

MHS English Department 2023 Summer Reading List For Students Entering Grade 9

Students entering Grade 9 College Prep A/B are **REQUIRED** to read **ONE** of the novels from the list below.

Students entering Grade 9 Honors are **REQUIRED** to read **TWO** of the novels from the list. **NOTE: AT LEAST ONE** of the student's selections **MUST** be one of the novels marked with an asterisk (*).

ALL STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 9 ENGLISH NEXT YEAR will respond to a writing prompt 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 9		
Betty Smith	<i>*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	*“...a poignant and deeply understanding story of childhood and family relationships. The Nolans lived in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn from 1902 until 1919...Their daughter Francie and their son Neely knew more than their fair share of the privations and sufferings that are the lot of a great city's poor. Primarily this is Francie's book. from <i>New York Times</i>
Maya Angelou	<i>*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	* “...this memoir traces Maya Angelou's childhood in a small, rural community during the 1930s. Filled with images and recollections that point to the dignity and courage of black men and women, Angelou paints a sometimes disquieting, but always affecting picture of the people—and the times—that touched her life. Amazon.com Review

<p>Richard Adams</p>	<p><i>*Watership Down</i></p>	<p>*First published in 1972, Richard Adams’s extraordinary bestseller <i>Watership Down</i> takes us to a world we have never truly seen: to the remarkable life that teems in the fields, forests, and riverbanks, far beyond our cities and towns. It is a powerful saga of courage, leadership, and survival; and epic tale of a hardy band of Berkshire rabbits forced to flee the destruction of their fragile community and their trials and triumphs in the face of extraordinary adversity as they pursue a glorious dream called "home." distributed by Syndetic Solutions, Inc.</p>
<p>Steve Kluger</p>	<p><i>My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park</i></p>	<p>Best friends and unofficial brothers since they were six, ninth-graders T.C. and Augie have got the world figured out. But that all changes when both friends fall in love for the first time. Enter Al, . She's pretty, sassy, and on her way to Harvard. T.C. falls hard, but Al, is playing hard to get. Meanwhile, Augie realizes that he's got a crush on a boy. It's not so clear to him, but to his family and friends, it's totally obvious! Told in alternating perspectives, this is the hilarious and touching story of their most excellent year, where these three friends discover love, themselves, and how a little magic and Mary Poppins can go a long way. Amazon.com</p>
<p>Walter Dean Myers</p>	<p><i>Sunrise over Fallujah</i></p>	<p>Instead of heading to college as his father wishes, Robin leaves Harlem and joins the army to stand up for his country after 9/11. While stationed in Iraq with a war looming that he hopes will be averted, he begins writing letters home to his parents and to his Uncle Richie, the main character from Myers's acclaimed Vietnam War novel, <i>Fallen Angels</i> (Scholastic, 1988). Robin finds himself in a diverse Civil Affairs unit of both men and women, with a mission to serve as a buffer between winning over the Iraqi people and concurrent military operations. As the war unfolds, the military angle of Robin's job escalates, and he experiences increasing horrors of violence, death, destruction, insecurity, sorrow, and extreme fear. Ultimately, he comprehends the reasons Uncle Richie never wanted to talk to their family about what happened in Vietnam, saying, "-are there really enough words to make them understand?" School Library Journal Review</p>

Sue Monk Kidd	<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	Fourteen-year-old Lily Owen, who is neglected and isolated on her father's North Carolina peach farm, becomes a runaway who finds the true meaning of family in the home of three black sisters who raise bees. The story is set in the early 1960s against the background of racial violence and unrest. Amazon.com Review
Jamie Ford	<i>Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet</i>	Fifth-grade scholarship students and best friends Henry and Keiko are the only Asians in their Seattle elementary school in 1942. Henry is Chinese, Keiko is Japanese, and Pearl Harbor has made all Asians-even those who are American born-targets for abuse. Because Henry's nationalistic father has a deep-seated hatred for Japan, Henry keeps his friendship with and eventual love for Keiko a secret. When Keiko's family is sent to an internment camp in Idaho, Henry vows to wait for her. Library Journal Synopsis
Matthew Quick	<i>Boy 21</i>	Basketball has always been an escape for Finley. He lives in broken-down Belmont, a town ruled by the Irish mob, drugs, violence, and racially charged rivalries. At home, his dad works nights, and Finley is left to take care of his disabled grandfather alone. He's always dreamed of getting out someday, but until he can, putting on that number 21 jersey makes everything seem okay. Russ has just moved to the neighborhood, and the life of this teen basketball phenom has been turned upside down by tragedy. Cut off from everyone he knows, he won't pick up a basketball, but answers only to the name Boy21--taken from his former jersey number. As their final year of high school brings these two boys together, a unique friendship may turn out to be the answer they both need. Barnes and Noble.com Synopsis
Matthew Quick	<i>Sorta Like a Rockstar</i>	Amber Appleton lives in a bus. Ever since her mom's boyfriend kicked them out, Amber, her mom, and her totally loyal dog, Bobby Big Boy (aka Thrice B) have

