

Dear Northwest High School Parents/ Guardians,

In an effort to keep our NISD students engaged in literacy throughout the summer, **secondary students will be required to read at least one book of their choice** before the 3rd week of the 1st Quarter. We know that many students will want to get a head start on their book, and read it over the summer, so we want to support that effort. **It is important that students are reading books for enjoyment, where they are choosing books they personally relate to and can make deep connections with.** We also encourage students to select books that are appropriate and substantial enough for the grade they are entering.

Below is a list of recommended/ suggested titles for those students or parents that would like a guideline to help get started. Again, students may choose a book not on this list; these are merely grade-level suggested texts. Accessibility to texts is crucial, so here are a few options for obtaining copies of these titles.

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| Purchase a personal copy | Amazon , Barnes & Noble , Half Price Books , etc. |
| Hard copy checkout from NISD libraries | Follett Destiny |
| eBook checkout from NISD libraries | Access ebooks and Audiobooks HERE Instructional video for using SORA |
| Hard copy/ ebook checkout from local city libraries | Haslet Public Library Justin Public Library Rhome Public Library Roanoke Public Library |

NISD Librarians have also developed an informative website with book trailers and additional information. **Please access the [site here](#) to learn more about suggested titles.**

In order to provide our students more choice within a wider variety of high interest text, there will be no distinction between which books are designated On-Level, Pre-AP, or GT for high school summer reading. **Our main purpose for summer reading is for our students to read a book of their choice that they are interested in to continue to foster the love of reading, strengthen reading fluency and stamina, and build upon the idea that reading is important all year round.**

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| English I | <i>The Adoration of Jenna Fox</i> by Mary E. Pearson | <i>Rebecca</i> Daphne du Maurier |
| | <i>Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines in World War II</i> by Joseph Bruchak | <i>Red Queen</i> by Victoria Aveyard |
| | <i>Dracula</i> by Brom Stoker | <i>Salt to the Sea</i> by Ruta Sepetys |
| | <i>Game Changer</i> by Tommy Greenwald | <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd |
| | <i>Girl in the Blue Coat</i> by Monica Hesse | <i>Solo</i> by Kwame Alexander |
| | <i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien | <i>Undertow</i> by Michael Buckley |
| | <i>The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi</i> by Neal Bascomb | |
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| English II | | |
| | <i>All We Have Left</i> by Wendy Mills | <i>The Belles</i> by Dhonielle Clayton |
| | <i>The Bear and the Nightingale</i> by Katherine Arden | <i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander |
| | <i>Fountains of Silence</i> by Ruta Sepetys | <i>Darius the Great is Not Okay</i> by Adib Khorram |
| | <i>Station Eleven</i> by Emily St. John Mandel | <i>Love from A to Z</i> by S.K. Ali |
| | <i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe | <i>Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town</i> by Warren St. John |
| | <i>We Are Displaced</i> by Malala Yousafzai | <i>Time Bomb</i> by Joelle Charbonneau |
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| English III | <i>AP English III Language and Composition</i> | English III |
| | <i>Dear America: Notes of An Undocumented Citizen</i> by Jose Antonio Vargas | <i>A Sky Painted Gold</i> by Laura Wood |
| | <i>Educated</i> by Tara Westover | <i>Bleachers</i> by John Grisham |
| | <i>The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After</i> by Clemantine Wamariya | <i>The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics</i> by Daniel James Brown |
| | <i>Hill Women : Finding Family and a Way Forward in the Appalachian Mountains</i> by Cassie Chambers | <i>Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan (Book 1)</i> by John Flanagan |
| | <i>Call Me American: The Extraordinary True Story of a Young Somali Immigrant</i> by Abdi Nor Iftin | <i>The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh</i> by Candace Fleming |
| | | <i>Sandcastle Empire</i> by Kayla Olsen |
| | | <i>Swing</i> by Kwame Alexander |
| | | <i>The Things They Carried</i> by Tim O'Brien |
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| English IV | <i>AP English IV Literature and Composition</i> | English IV |
| | All students will be expected to read How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Dr. Thomas C. Foster. | <i>The Alchemist</i> by Paulo Coelho |
| | | <i>I Am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai |
| | All students will be expected to select and read 10 of the short stories from the last page of this document. While reading, students are to consider which chapters from How to Read Literature Like a Professor best assist in understanding each short story. | <i>Sunrise Over Fallujah</i> by Walter Dean Myers |
| | | <i>The Sword and the Stone (from the Once and Future King Tetralogy)</i> by T.H. White |

