

MHS English Department 2019 Summer Reading List For Students Entering Grade 11

Students entering Grade 11 College Prep or Honors are encouraged to read one or more books for their enjoyment and for their continued skill development during the summer vacation. The books suggested in the list below are related thematically to several of the unit topics that students will explore in these courses.

If a student wishes to receive extra credit for reading one of the selections, he/she must: (1) read a book from the suggested titles below, (2) complete a reading journal (see guidelines*), and (3) submit the journal to his/her English teacher during the first week that the class meets (teacher will announce due date).

*The reading journal guidelines can be found at the end of the list and on the MHS website under Summer Reading.

Students entering 11 AP are **REQUIRED** to read **ONE** of the AP Selections** and may choose one of the selections from the list of suggested books for extra credit by completing and submitting a reading journal (see guidelines*). NOTE: AP students are encouraged to keep their own reading journal/notes on the AP selections to help them review for their assessments.

**AP Selections:

- [1] *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [2] *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance
- [3] *Educated* by Tara Westover

Grade 11		
Author	Title	Synopsis
Daniel James Brown	<i>The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics</i>	Daniel James Brown's robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936. The emotional heart of the story lies with one rower, Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not for glory, but to regain his shattered self-regard and to find a place he can call home. The crew is assembled by an enigmatic coach and mentored by a visionary, eccentric British boat builder, but it is their trust in each other that makes them a victorious team. They remind the country of what can be done when everyone quite literally pulls together--a perfect melding of commitment, determination, and optimism.
Celeste Ng	<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>	Shaker Heights, a wealthy suburb of Cleveland, is home to the mostly content Richardson family of six. Mia, an artist, and her teenage daughter, Pearl, decide to settle down and rent an apartment from the family. Pearl bonds with the Richardson teens, and life seems idyllic until a custody battle erupts. Elena Richardson's friend is adopting a baby whose biological mother, a friend of Mia's, regrets her decision to abandon the child. Ng sensitively examines adoption, privilege, and race as the well-off white couple and the child's biological mother, a Chinese immigrant who initially gave up the child out of financial necessity, fight for parental rights. Through Mia, the author also explores the sacrifices that artists must make and the tension between passion and parenthood. <i>School Library Journal Review</i>
Susannah Cahalan	<i>Brain on Fire</i>	In 2009, Cahalan was in a serious relationship and her career as a reporter at the <i>New York Post</i> was taking off. But suddenly, as she tells it in this engaging memoir, she began suffering from a bizarre amalgam of debilitating symptoms including memory loss, paranoia, and severe psychosis that left her in a catatonic state that moved her close to death. Physicians remained baffled until one extraordinary doctor determined that Cahalan was "in the grip of some kind of autoimmune disease." Released from the hospital after 28 days, she had no memory of her stay there. DVDs recorded in the hospital were the only link she had to her startling condition. "Without this electronic evidence, I could never have imagined myself capable of such madness and misery," she writes. Focusing her journalistic toolbox on her story, Cahalan untangles the medical mystery surrounding her condition. She is dogged by one question: "How many other people throughout history suffered from my disease and others like it but went untreated? The question is made more pressing by the knowledge that even though the disease was discovered in 2007, some doctors I spoke to believe that it's been around at least as long as humanity has." <i>Publisher's Weekly Review</i>

William Kent Krueger	<i>Ordinary Grace</i>	In 1961 New Bremen, MN, Frank Drum is a typical 13-year-old who likes baseball and getting into trouble. He has an 11-year-old brother, a Methodist minister father, a sister bound for Juilliard, and an artistically inclined mother. Narrating the story 40 years after the events unfold, Frank recalls the five deaths that occurred that summer that scarred many, especially his family. He and his brother grow up that summer as they see, hear, and experience tragedy and love that is part and parcel of the adult world. <i>Library Journal Review</i>
Angie Thomas	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two very different worlds: one is her home in a poor black urban neighborhood; the other is the tony suburban prep school she attends and the white boy she dates there. Her bifurcated life changes dramatically when she is the only witness to the unprovoked police shooting of her unarmed friend Khalil and is challenged to speak out though with trepidation about the injustices being done in the event's wake. As the case becomes national news, violence erupts in her neighborhood, and Starr finds herself and her family caught in the middle. Difficulties are exacerbated by their encounters with the local drug lord for whom Khalil was dealing to earn money for his impoverished family. If there is to be hope for change, Starr comes to realize, it must be through the exercise of her voice, even if it puts her and her family in harm's way. <i>Booklist Review</i>
Kathryn Stockett	<i>The Help</i>	Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. It is 1962, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, but Constantine has disappeared, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination forever changes a town and the way women—mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends—view one another. <i>The Help</i> is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't. <i>Amazon.com Review</i>
Luis Rodriguez	<i>Always Running: La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A.</i>	By age twelve, Luis Rodriguez was a veteran of East L.A. gang warfare. Lured by a seemingly invincible gang culture, he witnessed countless shootings, beatings, and arrests, then watched with increasing fear as drugs, murder, suicide, and senseless acts of street crime claimed his friends and family members. Before long, Rodriguez saw a way out of the barrio through education and the power of words and successfully broke free from years of violence and desperation. Achieving success as an award-winning Chicano poet, he was sure the streets would haunt him no more—until his son joined a gang. Rodriguez fought for his child by telling his own story in <i>Always Running</i> , a vivid memoir that explores the motivations of gang life and cautions against the death and destruction that inevitably claims its participants.
Kathleen Grissom	<i>The Kitchen House: A Novel</i>	Orphaned during her passage from Ireland, young, white Lavinia arrives on the steps of the kitchen house and is placed, as an indentured servant, under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate slave daughter. Lavinia learns to cook, clean, and serve food, while guided by the quiet strength and love of her new family. In time, Lavinia is accepted into the world of the big house, caring for the master's opium-addicted wife and befriending his dangerous yet protective son. She attempts to straddle the worlds of the kitchen and big house, but her skin color will forever set her apart from Belle and the other slaves. <i>Amazon. Com Review</i>
Emily St. John Mandel	<i>Station 11</i>	Onstage at a Toronto theater, an aging movie star drops dead while performing the title role in King Lear. As the other cast members share a drink at the lobby bar before heading into the snowy night, none can know what horrors await them: "Of all of them at the bar that night, the bartender was the one who survived the longest. He died three weeks later on the road out of the city." The Shakespearean tragedy unfolds into a real-life calamity just before the entire world is overtaken by a catastrophic flu pandemic that will kill off the vast majority of the population. The narrative is organized around several figures present at the theater that night, and the tale travels back and forth in time, from the years before the pandemic through the following 20 years in a world without government, electricity, telecommunications, modern medicine, or transportation.
Anita Diamant	<i>Boston Girl</i>	Addie is The Boston Girl, the spirited daughter of an immigrant Jewish family, born in 1900 to parents who were unprepared for America and its effect on their three daughters. Growing up in the North End of Boston, then a teeming multicultural neighborhood, Addie's intelligence and curiosity take her to a world her parents can't imagine—a world of short skirts, movies, celebrity culture, and new opportunities for women. Addie wants to finish high school and dreams of going to college. She wants a career and to find true love. From the one-room tenement apartment she shared with her parents and two sisters, to the library group for girls she joins at a neighborhood settlement house, to her first, disastrous love affair, to finding the love of her life, eighty-five-year-old Addie recounts her adventures with humor and compassion for the naïve girl she once was. <i>Barnes and Nobles</i>

Extra Credit Reading Journal for Grades 11

In order to receive extra credit for completing your summer reading, you must answer ALL of the following prompts **carefully** and **thoroughly**. Be sure to include **relevant textual evidence** to support your ideas. Also, don't forget to identify the novel's title and author's name!

Due: First Week of English Class (Teacher will announce due date)

Length: Approximately 3 pages, **neatly handwritten**

- (a) Write a one-page reaction statement to the novel you read. Be specific in your thoughts about the points that you liked or didn't like about the novel, ideas that intrigued you, etc. Be sure to include **specific textual references** (include page numbers) to support your reaction/thoughts.
- (b) Cite a memorable passage of no more than thirty words or three sentences from the book (include page number(s)). Explain **why** you have chosen this passage from the book.
- (c) Describe your first impression of one character or event that you find interesting. Give at least **three** examples of **specific textual evidence**(include page numbers) that support or generate this impression.
- (d) ** Identify what causes a significant change in one character and describe the results of that change. This change may be the consequence of a choice, a conflict of some kind that has to be resolved, a display of some outstanding trait like courage, or even the result of an action/event that occurs during the story. Whenever possible, include **specific textual references** (include page numbers) to support your conclusions, especially those that help to illustrate or provide evidence of the character's change.