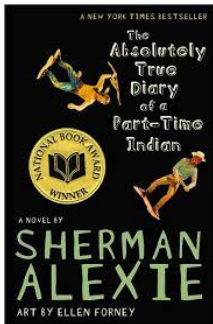


What would you do if life as you had always known it suddenly changed in a single flash? After “The Day” the people of Ft. Repose, Florida, will never enjoy life as it was again. Pat Frank’s classic apocalyptic tale features heroes and villains, those who rise above and those who sink under as a brave new world begins.

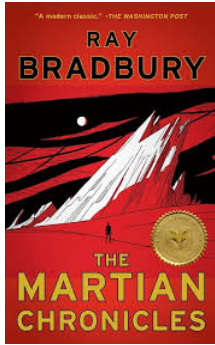
***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie ***

ISBN-10: 1783442018

ISBN-13: 978-1783442010



Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. * **Book may contain potentially offensive language and/or disturbing subject matter**



***The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury**

ISBN-10: 9781451678192

ISBN-13: 978-1451678192

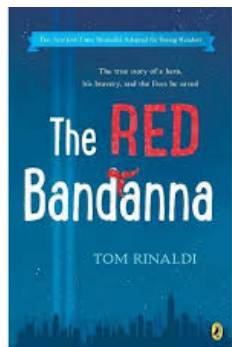
In *The Martian Chronicles*, Ray Bradbury, America's preeminent storyteller, imagines a place of hope, dreams, and metaphor— of crystal pillars and fossil seas—where a fine dust settles on the great empty cities of a vanished, devastated civilization. Earthmen conquer Mars and then are conquered by it, lulled by dangerous lies of comfort and familiarity, and enchanted by the lingering glamour of an ancient, mysterious native race.



***A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness**

ISBN-13: 978-0763660659

At seven minutes past midnight, thirteen-year-old Conor wakes to find a monster outside his bedroom window. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting-- he's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the nightmare he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments. The monster in his backyard is different. It's ancient. And wild. And it wants something from Conor. Something terrible and dangerous. It wants the truth.

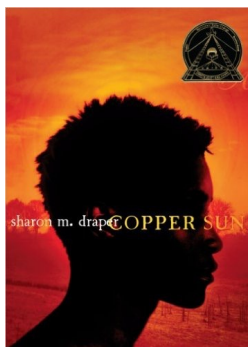


***The Red Bandanna* by Tom Rinaldi**

ASIN: B01CDVCAZQ

Nonfiction

9/11 brought much suffering and much heroism. Among those heroes was a young man wearing a red bandana. Unknown to the many people he helped save that day in the South Tower of the World Trade Center where he worked, that young man was Welles Crowther, and this is his enduring story told powerfully by Tom Rinaldi. Nonfiction



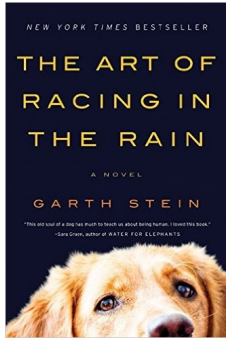
***Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper**

ISBN-10: 1416953485

ISBN-13: 978-1416953487

Amari's life was once perfect. Engaged to the handsomest man in her tribe, adored by her family, and living in a beautiful village, she could not have imagined everything could be taken away from her in an instant. But when slave traders invade her village and brutally murder her entire family, Amari finds herself dragged away to a slave ship headed to the Carolinas, where she is bought by a plantation owner and given to his son as a birthday present. Survival seems all that Amari can hope for.

English I 9th

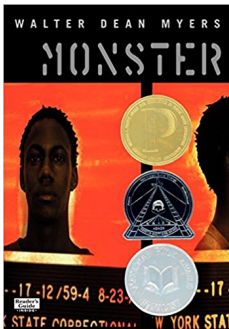


***The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein**

ISBN-10: 0061537969

ISBN-13: 978-0061537967

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope.

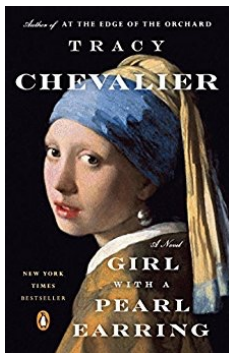


***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers**

ISBN-10: 0064407314

ISBN-13: 978-0064407311

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.

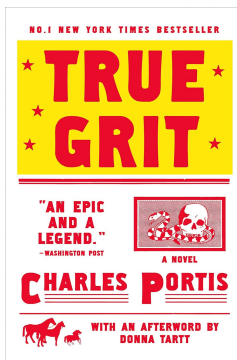


***Girl with the Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier**

ISBN-10: 0452282152

ISBN-13: 978-0452282155

History and fiction merge seamlessly in this luminous novel about artistic vision and sensual awakening. *Girl with a Pearl Earring* tells the story of sixteen-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her brief encounter with genius . . . even as she herself is immortalized in canvas and oil.

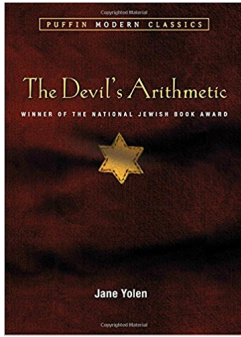


***True Grit* by Charles Portis**

ISBN-10: 159020459X

ISBN-13: 978-1590204597

True Grit tells the story of Mattie Ross, who is just fourteen when the coward Tom Chaney shoots her father in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and robs him of his life, his horse, and \$150 cash. Filled with an unwavering urge to avenge her father's blood, Mattie finds and, after some tenacious finagling, enlists one-eyed Rooster Cogburn, the meanest available US Marshal, as her partner in pursuit, and they head off into Indian Territory after the killer.

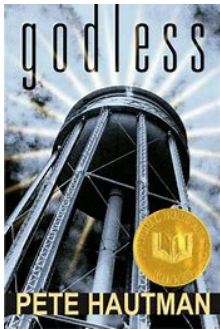


***The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen**

ISBN-10: 0142401099

ISBN-13: 978-0142401095

Hannah dreads going to her family's Passover Seder—she's tired of hearing her relatives talk about the past. But when she opens the front door to symbolically welcome the prophet Elijah, she's transported to a Polish village in the year 1942. Why is she there, and who is this "Chaya" that everyone seems to think she is? Just as she begins to unravel the mystery, Nazi soldiers come to take everyone in the village away. And only Hannah knows the unspeakable horrors that await.