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| | <p>-It is suggested that students take notes over these connections in order to better prepare them for discussions at the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>-When school begins in the fall, there will be an assignment that connects the short stories to <u>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</u>.</p> | <i>They Went Left</i> by Monica Hesse |
| | | <i>Warcross</i> by Marie Lu |
| OnRamps | Students are encouraged to read a book of their choice. For a list of recommended reading, please use the AP Language and Composition list. | <i>The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After</i> by Clemantine Wamariya |
| | <i>Dear America: Notes of An Undocumented Citizen</i> by Jose Antonio Vargas | <i>Hill Women : Finding Family and a Way Forward in the Appalachian Mountains</i> by Cassie Chambers |
| | <i>Educated</i> by Tara Westover | <i>Call Me American: The Extraordinary True Story of a Young Somali Immigrant</i> by Abdi Nor Iftin |
| NHS STEM Academy | <p>For those students attending the STEM Academy at Northwest High School, the required text to be read at each grade level includes...</p> <p><u>9th grade</u>- <i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> by Sean Covey</p> <p><u>10th grade</u>- <i>Dream Differently</i> by Vince Bertram</p> <p><u>11th Grade</u>- <i>Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance</i> by Angela Duckworth</p> <p><u>12th grade</u>- <i>How to College:: What to Know Before You Go (And When You're There)</i> by Andrea Malkin Brenner and Lra Hope Schwartz</p> | |
| Steele Accelerated High School | <p>For those students attending Steele Accelerated High School, all students are encouraged to read at least one book of their choice. Suggested titles for each grade level are included in the link below.</p> <p>Steele Summer Reading List</p> | |

Text Summaries

English I

***The Adoration of Jenna Fox*, Mary E. Pearson (Dystopian/ Science Fiction)**

Who is Jenna Fox? Seventeen-year-old Jenna has been told that is her name. She has just awoken from a coma, they tell her, and she is still recovering from a terrible accident in which she was involved a year ago. Her parents show her home movies of her life, her memories, but she has no recollection. Is she really the same girl she sees on the screen? Little by little, Jenna begins to remember. But along with the memories come questions—questions no one wants to answer for her. What really happened after the accident? In this fascinating novel, acclaimed author Mary E. Pearson presents an unforgettable look at one human life and a glimpse into a possible future that may be closer than we think. Set in a near future America, it takes readers on an unforgettable journey through questions of bio-medical ethics, the nature of humanity, and helps readers ponder the idea of “Just because we can, doesn’t mean we should, or should we?”

***Codetalker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II*, Joseph Bruchac (Historical Fiction)**

Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo Indians.

***Dracula*, Brom Stoker (Horror, Gothic)**

It begins with Jonathan Harker, a young English lawyer, as he travels to Transylvania. Harker plans to meet with Count Dracula, a client of his firm, in order to finalize a property transaction. When he arrives in Transylvania, the locals react with terror after he discloses his destination: Castle Dracula.

***Game Changer*, Tommy Greenwald (Sports, Realistic Fiction)**

Thirteen-year-old Teddy Youngblood is in a coma fighting for his life after an unspecified football injury at training camp. His family and friends flock to his bedside to support his recovery—and to discuss the events leading up to the tragic accident. Was this an inevitable act of playing a violent sport, or was something more sinister happening on the field that day? Told in an innovative, multimedia format combining dialogue, texts, newspaper articles, transcripts, an online forum, and Teddy’s inner thoughts, *Game Changer* explores the joyous thrills and terrifying risks of America’s most popular sport.

***Girl in the Blue Coat*, Monica Hesse (Historical Fiction)**

Amsterdam, 1943. Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines when the Germans invaded. She likes to think of her illegal work as a small act of rebellion. On a routine delivery, a client asks Hanneke for help. Expecting to hear that Mrs. Janssen wants meat or kerosene, Hanneke is shocked by the older woman’s frantic plea to find a person - a Jewish teenager Mrs. Janssen had been hiding, who has vanished without a trace from a secret room. Hanneke initially wants nothing to do with such dangerous work, but is ultimately drawn into a web of mysteries and stunning revelations that lead her into the heart of the resistance, open her eyes to the horrors of the Nazi war machine, and compel her to take desperate action. Beautifully written, intricately plotted, and meticulously researched, *Girl in the Blue Coat* is an extraordinary, gripping novel from a bright new voice.

***The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien (Fantasy)**

In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort. Written for J.R.R. Tolkien’s own children, *The Hobbit* met with instant critical acclaim when it was first published in 1937. Now recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth recounts of the adventures of a reluctant hero, a powerful and dangerous ring, and the cruel dragon Smaug the Magnificent.

***The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World’s Most Notorious Nazi*, Neal Bascomb (Nonfiction)**

A thrilling spy mission, a moving Holocaust story, and a first-class work of narrative nonfiction. In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis’ Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century’s most important trials -- one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination. *THE NAZI HUNTERS* is the thrilling and fascinating story of what happened between these two events. Survivor Simon Wiesenthal opened Eichmann’s case; a blind Argentinean and his teenage daughter provided crucial information. Finally, the Israeli spies -- many of whom lost family in the Holocaust -- embarked on their daring mission, recounted here in full. *THE NAZI HUNTERS* is a can’t-miss work of narrative nonfiction that young adult readers will certainly enjoy.