		<p>been camped out in the back of Hello Yellow (the school bus her mom drives). Still, Amber, the self-proclaimed princess of hope and girl of unyielding optimism, refuses to sweat the bad stuff. But when a fatal tragedy threatens Amber's optimism—and her way of life, can Amber continue to be the rock star of hope? With an oddball cast of characters, and a heartwarming, inspiring story, this novel unveils a beautifully beaten-up world of laughs, loyalty, and hard-earned hope. The world is Amber's stage, and Amber is, well...she's sorta like a rock star. True? True.</p> <p>Barnes and Noble.com Synopsis</p>
Tahereh Mafi	<i>A Very Large Expanse of Sea</i>	<p>It's 2002, a year after 9/11. It's an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped. Shirin is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She's tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments—even the physical violence—she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. So she's built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. Instead, she drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother. But then she meets Ocean James. He's the first person in forever who really seems to want to get to know Shirin. It terrifies her—they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds—and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she's not sure she'll ever be able to let it down. Amazon</p>
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	<i>Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> Click here for a link to the text via Project Gutenberg	<p>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes is a collection of twelve stories written by Arthur Conan Doyle, featuring his famous detective. Venture back in time to Victorian London to join literature's greatest detective team — the brilliant Sherlock Holmes and his devoted assistant, Dr. Watson — as they investigate a dozen of their best-known cases. Originally published in 1892, this is the first and best collection of stories about the legendary sleuth. Amazon</p>
John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell	<i>March</i>	<p>Congressman John Lewis (GA-5) is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 <i>March</i> on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president. Now, to share his remarkable story with new generations, Lewis</p>

		presents <i>March</i> , a graphic novel trilogy, in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Aydin and New York Times best-selling artist Nate Powell (winner of the Eisner Award and LA Times Book Prize finalist for <i>Swallow Me Whole</i>). <i>March</i> is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. Amazon
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Any student who needs assistance regarding summer reading should contact the English department head.

MHS English Department 2023 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 respond to a writing prompt 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		
*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
*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
*William Kent Krueger	* <i>This Tender Land</i>	In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota’s

		<p>Gilead River, Odie O'Banion is an orphan confined to the Lincoln Indian Training School, a pitiless place where his lively nature earns him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee after committing a terrible crime, he and his brother, Albert, their best friend, Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own. Over the course of one summer, these four orphans journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, <i>This Tender Land</i> is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole. Amazon.com Synopsis</p>
Robert Sharenow	<i>The Berlin Boxing Club</i>	<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>
Garth Stein	<i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i>	<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</i>	<p>An absorbing chronicle of heroism and humanity, <i>Fearless</i> presents an indelible portrait of a highly trained warrior</p>

	<i>Courage and Ultimate Sacrifice of Navy Seal Team Six Operator Adam Brown</i>	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
Sara Nisha Adams	<i>The Reading List</i>	Widower Mukesh lives a quiet life in Wembley, in West London after losing his beloved wife. He shops every Wednesday, goes to Temple, and worries about his granddaughter, Priya, who hides in her room reading while he spends his evenings watching nature documentaries. Aleisha is a bright but anxious teenager working at the local library for the summer when she discovers a crumpled-up piece of paper in the back of <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> . It's a list of novels that she's never heard of before. Intrigued, and a little bored with her slow job at the checkout desk, she impulsively decides to read every book on the list, one after the other. As each story gives up its magic, the books transport Aleisha from the painful realities she's facing at home. When Mukesh arrives at the library, desperate to forge a connection with his bookworm granddaughter, Aleisha passes along the reading list...hoping that it will be a lifeline for him too. Slowly, the shared books create a connection between two lonely souls, as fiction helps them escape their grief and

