

Summer Reading 2026 for English 11

Students taking English 11 in the fall must read two books during the summer or select the optional book.

1. BOOK 1: Choose one book from Book List 1 below. For your Book List 1 choice, you will have an assessment in the first week of school.

The Underground Railroad	Colson Whitehead
Pigs in Heaven	Barbara Kingsolver
Beloved	Toni Morrison
News of the World	Paulette Jiles
In Cold Blood	Truman Capote
Into Thin Air	Jon Krakauer
The Hot Zone	Richard Preston
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Jonathan Safran Foer
The Great Alone	Kristin Hannah
- AND	

2. BOOK 2: Your second book is from Book List 2 below. For your Book List 2 choice, you will have a written assessment during the first week of school.

Their Eyes Were Watching God	Zora Neal Hurston
Slaughterhouse Five	Kurt Vonnegut
Native Son	Richard Wright
On the Road	Jack Kerouac
The Invention of Wings	Sue Monk Kidd
The Nightingale	Kristin Hannah
Main Street	Sinclair Lewis
<i>The Plague of Doves*</i>	Louise Erdrich
The Good Earth	Pearl S. Buck
The Kitchen God's Wife	Amy Tan

**Contains mature content*

-OR-

3. Optional Book (This choice replaces both Book 1 & Book 2 choices listed above.)

Students may read *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck if they fulfill the following criteria:

1. Sign out the book from your English teacher in June, or read an electronic copy or a personal copy of the text.
2. Turn in the book on the first day of school.
3. Complete an assessment in the first week of school.
4. Take an in-class writing assessment in the first week of school