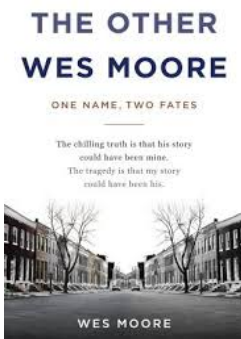


***Godless* by Pete Hautman**

ISBN-10: 9781416908166

ISBN-13: 978-1416908166

"Why mess around with Catholicism when you can have your own customized religion?" Fed up with his parents' boring old religion, agnostic-going-on-atheist Jason Bock invents a new god -- the town's water tower. He recruits an unlikely group of worshippers: his snail-farming best friend, Shin, cute-as-a-button (whatever that means) Magda Price, and the violent and unpredictable Henry Stagg. As their religion grows, it takes on a life of its own.



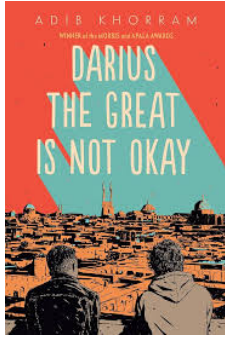
***The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore**

ISBN-10: 0385528205

ISBN-13: 978-0385528207

Nonfiction

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question.

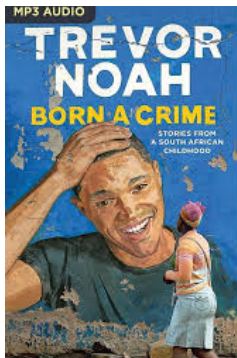


***Darius the Great Is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram**

ISBN-10: 0525552979

ISBN-13: 978-0525552970

Darius has never really fit in at home, and he's sure things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn't exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and everything changes. Soon, they're spending their days together, playing soccer, eating faludeh, and talking for hours on a secret rooftop overlooking the city's skyline. Sohrab calls him Darioush—the original Persian version of his name—and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he's Darioush to Sohrab.



***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah ***

ISBN-10: 0399588191

ISBN-13: 978-0399588198

Nonfiction

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. * **Book may contain potentially offensive language and/or disturbing subject matter**

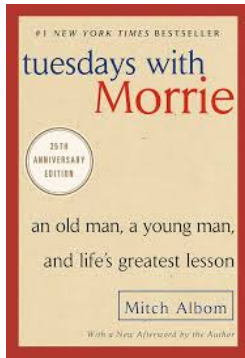


***Nothing* by Janne Teller**

ISBN-10: 144244116X

ISBN-13: 978-1442441163

Pierre Anthon decides there is no meaning to life, leaves his seventh-grade classroom, climbs a plum tree, and stays there. His friends and classmates cannot get him to come down, not even by pelting him with rocks. So to prove to him that there is a meaning to life, they set out to give up things of importance, challenging one another to make increasingly serious sacrifices.



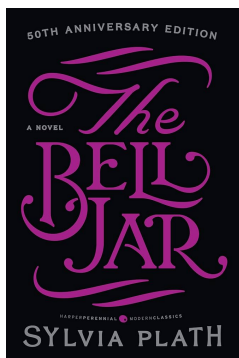
***Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom**

ISBN-10: 9780767905923

ISBN-13: 978-0767905923

Nonfiction

Mitch Albom [. . .] rediscovered [his former college professor] Morrie [Schwartz] in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live. "The truth is, Mitch," he said, "once you learn how to die, you learn how to live." *Tuesdays with Morrie* is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.

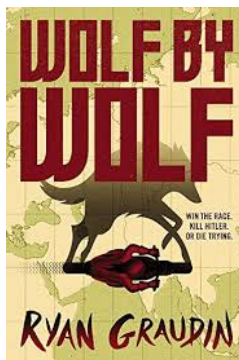


***The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath**

ISBN-10: 0060837020

ISBN-13: 978-0060837020

The Bell Jar chronicles the crack-up of Esther Greenwood: young, brilliant, beautiful, and enormously talented, but slowly going under—maybe for the last time. Sylvia Plath masterfully draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that Esther's neurosis becomes completely understandable and even rational, as probable and accessible an experience as going to the movies. Such thorough exploration of the dark and harrowing corners of the psyche - and the profound collective loneliness that modern society has yet to find a solution for — is an extraordinary accomplishment, and has made *The Bell Jar* a haunting American classic.

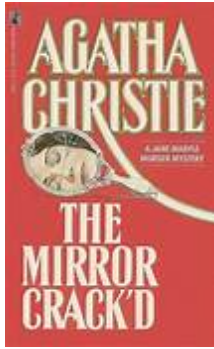


***Wolf by Wolf* by Ryan Graudin**

ISBN-10: 0316405086

ISBN-13: 978-0316405089

Yael, a former death camp prisoner, has witnessed too much suffering, and the five wolves tattooed on her arm are a constant reminder of the loved ones she lost. The resistance has given Yael one goal: Win the race and kill Hitler. A survivor of painful human experimentation, Yael has the power to skinshift and must complete her mission by impersonating last year's only female racer, Adele Wolfe. This deception becomes more difficult when Felix, Adele's twin brother, and Luka, her former love interest, enter the race and watch Yael's every move.

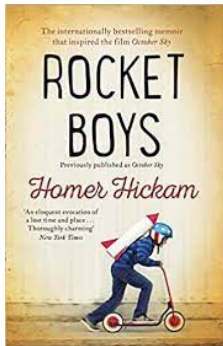


***The Mirror Crack'd* by Agatha Christie**

ISBN-10: 0008196591

ISBN-13: 978-0008196592

The quaint village of St Mary Mead has been glamourized by the presence of screen queen Marina Gregg, who has taken up residence in preparation for her comeback. But when a local fan is poisoned, Marina finds herself starring in a real-life mystery—supported with scene-stealing aplomb by Jane Marple, who suspects that the lethal cocktail was intended for someone else. But who? If it was meant for Marina, then why? And before the final fade-out, who else from St Mary Mead's cast of seemingly innocent characters is going to be eliminated?



