

Summer Reading 2026

Incoming Grade 11

Themes in World Lit I



Directions: All students must read ONE of the following...

1. ***Clap When You Land*** (free verse novel by Elizabeth Acevedo)
An evocative novel in verse follows the experiences of two grieving sisters who navigate the loss of their father and the impact of his death on their relationship.
2. ***Solo*** (free verse novel by Kwame Alexander)
Seventeen-year-old Blade, who endeavors to resolve painful issues from his past to navigate the challenges of his former rockstar father's addictions, scathing tabloid rumors, and a protected secret that threatens his own identity.

Also, make sure you **read all of the paired texts** listed below for your novel of choice.
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**.

<i>Clap When You Land</i> Paired Texts	<i>Solo</i> Paired Texts
<u>“Remembering America's Second-Deadliest Plane Crash”</u> By Timothy Bella and Benjamin Fearnow (article)	<u>“All Stories are Anansis”</u> Anonymous (myth)
<u>“And of Clay We are Created”</u> by Isabel Allende (short story)	<u>“Sandwiched in Between”</u> by Eric Smith (short story)
<u>“Children”</u> By Khalil Gibran (excerpt from verse novella)	<u>“Poetry Means the World to Me”</u> by Tony Medina (poem)

Recommended Titles for Personal Summer Reading--Incoming Grade 11 (optional)

- ***Little Brother* (Cory Doctorow) lexile 900**

Computer hacker Marcus spends most of his time outwitting school surveillance, until the day that San Francisco is bombed by terrorists -- and he and his friends are arrested and brutally interrogated for days. When they release Marcus, the authorities threaten to come for him again if he breathes a word about his ordeal; meanwhile, America has become a police state where everyone is suspect. For Marcus, the only option left is to take down the power-crazed Department of Homeland Security with an underground online revolution.

- ***The Declaration* (Gemma Malley) lexile 930**

In 2140 England, where drugs enable people to live forever and children are illegal, teenaged Anna, an obedient "Surplus" training to become a house servant, discovers that her birth parents are trying to find her.

- ***Unwind* (Neal Shusterman) lexile 740**

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs--and, perhaps, save their own lives.

- ***Dry* (Neal Shusterman) lexile 790**

The drought-or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it-has been going on for a while now. Everyone's lives have become an endless list of don'ts : don't water the lawn, don't fill up your pool, don't take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbours and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don't return and her life-and the life of her brother-is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she's going to survive.

- ***Not a Drop to Drink* (Mindy McGinnis) lexile 820**

Sixteen-year-old Lynn will do anything to protect her valuable water source, but the arrival of new neighbors forces her to reconsider her attitudes

- ***Outliers: The Story of Success* (Malcolm Gladwell) lexile 1080**

In this stunning new book, Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"--the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different?

His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band.

- ***David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants* (Malcolm Gladwell) lexile 750**

Explore the power of the underdog in Malcolm Gladwell's dazzling examination of success, motivation, and the role of adversity in shaping our lives.