		everyday troubles and find joy again. Amazon
Candler Cook	<i>From Underdog to Bulldog</i>	Candler Cook knows firsthand that dreams can come true—but only if you're willing to fight for them. A lifelong Bulldogs fan, Candler decided at age seven that he wanted to play football for the University of Georgia. Despite being only a fourth-string linebacker on his high school squad, he remained laser-focused on his quest. Rejection followed rejection, but he refused to give up, even when others insisted that he'd never make the team. A fascinating inside look at SEC football and a guidebook for anyone pursuing a seemingly unattainable goal, <i>From Underdog to Bulldog</i> is the remarkable true story of one young man's extraordinary efforts to make the impossible happen. Amazon
Art Spiegelman	<i>Maus</i>	A brutally moving work of art—widely hailed as the greatest graphic novel ever written— <i>Maus</i> recounts the chilling experiences of the author's father during the Holocaust, with Jews drawn as wide-eyed mice and Nazis as menacing cats. <i>Maus</i> is a haunting tale within a tale, weaving the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father into an astonishing retelling of one of history's most unspeakable tragedies. It is an unforgettable story of survival and a disarming look at the legacy of trauma. Amazon
Sebastian Junger	<i>The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea</i>	It was the storm of the century, boasting waves over one hundred feet high—a tempest created by so rare a combination of factors that meteorologists deemed it "the perfect storm." In a book that has become a classic, Sebastian Junger explores the history of the fishing industry, the science of storms, and the candid accounts of the people whose lives the storm touched. The Perfect Storm is a real-life thriller that makes us feel like we've been caught, helpless, in the grip of a force of nature beyond our understanding or control.

Any student who needs assistance regarding summer reading should contact the English department chair

MHS English Department 2023 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 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).

*The reading journal guidelines can be found at the end of the list

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] ***The Grace of Silence* by Michele Norris**
- [3] ***Educated* by Tara Westover**
- [4] ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**
- [5] ***The Girl With Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story* by Hyeonseo Lee**
- [6] ***A Field Guide to Getting Lost* by Rebecca Solnit**

Grade 11		
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.

<p>Celeste Ng</p>	<p><i>Little Fires Everywhere</i></p>	<p>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></p>
<p>Susannah Cahalan</p>	<p><i>Brain On Fire</i></p>	<p>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></p>
<p>William Kent Krueger</p>	<p><i>Ordinary Grace</i></p>	<p>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</p>

		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. Amazon.com Review
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</i>	Orphaned during her passage from Ireland, young, white Lavinia arrives on the steps of the kitchen house and is

	<i>Novel</i>	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. Amazon.com Review
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. Barnes and Noble
Brit Bennett	<i>The Vanishing Half</i>	The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of

		<p>their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?</p> <p>Amazon</p>
Nathaniel Hawthorne	<p><i>The House of Seven Gables</i></p> <p>Click here for a link to the text via Project Gutenberg</p>	<p>Nathaniel Hawthorne drew inspiration for this story of an immorally obtained property from the role his forebears played in the 17th-century Salem witch trials. Built over an unquiet grave, the House of the Seven Gables carries a dying man's curse that blights the lives of its residents for over two centuries. Now Judge Jaffrey Pyncheon, an iron-hearted hypocrite and intellectual heir to the mansion's unscrupulous founder, is attempting to railroad a pair of his elderly relatives out of the house. Only two young people stand in his way... Amazon</p>

Extra Credit Reading Journal for Grade 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.

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

MHS English Department 2023 Summer Reading List For Students Entering Grade 12

Students entering Grade 12 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 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).

*The reading journal guidelines can be found at the end of the list

Students entering 12 AP are **REQUIRED** to read the **TWO** AP Selections** and may choose one of the selections from the list of suggested novels for extra credit by completing and submitting a reading journal (see guidelines*).

12 AP students: see attached document for the required reading selections and assignment.

Grade 12		
Marjane Satrapi	<i>Persepolis (Part 1)</i>	<i>Persepolis</i> is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. Amazon.com Synopsis
Ishmael Beah	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier	This absorbing account by a young man who, as a boy of 12, gets swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war, reveals the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare. Told in a clear, assessable language, this memoir is a gripping firsthand account of war and the ongoing plight of child soldiers in conflicts worldwide. Publishers Weekly Synopsis
Sylvia Plath	<i>The Bell Jar</i>	Esther Greenwood is brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under—maybe for the last time. In her acclaimed and enduring masterwork, Sylvia Plath brilliantly draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that her insanity becomes palpably real, even rational—as accessible an experience as going to the movies. A deep penetration into the darkest and most harrowing corners of the human psyche, <i>The Bell Jar</i> is an extraordinary accomplishment

