Reading List for Upcoming 9th – 12th Grade Students 2026 - 2027

College Prep (CP) English & Honors English Courses Only

Please keep track of the title and author of the book(s) you have read on the graphic organizer (see attached). Within the first two weeks of your return to school, you will be given an assignment to complete related to your book choice(s). This will be due **on the first day of class.**

9th Grade

English 1 and Pre-AP English 2 - Choose ONE of the following titles and complete one graphic organizer.

*The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (*novel-in-verse)

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander is a Newbery Medal-winning novel in verse about 12-year-old twin brothers, Josh and Jordan Bell, who are basketball stars, but must navigate challenges like first crushes, family issues, and their father's declining health, all told through Josh's rhythmic poetry.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card (science fiction)

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin was six years old when it began. He will grow up fast. [bullying, some violence; mild language]

The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank (autobiography/nonfiction)

In 1942, as Nazis occupied Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the secret upstairs rooms of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. [some mature themes, war, prejudice]

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd (Historical Fiction)

Set in South Carolina in 1964, The Secret Life of Bees tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted Black fist and-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of Black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story that women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come. [some description of violence, racism]

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sanchez (realistic fiction)

Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia is left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia had failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first kiss, first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

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10th Grade

English 2 and Honors English 2 - Choose ONE of the following titles and complete one graphic organizer (see end of document).
AP Seminar – Find the assignment and the book list on a separate document.
AP Research – Find the assignment and the book list on a separate document.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie (mystery)

Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island by a mysterious host who accuses each of them of hiding a dark secret, only to be killed off one-by-one according to a sinister nursery rhyme. As paranoia mounts and the death toll rises, the survivors realize the murderer is hiding among them, leading to a shocking final twist. [violence, alcohol, smoking, adult themes]

Summer of the Mariposas by Guadalupe Garcia McCall (magical realism)

When Odilia and her four sisters find a dead body in the swimming hole, they embark on a hero's journey to return the dead man to his family in Mexico. But returning home to Texas turns into an odyssey that would rival Homer's original tale. *Summer of the Mariposas* promotes the bond of sisterhood and the love between mother and daughters. [some mild violence]

Fuzz: When Nature Breaks The Law by Mary Roach (nonfiction)

What's to be done about a jaywalking moose? A bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? Three hundred years ago, animals that broke the law would be assigned legal representation and put on trial. The answers are best found not in jurisprudence but in science: the curious science of human-wildlife conflict, a discipline at the crossroads of human behavior and wildlife biology. Mary Roach is considered one of the funniest nature writers. This book explores the zany scenarios where wildlife and humans meet. [violence against animals]

The Once and Future King by T.H. White (fantasy)

T. H. White's masterful retelling of the saga of King Arthur is a fantasy classic as legendary as Excalibur and Camelot, and a poignant story of adventure, romance, and magic that has enchanted readers for generations. Once upon a time, a young boy called "Wart" was tutored by a magician named Merlyn in preparation for a future he couldn't possibly imagine. A future in which he would ally himself with the greatest knights, love a legendary queen and unite a country dedicated to chivalrous values. A future that would see him crowned and known for all time as Arthur, King of the Britons. [war/violence, death, some mature themes, animal cruelty]

11th Grade

English 3 - Choose ONE of the following titles and complete one graphic organizer.
Honors English 3 - Choose TWO of the following titles and complete a graphic organizer for each.
AP Language & Composition – Find the assignment and the book list on a separate document.
AP Seminar – Find the assignment and the book list on a separate document.
AP Research – Find the assignment and the book list on a separate document.

Jurassic Park: A Novel by Michael Crichton (science fiction)

An astonishing technique for recovering and cloning dinosaur DNA has been discovered. Now humankind's most thrilling fantasies have come true. Creatures extinct for eons roam Jurassic Park with their awesome presence and profound mystery, and all the world can visit them—for a price. Until something goes wrong. . .. [violence]

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver (realistic fiction)

The Poisonwood Bible is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them all they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. [animal death, colonialism, racism, poverty, adult themes]

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The Cereal Murders by Diane Mott Davidson (cozy mystery)

