Summer Reading 2026
AP English IV Literature and Composition

"Literature helps us grow, both personally and intellectually. It provides an objective base for knowledge and understanding. It links us with the cultural, philosophic, and religious world of which we are a part. It enables us to recognize human dreams and struggles in different places and times we otherwise would never know existed." [1]

Hello class of 2027! Choose one of the following novels to read over the summer. Please keep your personal and family values in mind as you choose a title.

- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë
- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Namesake* *by* Jhumpa Lahiri
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck

Please note that the College Board describes the course as "careful reading and critical analysis of such works of fiction, drama, and poetry." Our choices in novels are to provide the College Board's vision of "rich opportunities for students to develop an appreciation of ways literature reflects and comments on a range of experiences, institutions, and social structures." For more information click here.

As you read, thoughtfully consider the following big ideas that serve as the foundation of the course: character, setting, structure, narration, and figurative language. Be prepared to analyze the text and discuss it critically in the first few days of school.

We look forward to meeting you and studying literature with you next fall.

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[1] Roberts, Edgar V., and Henry E. Jacobs. "Introduction: Reading, Responding To, and Writing about Literature." Introduction. *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998. 1-2. Print.