



2009-2010 SUMMER READING

Summer reading in the High School is designed to promote pleasure in reading, enabling students both to explore intellectual interests related to their course work and to discover books and subjects they might not otherwise encounter.

To accomplish these goals, each student is asked to read three books from the lists for his or her grade level next year. At least one of these books must be chosen from the English list; the other two books may be chosen from either the general list or the English list.

Advanced Placement courses, intended to be more rigorous than courses in the regular curriculum, may require additional summer assignments.

Eleventh Grade Summer Reading List

If you are considering AP English for your senior year, it is recommended that you choose at least one Core book (marked below with an x). Any work marked with a + is a collection of poems or a play—please read two of these selections in lieu of a novel.

We strongly urge you to investigate as many of these books as possible through your favorite library, bookstore or web-site. Enjoy.

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| Albee, <i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i> + | Malamud, <i>The Assistant</i> |
| Alvarez, <i>In the Name of Salome</i> | McCarthy, <i>Blood Meridian</i> |
| Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> | McCullers, <i>The Heart is a Lonely Hunter</i> |
| Baldwin, <i>Giovanni's Room</i> | McGrath, <i>Pax Atomica</i> (poems)+ |
| Clifton, <i>Blessing the Boats</i> (poems)+ | McMurtry, <i>Lonesome Dove</i> |
| Collins, <i>Ballistics</i> (poems)+ | Miller, <i>Death of a Salesman</i> + |
| DeLillo, <i>Falling Man</i> | Morrison, <i>Jazz</i> (x) |
| Diaz, <i>Drown</i> | O'Neill, <i>Long Day's Journey Into Night</i> + |
| Doctorow, <i>Ragtime</i> | Plath, <i>Ariel</i> (poems)+ |
| Dove, <i>Thomas and Beulah</i> (poems)+ | Potok, <i>My Name is Asher Lev</i> |
| Edson, <i>Wit</i> + | Roth, <i>Goodbye, Columbus</i> |
| Erdrich, <i>The Master Butcher's Singers Club</i> | <i>American Pastoral</i> |
| Faulkner, <i>Light in August</i> (x) | Steinbeck, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> (x) |
| <i>The Hamlet</i> (x) | <i>East of Eden</i> (x) |
| Fitzgerald, <i>This Side of Paradise</i> | Strout, <i>Olive Kitteridge</i> |
| Franzen, <i>The Corrections</i> | Toole, <i>Confederacy of Dunces</i> |
| Ginsberg, <i>Howl</i> (poems)+ | Tretheway, <i>Native Guard</i> (poems)+ |
| Guare, <i>Six Degrees of Separation</i> + | Updike, <i>Rabbit, Run</i> |
| Hemingway, <i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i> (x) | Vonnegut, <i>Cat's Cradle</i> |
| <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> | Warren, <i>All the King's Men</i> (x) |
| Heller, <i>Catch-22</i> | Wharton, <i>The House of Mirth</i> (x) |
| James, <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> (x) | Williams, <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> + |
| LeGuin, <i>The Dispossessed</i> (sci-fi) | <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> + |
| Levine, <i>What Work Is</i> (poems)+ | Wright, <i>Native Son</i> (x) |

Eleventh Grade General Summer Reading List

Sebastian Barry, *A Long, Long Way*

An historically based novel about an Irishman fighting for Britain in World War I and his conflicts of loyalty to King and to the Irish people. Poetically written, with beautiful descriptions of the horrors of war and the hopes of the single soldier. (Marc Lavine)

Rick Bragg, *All Over But the Shoutin'*

As an adult, Rick Bragg became a reporter for the *New York Times*. This book is his memoir of growing up in very rural northeast Alabama during the 1950s and 60s. (Ann Wheeler)

Kenneth Brower, *The Starship and the Canoe*

An intriguing double biography of the famous astrophysicist Freeman Dyson and his son George, who drops out of college to paddle the Vancouver Island waters and live in a tree house. One of them is designing a spaceship, the other an ocean going kayak. An exceptional questioning of 20th century technology. (Liz Mask)

Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*

A revealing glimpse inside the minds of two murderers and one enamored writer. (Robbie McKay)

Caleb Carr, *The Alienist*

Noted military historian Carr writes a gripping historical mystery set in New York City at the turn of the century. (Pat Miletich)

Lorene Cary, *Black Ice*

In the early 1970's Cary became a "scholarship student" at what had until recently been an all male, all white boarding school in New Hampshire. This is the story about how she came into her own. (Steve Robins)

Michael Chabon, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*

This fascinating and engaging story revolves around two boys in New York during WWII who create a comic book character. With humor and sensitivity, Chabon creates an irresistible adventure that combines a history of comic books, the dawning awareness of the horrors of Nazi Germany, and a tale of lifelong friendship. (Mary Prasiit)

Sandra Cisneros, *La casa en Mango Street* (Appropriate for students of Spanish IV and AP)

The story of Cisneros' life as a girl in a poor neighborhood of Chicago. In a series of short and provocative vignettes, Cisneros describes what it's like to grow up as a Latina in the United States. You should read the Spanish original, not the English translation. (Lourdes Cuellar)

Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*

A discussion of the mechanisms of evolution. (Lorna Morris)

Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*

An analytical study of why some societies succeed and others fail. (George Flatau)

Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

A naturalist's exploration of Tinker Creek, full of reflections on the complexities and beauty of both her internal and external landscapes. (Freya Sachs)

