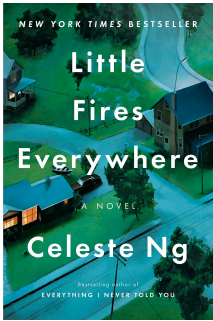


Honors English 10 Summer Reading

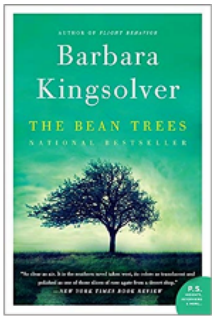
Welcome to Honors English 10! For your summer reading, choose one, two, or all three of these novels to read and annotate. While each novel has a variety of unique topics and themes, all three touch upon interpersonal relationships (family, chosen family, other close relationships, etc.) and how these can shape individuals. Your annotations should focus on: literary devices, character development, and moments that stand out to you regarding interpersonal relationships. We will begin our school year discussing and writing about these texts. Happy reading!

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng



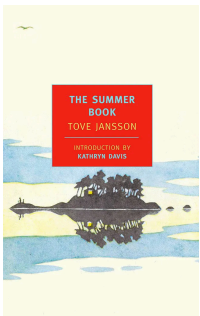
The story commences with the Richardson family's mansion engulfed in flames, a deliberate act that sets the stage for unraveling secrets and complex relationships. Mia Warren, and her daughter, Pearl, rent a duplex from the Richardsons. Mia's unconventional lifestyle and artistic pursuits starkly contrast the structured existence of the Richardson family. As the plot unfolds, the two families become intricately entwined, leading to a collision of values and choices that will alter their lives forever.

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver



Born and raised in rural Kentucky native Missy Greer wants to get away from her roots and avoid getting pregnant. She succeeds, but inherits a 3-year-old little girl named Turtle along the way. Together, the two search for a new life; out of money and seemingly out of options, the two eventually reach dusty Tucson, Arizona and Jesus Is Lord Used Tires. Through a journey of love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, Kingsolver's characters strive to make the right choices even when life is unfair and unjust.

The Summer Book by Tove Jansson



An elderly artist and her six-year-old granddaughter while away a summer together on a tiny island in the gulf of Finland. Gradually, the two learn to adjust to each other's fears, whims and yearnings for independence, and a fierce yet understated love emerges—one that encompasses not only the summer inhabitants but the island itself, with its mossy rocks, windswept firs and unpredictable seas.

Context for Challenging Texts

In English department classes, rigor often manifests in the complex, provocative, sometimes ambiguous, personally, and emotionally challenging material and discussions – which can be significant – in the pursuit of understanding the human condition. The material will likely be some of the most nuanced that the students have encountered thus far in their education. Consequently, we encourage each of us to be present, speak our truth, expect discomfort, and accept non-closure as part of the preparation for college and beyond.