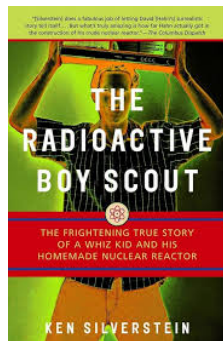
***Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam**

ISBN-10: 0385333218

ISBN-13: 978-0385333214

Nonfiction

One of the most beloved bestsellers in recent years, *Rocket Boys* is a uniquely American memoir. A powerful, luminous story of coming of age at the end of the 1950s, it is the story of a mother's love and a father's fears, of growing up and getting out. With the grace of a natural storyteller, Homer Hickam looks back after a distinguished NASA career to tell his own true story of growing up in a dying coal town and of how, against the odds, he made his dreams of launching rockets into outer space come true.



***The Radioactive Boy Scout* by Ken Silverstein**

ISBN-10: 0812966600

ISBN-13: 978-0812966602

Nonfiction

Growing up in suburban Detroit, David Hahn was fascinated by science. While he was working on his Atomic Energy badge for the Boy Scouts, David's obsessive attention turned to nuclear energy. Throwing caution to the wind, he plunged into a new project: building a model nuclear reactor in his backyard garden shed. Posing as a physics professor, David solicited information on reactor design from the U.S. government and from industry experts. Following blueprints he found in an outdated physics textbook, David cobbled together a crude device that threw off toxic levels of radiation.

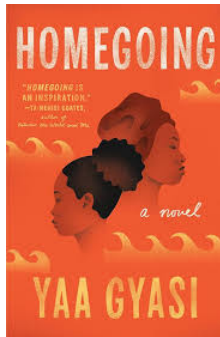


***Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon**

ISBN-10: 0553496670

ISBN-13: 978-0553496673

What if you couldn't touch anything in the outside world? Never breathe in the fresh air, feel the sun warm your face . . . or kiss the boy next door? In *Everything, Everything*, Maddy is a girl who's literally allergic to the outside world, and Olly is the boy who moves in next door . . . and becomes the greatest risk she's ever taken. *Everything, Everything* will make you laugh, cry, and feel everything in between.



***Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi**

ISBN-10: 1101971061

ISBN-13: 978-1101971062

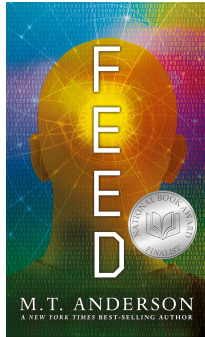
Ghana, eighteenth century: two half sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery. *Homegoing* follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem.

(all summaries taken from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

English II: The Ethics of Deciding (10th)

Students may use a physical book or an e-book. Students may also listen to the books, but they are required to have a copy of the book in some format, too.

Required Book for All 10th Grade Students



***Feed* by M.T. Anderson**

ISBN-10: 0763662623

ISBN-13: 978-0763662622

For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon — a chance to party during spring break. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its ever-present ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. M. T.

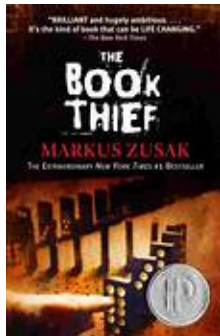
Anderson's not-so-brave new world is a smart, savage satire that has captivated readers with its view of an imagined future that veers unnervingly close to the here and now.

Choose ONE of the Following seven Books

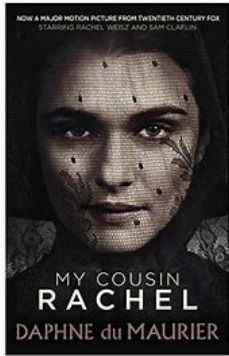
***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

ISBN-10: 0375842209

ISBN-13: 978-0375842207



When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.



***My Cousin Rachel* by Daphne du Maurier**

ISBN-10: 9781402217098

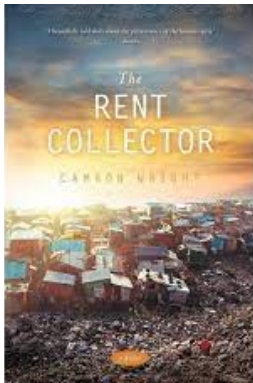
ISBN-13: 978-1402217098

Orphaned at an early age, Philip Ashley is raised by his benevolent older cousin, Ambrose. Resolutely single, Ambrose delights in Philip as his heir, a man who will love his grand home as much as he does himself. But the cosy world the two construct is shattered when Ambrose sets off on a trip to Florence. There he falls in love and marries - and there he dies suddenly. Jealous of his marriage, racked by suspicion at the hints in Ambrose's letters, and grief-stricken by his death, Philip prepares to meet his cousin's widow with hatred in his heart. Despite himself, Philip is drawn to this beautiful, sophisticated, mysterious Rachel like a moth to the flame. And yet... might she have had a hand in Ambrose's death?

***The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright**

ISBN-10: 1609077059

ISBN-13: 978-1609077051

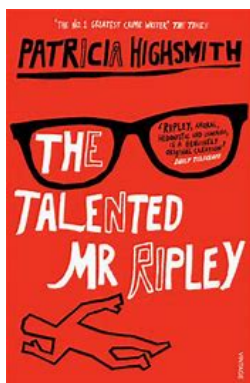


Survival for Ki Lim and Sang Ly is a daily battle at Stung Meanchey, the largest municipal waste dump in all of Cambodia. They make their living scavenging recyclables from the trash. Life would be hard enough without the worry for their chronically ill child, Nisay, and the added expense of medicines that are not working. Just when things seem worst, Sang Ly learns a secret about the ill-tempered rent collector who comes demanding money--a secret that sets in motion a tide that will change the life of everyone it sweeps past. *The Rent Collector* is a story of hope, of one woman's journey to save her son and another woman's chance at redemption. It demonstrates that even in a dump in Cambodia—perhaps especially in a dump in Cambodia--*everyone deserves a second chance.*

***The Talented Mr. Ripley* by Patricia Highsmith**

ISBN-10: 0393332144

ISBN-13: 978-0393332148



Since his debut in 1955, Tom Ripley has evolved into the ultimate bad boy sociopath. Here, in the first Ripley novel, we are introduced to suave Tom Ripley, a young striver, newly arrived in the heady world of Manhattan. A product of a broken home, branded a "sissy" by his dismissive Aunt Dottie, Ripley meets a wealthy industrialist who hires him to bring his playboy son, Dickie Greenleaf, back from gallivanting in Italy. Soon Ripley's fascination with Dickie's debonair lifestyle turns obsessive as he finds himself enraged by Dickie's ambivalent affections for Marge, a charming American dilettante.

