King English Department: Upper School Summer Reading (2026)

Summer Reading: Over the summer, all US students will read one required book. The books below have been carefully selected by the English Department to reflect the themes of each respective course. The required books are intended to introduce students to the themes and structures that will be reinforced in the fall and throughout the year. King will provide all required reading books. In the first few days of the school year, students will be assessed on the required summer reading book. Each classroom teacher will provide specific, grade-appropriate instruction once classes begin.

In addition, our Teacher Librarian, Ms. Klein, has curated a wonderful list of choice books for students to consider. Please feel free to browse and enjoy!

Audiobooks: As you read your required summer reading book, you may wish to listen to an audiobook as a companion or supplemental resource. Just be sure to follow along in the physical text as you listen.

- To note: Electronic access requires a King email account.

Ebooks: If you choose to use an ebook, be aware that you will still be expected to work with a physical copy of the text in September. The English Department recommends that ebook users create a separate document to record annotations.

- To note: Electronic access requires a King email account.

List of Required Texts, Grades 9 - 12

Entering Grade 9

- **105: Fundamentals of Literary Study and Composition**
  - *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys (audiobook)
    - OR
  - *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins (audiobook)
    - Click here to see the summer reading assignment for 9th-grade English.

Entering Grade 10

- **201: Writing about Literature**
  - *Exiles* by Mason Coile (audiobook)
- **200: Writing about Literature, Honors**
  - *Mrs. Caliban* by Rachel Ingalls (ebook; audiobook)

Entering Grade 11

- **301: American Studies**
    - *Portrait of a Thief* by Grace D. Li (audiobook)
- **300: Honors American Literature**
    - *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zavin (ebook; audiobook)
- **360: AS American Literature**
    - *This Tender Land* by William Krueger (audiobook)
- **380: Advanced Humanities Seminar**
    - *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell (ebook; audiobook)

Entering Grade 12

- **400: Advanced Literary Studies Honors**
    - *The Hounding* by Xenobe Purvis
- **500: AP Literature**
    - *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood (ebook; audiobook)
- **540: AP Language**
    - *Unmasking AI* by Joy Buolamwini (audiobook)

Grade 12, Senior Seminars

- **Graphic Novel**
    - *Anya's Ghost* by Vera Brosgal
- **The Mythology of AI**
    - *Mythos* by Stephen Fry
- **Meaning and Madness**
    - *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams