

MHS English Department 2020 Summer Reading List For Students Entering Grade 10

Students entering Grade 10 College Prep A/B are encouraged to read **ONE** or more books on the list below for their enjoyment and for their continued skill development during the summer vacation.

Students entering Grade 10 Honors are encouraged to read **TWO** of the novels from the list. **NOTE:** It is highly recommended that **AT LEAST ONE** of the student's selections be one of the novels marked with an asterisk (*).

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 at the end of this list), and (3) submit the journal to his/her English teacher during the first week that the class meets (teacher will announce due date).

| Grade 10 | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| *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> Click here for a link to the text via Project Gutenberg | *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 |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <p>*Anthony Doerr</p> | <p><i>*All The Light We Cannot See</i></p> | <p>“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</p> |
| <p>Robert Sharenow</p> | <p><i>The Berlin Boxing Club</i></p> | <p>“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</p> |
| <p>Garth Stein</p> | <p><i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i></p> | <p>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</p> |

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| 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, <i>Fearless</i> 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 |
| 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 |

Extra Credit Reading Journal for Grade 10

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.

*Students with IEPs or 504 plans with the typed response accommodation may choose to type their responses.