		and a haunting American classic. Amazon.com Synopsis
Fredrik Backman	<i>Beartown</i>	Everyone knows Beartown is a hockey town. And everyone in Beartown knows someone who is connected to hockey, from the lonely owner of the local bar to the former athlete now managing the supermarket. In a town dying from economic decay and isolated by the surrounding wilderness, Beartown needs its junior hockey team to bring home the championship and bring in tourism and sponsorship dollars to keep the town alive. The son of a wealthy businessman and team patron, Kevin is the squad's superstar. Amat is an immigrant whose speed and skill on the ice may be his ticket to popularity. Maya is the daughter of the team's beloved general manager. When the paths of these three collide in the supercharged aftermath of a decisive game, the town's financial survival rests on the moral convictions of its most vulnerable citizens. Booklist Review
Kevin Powers	<i>The Yellow Birds: A Novel</i>	This first novel by Powers traces the story of a young soldier named John Bartle and his friend Murph during fighting in northern Iraq in 2005. Sterling, the tough sergeant of their platoon, has informally assigned Bartle the job of watching over Murph, who is young, small, and not much of a soldier, and Bartle had also promised Murph's mother that he would take care of him. As the horrors of war escalate, all the soldiers seem to lose their grip, and Murph finally snaps, leaving the compound and forcing Bartle and Sterling to search for him through the nightmarish landscape of a ravaged city. Alternating with this plot is the story of Bartle's life after his return home, as he attempts to piece together his friend's fate and come to grips with it. Library Journal Review

<p>Vanessa Diffenbaugh</p>	<p><i>The Language of Flowers</i></p>	<p>In Victorian times, the language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating mistrust and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now 18, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But an unexpected encounter with a mysterious stranger has her questioning what has been missing in her life.</p>
<p>Cheryl Strayed</p>	<p><i>Wild</i></p>	<p>At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and she would do it alone. Told with suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and humor, <i>Wild</i> powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her. Amazon.com Review</p>
<p>Bram Stoker</p>	<p><i>Dracula</i></p> <p>Click here for a link to the text via Project Gutenberg</p>	<p>Dracula is an 1897 Gothic horror novel by Irish author Bram Stoker. Famous for introducing the character of the vampire Count Dracula, the novel tells the story of Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England so he may find new blood and spread the undead curse, and the battle between Dracula and a small group of men and women led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing. Amazon</p>

Extra Credit Reading Journal for Grade 12

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.

AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment 2023
McCarthy/Pontes/Porter

You are required to read **2 books** for your summer reading assignment.

1. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster.
2. Choose **one** of the texts from the following reading list. You should be doing a close read of the text, which requires marking up the text, annotating, and taking notes. It is recommended that you purchase your own copy of the book so that you can mark it up as you read.

Book Options:

Americanah - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte

My Antonia - Willa Cather

Middlesex - Jeffrey Eugenides

The Sun Also Rises - Ernest Hemingway

Brave New World - Aldous Huxley

A Prayer for Owen Meany - John Irving

The Poisonwood Bible - Barbara Kingsolver

Atonement - Ian McEwan

Where the Crawdads Sing - Delia Owens

The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck

Dracula - Bram Stoker

The Color Purple - Alice Walker

You are required to complete an assignment for your choice text, which will be due the first week of school. There will also be an in-class assessment on summer reading when we return to school.

(Go to the next page for journal assignment. →)

Journal Assignment

Directions: You are required to complete 5 journal entries. Read each entry below for specific directions.

Entry One - CHARACTER/CHARACTERIZATION: Choose a passage and explain how the author's choices contribute to characterization. What do specific textual details reveal about a character, that character's perspective, that character's motives, and the character's development?

Entry Two - POINT OF VIEW: Choose a passage and identify and explain the narrator's point of view. Explain how the point of view contributes to the meaning of the passage, and explain how the point of view contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

Entry Three - SETTING: Choose a passage that is particularly significant in terms of setting. Identify and explain the function of the setting in the passage, and explain how the setting contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

Entry Four - IMAGERY/SYMBOLISM: Choose a passage to analyze based on its strong imagery and/or symbolic significance. Identify and explain the function of the imagery/symbol, and explain how the imagery/symbol contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

Entry Five- REFLECTION: Based on your reading of the novel in its entirety, write a response to the following question:

Is the novel you chose valuable to read? Why or why not? Provide details and be specific.

Requirements/Procedure:

- ❖ Write a well-developed paragraph for each of your five entries (minimum of 250 words).
- ❖ Record passages for entries 1-4 (you may use ellipses) with page numbers followed by your analysis of the passage.
- ❖ Due: 1st week of school (will let you know the specific date on the 1st day of school). Assignments that are submitted late will automatically lose 25%, which means the highest possible grade will be a 75%. Please do not wait until the last minute to begin this assignment.
- ❖ It is expected that your work will be the product of your own ideas. Assignments will be submitted to Google Classroom and checked for plagiarism.

Extra Credit Option:

Directions: Complete the summer reading assignment for grade 12. Note: you may not use *Dracula* twice.