

Summer Reading 2026 Incoming Grade 12 Themes in World Lit II



Directions: All students must read Tim O'Brien's novel *The Things They Carry*. Also, make sure you read ONE selection from each of the categories listed below.
NOTE: Students must be logged into their Park Ridge Google Accounts in order to access the links.
 From the English Dept. Summer Reading webpage, make sure to complete ONE graphic organizer per text.

Historical Context for the Vietnam War (Select One Box)	<u>Warrior Writers</u> --How do soldiers capture their experiences of war in poetry? (Select One Box)	Historical Context--The US military Iraq & Afghanistan (Select One Box)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conscription during the Vietnam War</u> • <u>Drug use during the Vietnam War</u> 	<u>Confronting/Welcoming Mental Illness from War</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>War in Iraq--Military Recruitment</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Anti-war Movement</u> 	<u>Identify & Intimacy</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Operation Iraqi Freedom</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Vietnam Veterans</u> 	<u>Imagery of War</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>American Women in the Iraq War and Afghanistan</u>

Recommended Titles for Personal Summer Reading--Incoming Grade 12 (optional)

- ***We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Other Refugee Girls Around the World*** (Malala Yousafzai) nonfiction
 In this powerful book, Nobel Peace Prize winner and *New York Times* bestselling author Malala Yousafzai introduces the people behind the statistics and news stories about the millions of people displaced worldwide.

- ***Call Us What We Carry: Poems*** (Amanda Gorman) Gorman explores history, language, identity, and erasure through an imaginative and intimate collage. Harnessing the collective grief of a global pandemic, this beautifully designed volume features poems in many inventive styles and structures and shines a light on a moment of reckoning.
- ***Outliers: The Story of Success*** (Malcolm Gladwell) lexile 1080
The author explores why some people are high achievers and others are not, citing culture, family, and upbringing as possible reasons some people are not as successful as others.
- ***David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*** (Malcolm Gladwell) lexile 750
Argues that the obstacles and disadvantages experienced by the underdog require adaptations that can lead to benefits and success in professional life, and draws upon examples from the world of business, sports, and culture.
- ***The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*** (Sean Covey) lexile 870
Describes seven habits teenagers can cultivate to help them improve their self-images, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve goals, get along with parents, and make other positive changes in their lives.
- ***The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives*** (Daksha Slater) lexile 930
This riveting nonfiction book for teens about race, class, gender, crime, and punishment tells the true story of an agender teen who was set on fire by another teen while riding a bus in Oakland, California.
- ***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*** (Trevor Noah) lexile 770
Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother-his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life."
- ***Gabi, a Girl in Pieces*** (Isabel Quintero) lexile 820
Sixteen-year-old Gabi Hernandez chronicles her senior year in high school as she copes with her friend Cindy's pregnancy, friend Sebastian's coming out, her father's meth habit, her own cravings for food and cute boys, and especially, the poetry that helps forge her identity.
- ***Purple Hibiscus*** (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie) lexile 920
After staying with their aunt in Nsukka, Nigeria, Kambili and her brother return home changed by their newfound freedom. At home, they deal with their father, a religious fanatic, who has high expectations of them and his wife. And eventually Kambili tries to keep their family together after their mother commits a desperate act. Mama poisons Papa's food, but Jaja confesses to the murder and is imprisoned.
- ***Mexican Gothic*** (Silvia Moreno-Garcia) lexile 920
A reimagining of the classic gothic suspense novel follows the experiences of a courageous socialite in 1950s Mexico who is drawn into the treacherous secrets of an isolated mansion.