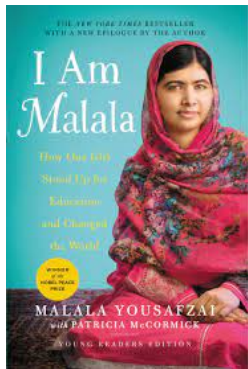


Scythe by Neal Shusterman

ISBN-10: 144247243X

ISBN-13: 978-1442472433

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own. Scythe is the first novel of a thrilling new series by National Book Award–winning author Neal Shusterman in which Citra and Rowan learn that a perfect world comes only with a heavy price.

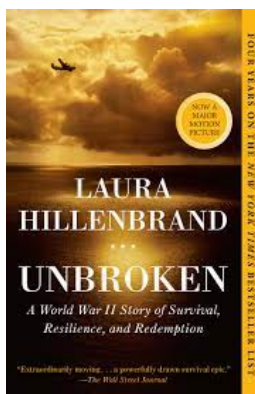


I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai (NONFICTION)

ISBN-10: 0316322423

ISBN-13: 978-0316322423

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.



Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand (NONFICTION)

ISBN-10: 9780812974492

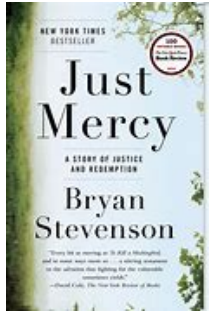
ISBN-13: 978-0812974492

In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

English III: Southern Ethos/Reimagining the Past (11th)

This course requires print versions of required texts.

Required Books for all English III Students



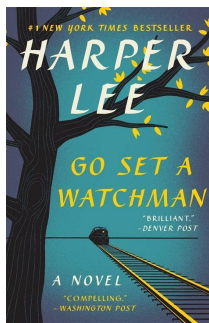
***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson (NONFICTION)**

ISBN-10: 9780812984965

ISBN-13: 978-0812984965

ASIN: 081298496X

#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER • A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama.



***Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee**

ISBN-10: 0062409867

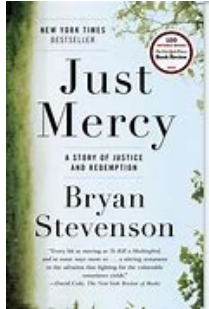
ISBN-13: 978-0062409867

Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch—“Scout”—returns home to Maycomb, Alabama from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise’s homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town, and the people dearest to her. Memories from her childhood flood back, and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt. Featuring many of the iconic characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Go Set a Watchman* perfectly captures a young woman, and a world, in painful yet necessary transition out of the illusions of the past—a journey that can only be guided by one’s own conscience.

AP Language and Composition (11th)

This course requires print versions of required texts.

Required Book for all AP Language and Composition Students



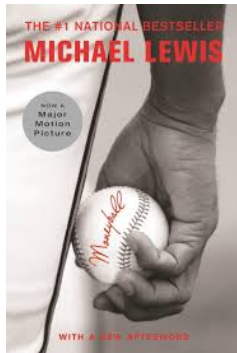
***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson (NONFICTION)**

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Choose TWO of the following sixteen books

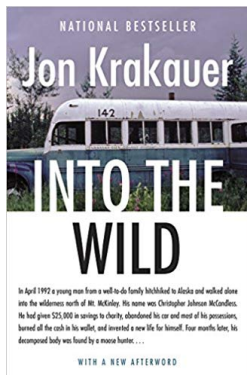


***Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* by Michael Lewis**

ISBN-10: 0393324818

ISBN-13: 978-0393324815

Moneyball is a quest for the secret of success in baseball. In a narrative full of fabulous characters and brilliant excursions into the unexpected, Michael Lewis follows the low-budget Oakland A's, visionary general manager Billy Beane, and the strange brotherhood of amateur baseball theorists. They are all in search of new baseball knowledge—insights that will give the little guy who is willing to discard old wisdom the edge over big money.



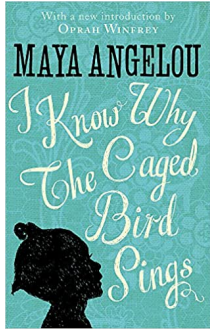
***Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer**

ISBN-10: 9780385486804

ISBN-13: 978-0385486804

ASIN: 0385486804

In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter.

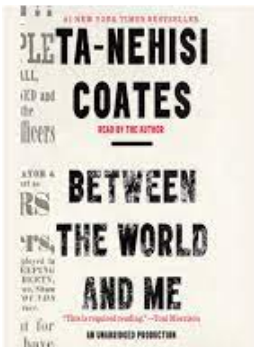


***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**

ISBN-10: 0345514408

ISBN-13: 978-0345514400

Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.

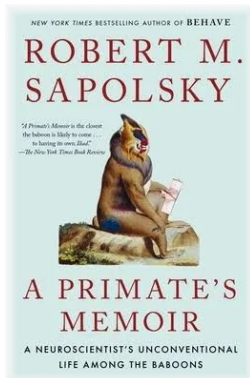


***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

ISBN-10: 0525510303

ISBN-13: 978-0525510307

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men.

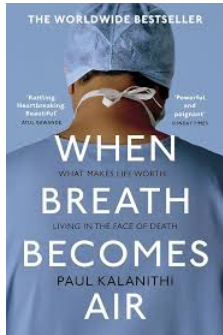


***A Primate's Memoir: A Neuroscientist's Unconventional Life Among the Baboons* by Robert Sapolsky**

ISBN-10: 0743202414

ISBN-13: 978-0743202411

An exhilarating account of Sapolsky's twenty-one-year study of a troop of rambunctious baboons in Kenya, *A Primate's Memoir* interweaves serious scientific observations with wry commentary about the challenges and pleasures of living in the wilds of the Serengeti—for man and beast alike. Over two decades, Sapolsky survives culinary atrocities, gunpoint encounters, and a surreal kidnapping, while witnessing the encroachment of the tourist mentality on Africa. As he conducts unprecedented physiological research on wild primates, he becomes enamored of his subjects—unique and compelling characters in their own right—and he returns to them summer after summer, until tragedy finally prevents him.