Dave Eggers, *What is the What*

In this epic tale, Dave Eggers explores the life of Valentino Achak Deng, a refugee from the Sudanese civil war. It's a fictionalized memoir of his life and experiences, sometimes full of dark moments, at other turns lyrical, telling the story of one of the "Lost Boys" and his journey. (Katie Greenebaum and Freya Sachs)

Modris Eksteins, *Rites of Spring*

An interpretation of "the Great War" as a cultural and psychological watershed in European history. (Marc Lavine)

Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

This classic work, a fascinating look into Franklin's world view and values, demonstrates the ways in which he is truly the "American Incarnate." (Pat Miletich)

Doris Kearns Goodwin, *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: the Home Front in World War II.*

The political partnership of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt and the times in which they lived. (Pat Miletich)

Sue Grafton: *A is for Alibi, or, B is for Burglar, C is for Corpse...*

Private detective Kinsey Milhone solves a new problem in each of these "alphabet mysteries." Just one, please! (Robin Lynn Woo)

Paul Hoffman, *The Man Who Loved Only Numbers : The Story of Paul Erdős and the Search for Mathematical Truth*

Erdős was an amazing and prolific mathematician whose life as a world-wandering numerical nomad was legendary. He published almost 1,500 scholarly papers before his death in 1996, and he probably thought more about math problems than anyone in history. Like a traveling salesman offering his thoughts as wares, Erdős would show up on the doorstep of one mathematician or another and announce, "My brain is open." (Debbie Davies)

Tracy Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*

The story of Paul Farmer's travels around the world and work with disease control. (Betty White)

Alex Kotlowitz, *There Are No Children Here*

Stories of the struggles children face growing up in poverty. (Robbie McKay and Betty White)

Jonathan Kozol, *Savage Inequalities*

A sometimes frightening look at the inequalities present in many school systems, this study of American public education reveals conditions that many could not have imagined. (Betty White)

Erik Larson, *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America.*

This exciting scholarly work interweaves the story of a serial killer at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with the immense challenges of constructing the fair, its historical importance, and the famous figures attending into a first rate historical mystery. (Pat Miletich, Mary Prasit, and Ann Wheeler)

Allan Lightman, *Einstein's Dreams*

Stories about time and its nature and what Einstein may have been dreaming. (Freya Sachs)

Joseph Marshall, *Street Soldier*

This “cookbook for peace in this country” tells the story of a man determined to make a difference in the lives of impoverished students by eradicating youth violence and offering an alternative to gangs and drugs. Set in Los Angeles, it’s the true story of the founding of the Omega Boys Club and is filled with harrowing adventures and astounding recoveries. (Sarah Harrison)

Frank McCourt, *Angela's Ashes*

Memoir of Irish-American writer Frank McCourt. (Katie Greenebaum)

Mark and Delia Owens, *Cry of the Kalahari*

Carrying little more than a change of clothes and a pair of binoculars, Mark and Delia Owens arrive deep in the Kalahari Desert of Africa, living for seven years in an area with no roads, no people, and no source of water for thousands of miles. In this wilderness they meet animals that had never seen humans before. (Tamara Berthel)

Michael Parker, *If You Want Me to Stay*

A fourteen-year-old boy tells the story of how he did everything he could to save his family after his mother left and his father’s hold on sanity unraveled. On a journey from North Carolina to the coast, Joel and his little brother Tank thread their way back to their mother. (Delia Seigenthaler)

Ann Patchett, *Truth and Beauty: A Friendship*

A writer's recollection of a demanding friendship. (Robbie McKay)

David Sedaris, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*

Humorous essays about fatsuits, frustrations, and family. This book is filled with the acerbic wit and insight for which Sedaris is known. (Robbie McKay)

Michael Shaara, *The Killer Angels*

Widely regarded as the best Civil War novel ever written, this is an action-filled account recreating the Battle of Gettysburg, four of the most bloody days in our nation’s history. Characters that you may have known only through streets and parks named after them (Forrest, Hood, Grant, Sherman, etc.) become alive to you. Mr. McKay writes that “this was my favorite book that I read in high school.” (Robbie McKay)

Meir Shalev, *Four Meals*

As Zayde grows from a boy to an adult, he has four pivotal meals with his three possible fathers. Each meal reveals more about his mysterious life and mother. (Lorna Morris)

Anne Tyler, *Digging to America*

In *Digging to America*, Anne Tyler tells the story of two families, beginning with the arrival of their adopted Korean infants. In this warm-hearted, humorous tale, both families confront in different ways all the usual trials of life in affluent suburban America, leading readers to think about what being "American" really means. (Debbie Davies)

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale*

The "translation" of the journal Martha Ballard kept during her years as a midwife in Hallowell, Maine. It is a wonderful look into 18th century life in a small New England town. (Penny Phillips)

Jeannette Walls, *The Glass Castle*

Walls and her siblings were dragged around the country by a brilliant, alcoholic father and an unconventional, artistic, narcissistic mother. The children learned to support themselves, eating out of trashcans at school or painting their skin so the holes in their pants didn't show. One by one, each child escaped to New York City. Still, it wasn't long before their parents appeared on their doorsteps and began living as a homeless couple in Manhattan while their children rose in the world. (Katie Greenebaum)

Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge*

A Mormon woman integrates a relationship with the landscape and her family as they deal with cancer. (Freya Sachs)

Edward O. Wilson, *The Future of Life*

Sociobiologist Wilson describes the dangers facing our planet, careful not to diminish the significance of those dangers but also supporting the work of successful nongovernmental environmental groups. (Steve Robins)