

MHS English Department 2019 Summer Reading List for Students Entering Grade 10

Students entering Grade 10 College Prep A/B are **REQUIRED** to read **ONE** of the books from the list below.

Students entering Grade 10 Honors are **REQUIRED** to read **TWO** of the books from the list.

NOTE: AT LEAST ONE of the selections **MUST** be from the novels marked with an asterisk (*).

ALL STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 10 ENGLISH NEXT YEAR will be required to complete an assessment on the summer reading within the first two weeks of school; therefore, it is highly recommended, but not mandatory, that students keep a reading journal to take notes on plot/plot development, characters/character development, and themes/theme development as they read. **NOTE:** Students who prepare handwritten notes will be able to use them as a reference during the assessment(s); typed notes will not be allowed.

Grade 10		
Author	Title	Synopsis
*Khaled Hosseini	<i>*The Kite Runner</i>	*This painful, moving, remarkable debut novel depicts the childhood, adolescence, and adulthood of a deeply flawed protagonist. Growing up in Kabul, Afghanistan, Amir feels unloved by his widowed father, who seems to care more for Hassan, the son of their Hazara servant, Ali. Amir and Hassan are close but not quite friends. On what should have been the best day of his young life, when he wins a kite-flying contest and finally some respect from his father, Amir betrays Hassan and becomes haunted by guilt. Amir comes to California when the Soviets invade his country but returns years later to rescue Hassan's orphaned son from the Taliban and redeem himself. Library Journal Review
*Charlotte Bronte	<i>*Jane Eyre</i>	*As an orphan, Jane's childhood is not an easy one, but her independence and strength of character sustain her through the miseries inflicted by cruel relatives and a brutal education system. Taking a job as a governess in a house containing dangerous secrets and a passionate man she finds increasingly attractive, Jane is ultimately forced to call on her resources in order to hold fast to her beliefs. Amazon.com Synopsis
*Anthony Doerr	<i>*All the Light We Cannot See</i>	"While set mostly in Germany and France before and during the war--is not really a "war novel". Yes, there is fear and fighting and disappearance and death, but the author's focus is on the interior lives of his two characters. Marie Laure is a blind 14-year-old French girl who flees to the countryside when her father disappears from Nazi-occupied Paris. Werner is a gadget-obsessed German orphan whose skills admit him to a brutal branch of Hitler Youth. Never mind that their paths don't cross until very late in the novel, this is not a book you read for plot (although there is a wonderful, mysterious subplot about a stolen gem). This is a book you read for the beauty of Doerr's writing (...)" Amazon.com Editorial Review
Robert Sharenow	<i>The Berlin Boxing Club</i>	Berlin in the 1930s, during the rise of Nazism, is the dramatic setting for this novel told through the immediate first-person narrative of teenage Karl. Growing up in a secular middle-class home, he has always ignored his Jewish identity until he is expelled from school, the Hitler Youth harass him, and his father arranges for Karl to have lessons with the famous boxer Max Schmeling. After Max defeats Joe Louis, the Nazis trumpet his victory as Aryan superiority, but then Joe Louis wins the following match. At home, the situation becomes more desperate: Karl's little sister is beaten by Hitler Youth, his mother sinks into depression, and his uncle dies in Dachau. Karl is also a cartoonist, and his occasional sketches express the racist idiocy and the anguish he experiences. Booklist Review

Garth Stein	<i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i>	Enzo narrates his life story, beginning with his impending death. Enzo's not afraid of dying, as he's seen a television documentary on the Mongolian belief that a good dog will reincarnate as a man. Yes, Enzo is a dog. And he belongs to Denny: husband, father, customer service technician. Denny's dream is to be a professional race-car driver, and Enzo recounts the triumphs and tragedies--medical, financial, and legal--they share in this quest, the dangers of the racetrack being the least of their obstacles. Enzo ultimately teaches Denny and the reader that persistence and <i>joie de vivre</i> will see them through to the checkered flag. Library Journal Review
Eric Blehm	<i>Fearless: The Undaunted Courage and Ultimate Sacrifice of Navy Seal Team Six Operator Adam Brown</i>	An absorbing chronicle of heroism and humanity, Fearless presents an indelible portrait of a highly trained warrior who would enter a village with weapons in hand to hunt terrorists, only to come back the next day with an armload of shoes and meals for local children. It is a deeply personal, revealing glimpse inside the SEAL Team SIX brotherhood that also shows how these elite operators live out the rest of their lives, away from danger, as husbands, fathers, and friends. Barnes and Noble
Mark Haddon	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i>	Christopher Boone is the autistic 15-year-old narrator of this novel. When the neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes and track down the killer. As the mystery leads him to the secrets of his parents' broken marriage and then into an odyssey to find his place in the world, he must fall back on deductive logic to navigate the emotional complexities of a social world that remains a closed book to him. Publishers Weekly Synopsis
Malala Yousafzai	<i>I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban</i>	When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. Barnes and Noble.com Synopsis
Ray Bradbury	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	In <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , Ray Bradbury's classic, frightening vision of the future, firemen don't put out fires--they start them in order to burn books. Bradbury's vividly painted society holds up the appearance of happiness as the highest goal--a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad. Guy Montag meets a young girl who makes him question his profession and the values of the society in which he lives. Amazon.com Synopsis
Sherman Alexie	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>	Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Amazon. Com Synopsis