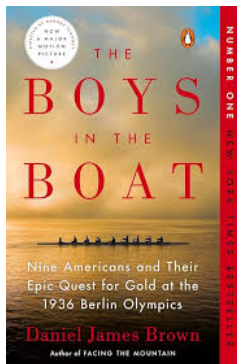


***When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi**

ISBN-10: 081298840X

ISBN-13: 978-0812988406

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

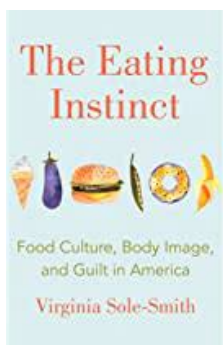


***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown**

ISBN-10: 0143125478

ISBN-13: 978-0143125471

It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite [Olympic] teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world.

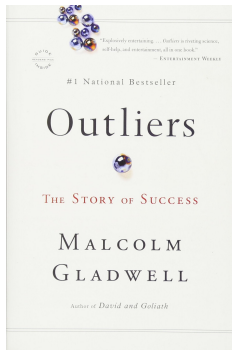


***The Eating Instinct: Food Culture, Body Image, and Guilt in America* by Virginia Sole-Smith**

ISBN-10: 1250234557

ISBN-13: 978-1250234551

Food is supposed to sustain and nourish us. Eating well, any doctor will tell you, is the best way to take care of yourself. Feeding well, any human will tell you, is the most important job a mother has. But for too many of us, food now feels dangerous. We parse every bite we eat as good or bad, and judge our own worth accordingly. When her newborn daughter stopped eating after a medical crisis, Virginia Sole-Smith spent two years teaching her how to feel safe around food again — and in the process, realized just how many of us are struggling to do the same thing.

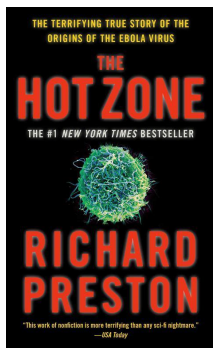


Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

ISBN-10: 0316017930

ISBN-13: 978-0316017930

In this stunning new book, Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"--the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing.

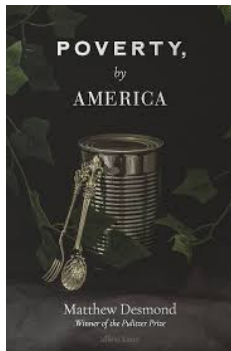


The Hot Zone by Richard Preston

ISBN-10 : 0385495226

ISBN-13 : 978-0385495226

A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure. In a few days 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus. *The Hot Zone* tells this dramatic story, giving a hair-raising account of the appearance of rare and lethal viruses and their "crashes" into the human race. Shocking, frightening, and impossible to ignore, *The Hot Zone* proves that truth really is scarier than fiction.

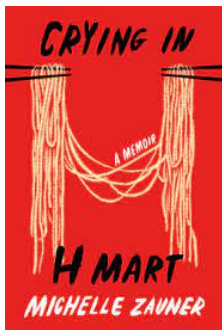


Poverty, by America by Matthew Desmond

ISBN-10: 0593239938

ISBN-13: 978-0593239933

The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why? Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages? In this landmark book, acclaimed sociologist Matthew Desmond draws on history, research, and original reporting to show how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor.

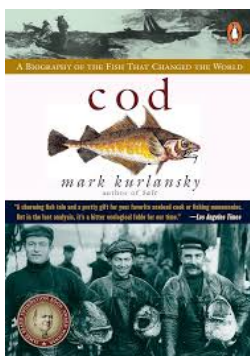


***Crying in H-Mart: A Memoir* by Michelle Zauner**

ISBN-10: 1984898957

ISBN-13: 978-1984898951

In this exquisite story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a dazzling singer, songwriter, and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food. As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band--and meeting the man who would become her husband--her Koreanness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer, when Michelle was twenty-five, that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her.



***Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World* by Mark Kurlansky**

ISBN-10: 0140275010

ISBN-13: 978-0140275018

Cod, Mark Kurlansky's third work of nonfiction and winner of the 1999 James Beard Award, is the biography of a single species of fish, but it may as well be a world history with this humble fish as its recurring main character. *Cod*, it turns out, is the reason Europeans set sail across the Atlantic, and it is the only reason they could. In this lovely, thoughtful history, Mark Kurlansky ponders the question: Is the fish that changed the world forever changed by the world's folly?



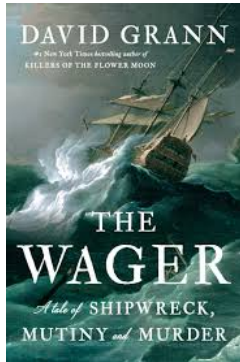
***Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret* by Catherine Coleman Flowers**

ISBN-10: 1620977133

ISBN-13: 978-1620977132

Catherine Coleman Flowers, a 2020 MacArthur “genius,” grew up in Lowndes County, Alabama, a place that’s been called “Bloody Lowndes” because of its violent, racist history. Once the epicenter of the voting rights struggle, today it’s Ground Zero for a new movement that is also Flowers’s life’s work—a fight to ensure human dignity through a right most Americans take for granted: basic sanitation. In this inspiring story of the evolution of an activist, from country girl to student civil rights organizer to environmental justice champion at Bryan Stevenson’s Equal Justice Initiative, Flowers shows how sanitation is becoming too big a problem to ignore as climate change brings sewage to more backyards—not only those of poor minorities.

AP Lang and Comp 11th



The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder by David Grann

ISBN-10: 0307742490

ISBN-13: 978-0307742490

On January 28, 1742, a ramshackle vessel of patched-together wood and cloth washed up on the coast of Brazil. Inside were thirty emaciated men, barely alive, and they had an extraordinary tale to tell. They were survivors of His Majesty's Ship the Wager, a British vessel that had left England in 1740 on a secret mission during an imperial war with Spain. While the Wager had been chasing a Spanish treasure-filled galleon known as "the prize of all the oceans," it had wrecked on a desolate island off the coast of Patagonia. The men, after being marooned for months and facing starvation, built the flimsy craft and sailed for more than a hundred days, traversing nearly 3,000 miles of storm-wracked seas. They were greeted as heroes. But then ... six months later, another, even more decrepit craft landed on the coast of Chile. This boat contained just three castaways, and they told a very different story. The thirty sailors who landed in Brazil were not heroes – they were mutineers.