Caterer Goldy Bear is catering a tense college advisory dinner at Colorado's Elk Park Prep, only to find the high school valedictorian murdered. As her son faces dangerous school pranks and her assistant becomes a prime suspect, Goldy uncovers dark secrets, making her a target. [bullying, violence, murder, injury, classism]

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque (war/fiction)

All Quiet On The Western Front written by legendary author Erich Maria Remarque is widely considered to be one of the top 100 greatest books of all time. This great classic will surely attract a whole new generation of readers. Set during World War I, it follows the life of an idealistic young German soldier named Paul Bäumer. After enlisting in the German Army with his friends, Bäumer finds himself exposed to the realities of war, shattering his early hopes of becoming a hero as he does his best to survive. [graphic depictions of war violence, substance abuse, adult language & themes]

All the Right Stuff by Tom Wolfe (nonfiction)

Tom Wolfe's The Right Stuff is a non-fiction account of the U.S. test pilots and astronauts who participated in the early days of space exploration. The book explores the mindset and motivations of those who pushed the boundaries of flight, seeking to understand what it takes to have "the right stuff" - the courage, determination, and mental fortitude required to embrace the immense risks of space travel. [discussions of violence, sex, and death, as well as depictions of alcohol consumption, smoking, and some profanity]

12th Grade

AP Literature & Composition – Find the assignment and the book list on a separate document.

See book selection and summer assignment on a separate document.

Honors English 4 - Read *The Glass Castle* (Jeannette Walls) and choose one other title from the English 4 list. Complete one graphic organizer.

The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls (nonfiction)

The White Castle follows a young woman who flees her troubled family and takes a job at a fast-food restaurant, determined to build a stable life on her own terms. Through grit, humor, and hard-won resilience, she discovers that dignity and hope can grow even in the most unlikely places. [adult themes]

English 4 - Choose ONE of the following titles and complete one graphic organizer.

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown (nonfiction)

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown tells the true story of nine working-class American rowers from the University of Washington who unexpectedly won the gold medal at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The book centers on Joe Rantz, a teenager facing hardship and personal challenges, and how his quest for a place in the crew mirrors the spirit of his generation during the Great Depression. [some strong language, smoking and alcohol, some mature content, depictions of violence, including discussions of the Great Depression and the Holocaust]

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (historical fiction)

From Anthony Doerr, the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning authors of Cloud Cuckoo Land, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. [war, violence, adult themes]

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The Shining **by Stephen King (horror/fiction)**

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. [violence, psychological horror, domestic abuse and violence, strong language, and mature themes such as alcoholism and isolation]

Unshakeable: Building a Life of Virtue in a World of Chaos **by Fr. Mike Schmitz (Catholic spiritual nonfiction)**

Fr. Mike Schmitz offers a clear, practical guide for young adults seeking to anchor their lives in virtue, purpose, and spiritual stability amid cultural noise and moral confusion. Drawing on Scripture, Catholic teaching, and real-world examples, Schmitz shows how choosing virtue forms a life that is steady, joyful, and resilient.

SEE BELOW FOR READING LOG TEMPLATE

Reading List for Upcoming 9th – 12th Grade Students 2026 - 2027

College Prep (CP) English & Honors English Courses Only

Summer Reading Log

For College Prep and Honors English (not for AP Courses)

Name: _____

Directions – As you read, summarize, and discuss key features in the book using the graphic organizer. This may be typed or neatly handwritten and turned in the first week of school. Complete chapter notes for each book read. Each chapter must have a summary and writing prompt; please don't combine chapters. Feel free to add additional boxes or enlarge the boxes. This will be turned in via *Google Classroom* within the first few days of school.

Chapter	Chapter Summary	Choose ONE – Make sure to use evidence from the text to support your answers to one of these prompts: ● Discuss ONE trait ONE of the characters has in this chapter. ● Discuss how ONE of the characters changes from the beginning to the end of the chapter. ● Discuss how the setting in this chapter contributes to the plot. ● Discuss a literary device used in this chapter.

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Chapter	Chapter Summary	Choose ONE – ● Discuss ONE trait ONE of the characters has in this chapter. ● Discuss how ONE of the characters changes from the beginning to the end of the chapter. ● Discuss how the setting in this chapter contributes to the plot. ● Discuss a literary device used in this chapter.

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