KILLINGLY HIGH SCHOOL
2026 Summer Reading
Grades 9-12

June 2026

Greetings KHS Students,

This summer, you are required to read at least **one** book. You are free to select any book that interests you, but please be sure you have not read it before.

As you read, use the attached form to take notes. Bring those notes to your English class in September. Once you return to school, your teacher will ask you to share your thoughts about the book by participating in a group discussion, doing a brief presentation, or writing an essay. This assignment and the notes will be part of your quarter 1 grade.

If you like, you can check a book out of the KHS Library for the summer and return it in the fall. Of course, you could also find a book at your local public library or visit your library's website to check out an audiobook or ebook. For reading suggestions, visit nutmegaward.org or view their attached flyer for this year's nominations.

NOTE: Students entering grades 10, 11, and 12 who registered for honors or AP-level English classes will receive additional required summer reading and are responsible for completing both assignments.

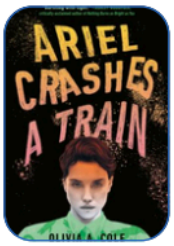
We look forward to meeting you in September and discussing the books we've read!

Enjoy your summer!
KHS English Department

Remember:
1) Read a book.
2) Take notes.
3) Bring your notes to English class.

Responsibility – Excellence – Dedication

2027 Nutmeg Book Award
High School Nominees
Grades 9-12

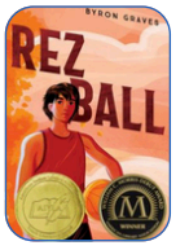


ARIEL CRASHES A TRAIN
by Olivia A. Cole

Ariel is a sweet, caring, and artistic young woman, but the disturbing intrusive thoughts caused by her OCD have convinced her she is a danger to the people around her. She wants to work, make friends, and be happy, but first she must break free of the worries that hold her back.

REZ BALL
by Byron Graves

Tre Brun lives on the Red Lake Nation Reservation in Minnesota. He misses his late brother Jaxon, and is trying to live up to Jaxon's basketball legacy. When Tre gets a spot on the Red Lake Warriors varsity team, the pressure is on. Can his team be the first Ojibwe team to win Minnesota's State Championship?



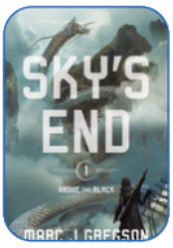


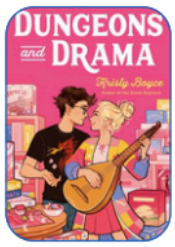
THE COLOR OF A LIE
by Kim Johnson

Despite escaping a horrible tragedy in Chicago, Calvin doesn't want to leave his Black community for an all-white neighborhood in Pennsylvania. It's 1955, and Calvin and his family are all Black, but they "pass" for white, leaving them all in a tense and potentially dangerous situation.

SKY'S END
by Marc J. Gregson

In a world of floating sky-islands, Conrad is exiled from nobility to the lowest rung, serving a ruthless uncle while monsters prowl the clouds below. When a deadly contest offers a chance at freedom, he risks everything to rise above betrayal, brutal trials, and the secrets that destroyed his family to save his sister. In the skies, survival isn't about how far you climb, it's about how far you're willing to fall.





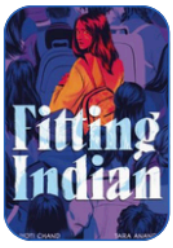
DUNGEONS AND DRAMA
by Kristy Boyce

Riley Morris is in trouble. Now she'll be working at her father's game store for the foreseeable future, though she has no interest in Dungeons & Dragons-type role-playing games. Soon Riley finds herself in a fake dating scheme with her coworker Nathan, in a race to save her school's spring musical, and getting to know her Dad. What does Riley truly want in life anyway?

SWARM
by Jennifer D. Lyle

Shur's anxiety disorder should have helped her prepare for the apocalypse, but even she never could have envisioned the giant butterflies attacking her town. Using her basement as a bunker, Shur, her siblings, and two best friends try their best to create a sanctuary, hoping for a day when they can again see the outside world.





FITTING INDIAN
by Jyoti Chand, art by Tara Anand

Nitasha, a South Asian teenager, doesn't feel "Indian enough" for her family or "American enough" for her friends. Follow Nitasha as she navigates the pressure to be a "perfect Indian daughter" while she learns about identity, belonging, and what a real, supportive community can look like in this graphic novel.

UNDER THIS RED ROCK
by Mindy McGinnis

Neely, a teenage girl struggling with her mental health, takes a job as a cavern tour guide to keep herself distracted and gain independence. When her coworker and crush is found murdered, Neely must decide whether her hallucinations made her forget her involvement or if something altogether more sinister is at play.



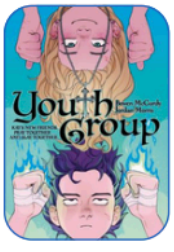


LOOKING FOR SMOKE
by K. A. Cobell

Elements of identity, tradition and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) crisis weave together as four teens scramble to prove their innocence when a Blackfeet Nation girl is found murdered after a traditional ceremony on the reservation.

YOUTH GROUP
by Jordan Morris, art by Bowen McCurdy

Kay has been forced to attend the Underground Youth Group after her parents' divorce. Instead of singing about Jesus or learning to avoid temptation, she discovers the stereotypical youth pastors are actually demon hunters, and Kay is exactly who they need to continue the battle.



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Name_____Date_____

LITERARY ELEMENTS	Your notes
Title, author, publication date	
Setting Include both place and time	
Major characters Identify the main character(s) and their qualities or personality traits.	
Point of View Who is telling the story?	
Plot Note significant events.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Conflicts Identify the conflict(s) central to the work. What are the problems or issues facing the main character?	
Resolution How are the conflicts resolved? How does it end?	

Themes Work toward developing general ideas about the author's intended meaning and/or specific statements about the author's central idea. What does the author want you to think about?	
Quotes/passages Record important or thought-provoking excerpts of the text.	1. 2. 3.
Final thoughts Was this text similar to any other work you have read or seen? What makes this text different from others you have read?	