LabGirl: A Memoir by Hope Jahren

ISBN-10: 1101873728

ISBN-13: 978-110187372

In these pages, Hope takes us back to her Minnesota childhood, where she spent hours in unfettered play in her father's college laboratory. She tells us how she found a sanctuary in science, learning to perform lab work "with both the heart and the hands." She introduces us to Bill, her brilliant, eccentric lab manager. And she extends the mantle of *scientist* to each one of her readers, inviting us to join her in observing and protecting our environment.

(all summaries taken from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

AP Lang and Comp 11th

English IV: The Archetypal Family/Brave New Worlds (12th)

Students may read electronic or print versions of these books.

Choose TWO of the following seventeen books

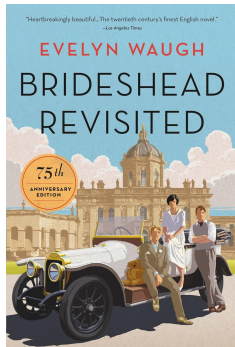


***The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett**

ISBN-10: 0525536965

ISBN-13: 978-0525536963

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

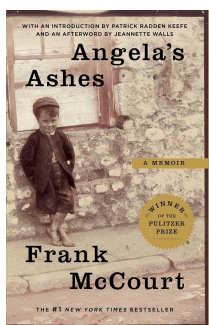


***Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh**

ISBN-10: 0241472733

ISBN-13: 978-0241472736

The most nostalgic and reflective of Evelyn Waugh's novels, *Brideshead Revisited* looks back to the years before the Second World War. It tells the story of Charles Ryder's infatuation with the Marchmains and the rapidly-disappearing world of privilege they inhabit. Enchanted first by Sebastian at Oxford, then by his doomed Catholic family, in particular his remote sister, Julia, Charles comes finally to recognize only his spiritual and social distance from them.



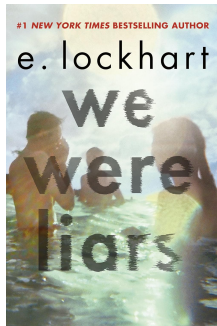
***Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt**

ISBN-10: 068484267X

ISBN-13: 978-0684842677

Nonfiction

“When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood.” So begins the luminous memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank’s mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank’s father, Malachy, rarely works, and when he does he drinks his wages. Yet Malachy—exasperating, irresponsible, and beguiling—does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story.

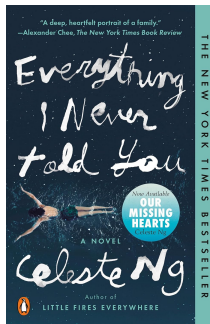


We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

ISBN-10: 0385741278

ISBN-13: 978-0385741279

A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth. Read it. And if anyone asks you how it ends, just LIE.

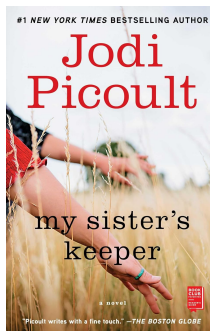


Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

ISBN-10: 0143127551

ISBN-13: 978-0143127550

Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet. So begins this exquisite novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia's body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos.

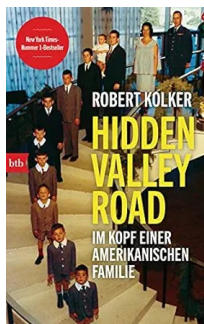


My Sister's Keeper Jodi Picoult

ISBN-10: 0743454537

ISBN-13: 978-0743454537

Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age thirteen, she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions, and shots so that her older sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate—a life and a role that she has never challenged...until now. *My Sister's Keeper* examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person.



Hidden Valley Road by Robert Kolker

ISBN-10: 0525562648

ISBN-13: 978-0525562641

Don and Mimi Galvin seemed to be living the American dream. After World War II, Don's work with the Air Force brought them to Colorado, where their twelve children perfectly spanned the baby boom: the oldest born in 1945, the youngest in 1965. But behind the scenes was a different story: psychological breakdown, sudden shocking violence, hidden abuse. By the mid-1970s, six of the ten Galvin boys, one after another, were diagnosed as schizophrenic. How could all this happen to one family?

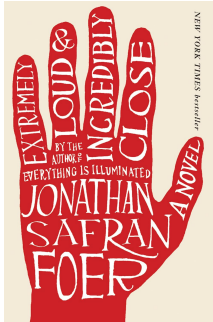
Nonfiction

English IV 12th

***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

ISBN-10: 9780618711659

ISBN-13: 978-0618711659

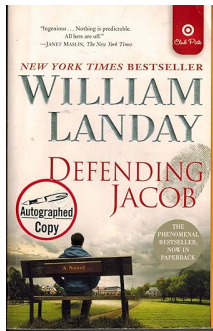


Nine-year-old Oskar Schell embarks on an urgent, secret mission that will take him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This seemingly impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts of an exhilarating, affecting, often hilarious, and ultimately healing journey. With humor, tenderness, and awe, Jonathan Safran Foer confronts the traumas of our country's difficult history.

***Defending Jacob* by William Landay**

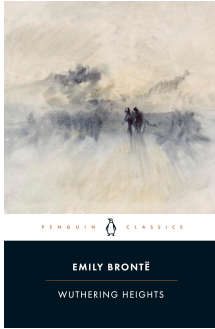
ISBN-10: 0345533666

ISBN-13: 978-0345533661



Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney for two decades. He is respected. Admired in the courtroom. Happy at home with the loves of his life: his wife, Laurie, and their teenage son, Jacob. Then Andy's quiet suburb is stunned by a shocking crime: a young boy stabbed to death in a leafy park. And an even greater shock: The accused is Andy's own son—shy, awkward, mysterious Jacob.



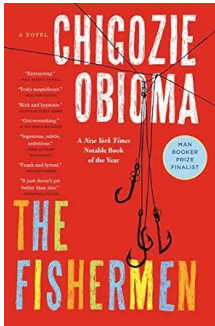


***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë**

ISBN-10: 0141439556

ISBN-13: 978-0141439556

Lockwood, the new tenant of Thrushcross Grange, situated on the bleak Yorkshire moors, is forced to seek shelter one night at Wuthering Heights, the home of his landlord. There he discovers the history of the tempestuous events that took place years before. What unfolds is the tale of the intense love between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw. Catherine, forced to choose between passionate, tortured Heathcliff and gentle, well-bred Edgar Linton, surrenders to the expectations of her class. As Heathcliff's bitterness and vengeance at his betrayal is visited upon the next generation, their innocent heirs must struggle to escape the legacy of the past.

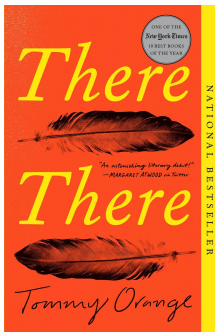


***The Fisherman* by Chigozie Obioma**

ISBN-10: 0316338354

ISBN-13: 978-0316338356

Told by nine-year-old Benjamin, the youngest of four brothers, *The Fishermen* is the Cain and Abel-esque story of a childhood in Nigeria, in the small town of Akure. When their father has to travel to a distant city for work, the brothers take advantage of his absence to skip school and go fishing. At the forbidden nearby river, they meet a madman who persuades the oldest of the boys that he is destined to be killed by one of his siblings. What happens next is an almost mythic event whose impact—both tragic and redemptive—will transcend the lives and imaginations of the book's characters and readers.

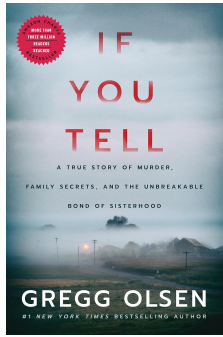


***There, There* by Tommy Orange**

ISBN-10: 0525436146

ISBN-13: 978-0525436140

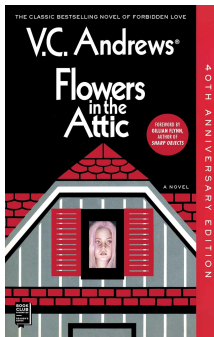
A wondrous and shattering award-winning novel that follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. They converge and collide on one fateful day at the Big Oakland Powwow and together this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism.



***If You Tell* by Gregg Olsen**
ISBN-10 : 154200523X
ISBN-13: 978-1542005234

Nonfiction

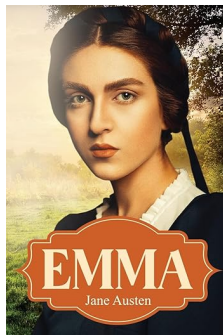
After more than a decade, when sisters Nikki, Sami, and Tori Knotek hear the word *mom*, it claws like an eagle's talons, triggering memories that have been their secret since childhood. Until now. For years, behind the closed doors of their farmhouse in Raymond, Washington, their sadistic mother, Shelly, subjected her girls to unimaginable abuse, degradation, torture, and psychic terrors. Through it all, Nikki, Sami, and Tori developed a defiant bond that made them far less vulnerable than Shelly imagined. Even as others were drawn into their mother's dark and perverse web, the sisters found the strength and courage to escape an escalating nightmare that culminated in multiple murders.



***Flowers in the Attic* by V.C. Andrews**
ISBN-10: 198210810X
ISBN-13: 978-1982108106

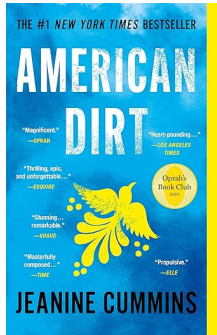
They were a perfect and beautiful family—until a heartbreaking tragedy shattered their happiness. Now, for the sake of an inheritance that will ensure their future, the children must be hidden away out of sight, as if they never existed. They are kept in the attic of their grandmother's labyrinthine mansion, isolated and alone. As the visits from their seemingly unconcerned mother slowly dwindle, the four children grow ever closer and depend upon one another to survive both this cramped world and their cruel grandmother.

A suspenseful and thrilling tale of family, greed, murder, and forbidden love, *Flowers in the Attic* is the unputdownable first novel of the epic Dollanganger family saga.



***Emma* by Jane Austen**
ISBN-10: 0141439580
ISBN-13: 978-0141439587

Beautiful, clever, rich—and single—Emma Woodhouse is perfectly content with her life and sees no need for either love or marriage. Nothing, however, delights her more than interfering in the romantic lives of others. But when she ignores the warnings of her good friend Mr. Knightley and attempts to arrange a suitable match for her protegee Harriet Smith, her carefully laid plans soon unravel and have consequences that she never expected. With its imperfect but charming heroine and its witty and subtle exploration of relationships, *Emma* is often seen as Jane Austen's most flawless work.

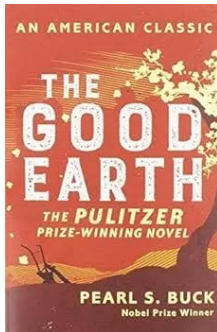


***American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins**

ISBN-10: 1250209781

ISBN-13: 978-1250209788

Lydia lives in Acapulco. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while cracks are beginning to show in Acapulco because of the cartels, Lydia's life is, by and large, fairly comfortable. But after her husband's tell-all profile of the newest drug lord is published, none of their lives will ever be the same. Forced to flee, Lydia and Luca find themselves joining the countless people trying to reach the United States. Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to?



***The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck**

ISBN-10 : 1982147172

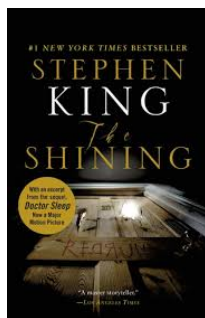
ISBN-13 : 978-1982147174

Travel to 1920s China, a time when the last emperor still ruled and the sweeping changes of the twentieth century were distant rumblings, with this timeless, evocative classic tale of the honest farmer Wang Lung and his family as they struggle to survive in the midst of vast political and social upheavals. Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize winner Pearl S. Buck traces the whole cycle of life: its terrors, its passions, its ambitions, and rewards.

AP Literature and Composition (12th)

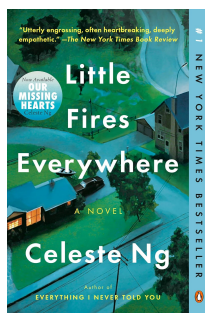
Students may read electronic or print versions of these books.

Choose TWO of the following nine books



***The Shining* by Stephen King ***
ISBN-13: 0307743659

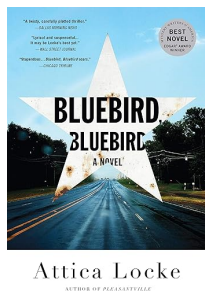
Jack Torrance's new job at the Overlook Hotel is the perfect chance for a fresh start. As the off-season caretaker at the atmospheric old hotel, he'll have plenty of time to spend reconnecting with his family and working on his writing. But as the harsh winter weather sets in, the idyllic location feels ever more remote . . . and more sinister. And the only one to notice the strange and terrible forces gathering around the Overlook is Danny Torrance, a uniquely gifted five-year-old.



***Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng**
ISBN-10: 0735224315
ISBN-13: 978-0735224315

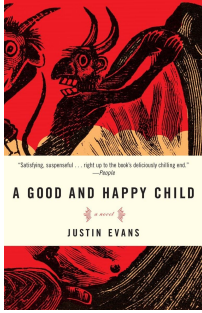
In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned—from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren—an enigmatic artist and single mother—who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four

Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.



***Bluebird, Bluebird* by Attica Locke**
ISBN-10: 0316363278
ISBN-13: 978-0316363273

Deeply ambivalent about growing up black in the lone star state, [Darren Matthews, a black Texas Ranger], was the first in his family to get as far away from Texas as he could. Until duty called him home. When his allegiance to his roots puts his job in jeopardy, he travels up Highway 59 to the small town of Lark, where two murders -- a black lawyer from Chicago and a local white woman -- have stirred up a hornet's nest of resentment. Darren must solve the crimes -- and save himself in the process -- before Lark's long-simmering racial fault lines erupt.

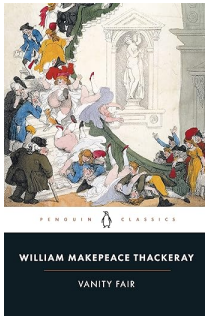


***A Good and Happy Child* by Justin Evans**

ISBN-10: 0307351289

ISBN-13: 978-0307351289

Thirty-year-old George Davies can't bring himself to hold his newborn son. As he delves into his childhood memories, he begins to recall things he hasn't thought of in twenty years. Events, people, and strange situations come rushing back. The odd, rambling letters his father sent home before he died. The jovial mother who started dating too soon after his father's death. A boy who appeared one night when George was lonely, then told him secrets he didn't want to know. How no one believed this new friend was real and that he was responsible for the bad things that were happening. Twenty years later, when a mysterious murder is revealed, remembering the past becomes the only way George can protect himself--and his young family.

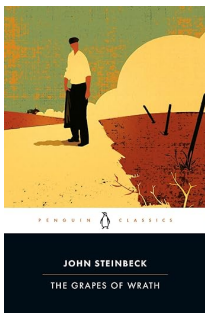


***Vanity Fair* by William Makepeace Thackeray**

ISBN-10: 9780141439839

ISBN-13: 978-0141439839

No one is better equipped in the struggle for wealth and worldly success than the alluring and ruthless Becky Sharp, who defies her impoverished background to clamber up the class ladder. Her sentimental companion Amelia, however, longs only for caddish soldier George. As the two heroines make their way through the tawdry glamour of Regency society, battles—military and domestic—are fought, fortunes made and lost. The one steadfast and honourable figure in this corrupt world is Dobbin with his devotion to Amelia, bringing pathos and depth to Thackeray's gloriously satirical epic of love and social adventure.

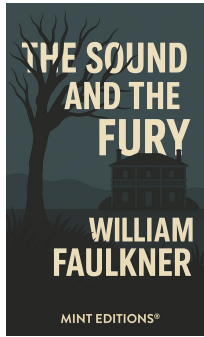


***The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck**

ISBN-10: 0143039431

ISBN-13: 978-0143039433

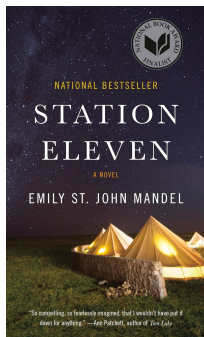
First published in 1939, Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots evolves a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity.



***The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner**

ISBN-13: 979-8888977156

William Faulkner's 1929 novel is notable for its innovative, nonlinear structure, unfolding through four distinct and often fragmented perspectives that reflect the family's decline. The narrative serves as a powerful commentary on the decline of the Southern aristocracy, with each narrator clinging to a different, flawed version of the past as their family crumbles around the central figure of the disowned sister, Caddy.



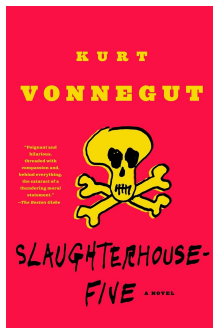
***Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel**

ISBN-10: 0804172447

ISBN-13 : 978-0804172448

It is fifteen years after a flu pandemic wiped out most of the world's population. Kirsten is an actress with the Traveling Symphony, a small troupe moving over the gutted landscape, performing Shakespeare and music for scattered communities of survivors. But when they arrive in the outpost of St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who digs graves for anyone who dares to leave. Spanning decades, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the disaster brought everyone

here, this suspenseful, elegiac novel is rife with beauty, telling a story about the relationship that sustain us.



***Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut**


ISBN-10: 0385333846

ISBN-13: 978-0385333849

Slaughterhouse-Five, an American classic, is one of the world's great antiwar books. Centering on the infamous firebombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we fear most.

(all summaries taken from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

AP Lit and Comp 12th



**Read widely,
Read imaginatively,
Read deeply,
Read passionately,
Above all, read as if your
life depends on it
(In so many ways, it does)**

**p.s.
have fun, too!**