***Rebecca*, Daphne du Maurier (Mystery, Classic)**

The novel begins in Monte Carlo, where our heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady’s maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realizes how large a shadow his late wife will cast over their lives--presenting her with a lingering evil that threatens to destroy their marriage from beyond the grave.

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Red Queen, Victoria Aveyard (Dystopian/ Fantasy)

This is a world divided by blood - red or silver. The Reds are commoners, ruled by a Silver elite in possession of god-like superpowers. And to Mare Barrow, a seventeen-year-old Red girl from the poverty-stricken Stilts, it seems like nothing will ever change. That is, until she finds herself working in the Silver Palace. Here, surrounded by the people she hates the most, Mare discovers that, despite her red blood, she possesses a deadly power of her own. One that threatens to destroy the balance of power. Fearful of Mare's potential, the Silvers hide her in plain view, declaring her a long-lost Silver princess, now engaged to a Silver prince. Despite knowing that one misstep would mean her death, Mare works silently to help the Red Guard, a militant resistance group, and bring down the Silver regime. But this is a world of betrayal and lies, and Mare has entered a dangerous dance - Reds against Silvers, prince against prince, and Mare against her own heart.

Salt to the Sea, Ruta Sepetys (Historical Fiction)

World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety. Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people—adults and children alike—aboard must fight for the same thing: survival.

The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd (Historical Fiction)

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

Solo, Kwame Alexander (Novel in Verse)

When the heart gets lost, let the music find you... Blade never asked for a life of the rich and famous. In fact, he'd give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback. Or to no longer be part of a family known most for lost potential, failure, and tragedy. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship, assuming—like many—that Blade will become just like his father. In reality, the only thing Blade has in common with Rutherford is the music that lives inside them. But not even the songs that flow through Blade's soul are enough when he's faced with two unimaginable realities: the threat of losing Chapel forever, and the revelation of a long-held family secret, one that leaves him questioning everything he thought was true. All that remains is a letter and a ticket to Ghana—both of which could bring Blade the freedom and love he's been searching for, or leave him feeling even more adrift.

Undertow, Michael Buckley (Fantasy, Science Fiction)

Sixteen-year-old Lyric Walker's life is changed forever when she witnesses the arrival of 30,000 Alpha, a five-nation race of ocean-dwelling warriors, on her beach in Coney Island. The world's initial wonder and awe over the Alpha quickly turns ugly, paranoid, and violent, and Lyric's small town transforms into a military zone with humans on one side and Alpha on the other. When Lyric is recruited to help the crown prince, a boy named Fathom, assimilate, she begins to fall for him. But their love is a dangerous one, and there are forces on both sides working to keep them apart. Only, what if the Alpha are not actually the enemy? What if they are in fact humanity's only hope of survival? Because the real enemy is coming. And it's more terrifying than anything the world has ever seen. Action, suspense, and romance whirlpool dangerously in this cinematic saga, a blend of *District 9* and *The Outsiders*.

English II**All We Have Left, Wendy Mills (Historical Fiction)**

A haunting and heart-wrenching story of two girls, two time periods, and the one event that changed their lives—and the world—forever.

Now: Sixteen-year-old Jesse is used to living with the echoes of the past. Her older brother died in the September 11th attacks, and her dad has filled their home with anger and grief. When Jesse gets caught up with the wrong crowd, one momentary hate-fueled decision turns her life upside down. The only way to make amends is to face the past, starting Jesse on a journey that will reveal the truth about how her brother died.

Then: In 2001, sixteen-year-old Alia is proud to be Muslim... it's being a teenager that she finds difficult. After being grounded for a stupid mistake, Alia is determined to show her parents that that they must respect her choices. She'll start by confronting her father at his office in downtown Manhattan, putting Alia in danger she never could have imagined. When the planes collide into the Twin Towers Alia is trapped inside one of the buildings. In the final hours she meets a boy who will change everything for her as the flames rage around them... Interweaving stories past and present, full of heartbreak and hope, two girls come of age in an instant, learning that both hate and love have the power to reverberate into the future and beyond.

The Bear and the Nightingale, Katherine Arden (Fantasy, Historical Fiction)

At the edge of the Russian wilderness, winter lasts most of the year and the snowdrifts grow taller than houses. But Vasilisa doesn't mind—she spends the winter nights huddled around the embers of a fire with her beloved siblings, listening to her nurse's fairy tales. Above all, she loves the chilling story of Frost, the blue-eyed winter demon, who appears in the frigid night to claim unwary souls. Wise Russians fear him, her nurse says, and honor the spirits of house and yard and forest that protect their homes from evil. After Vasilisa's mother dies, her father goes to Moscow and brings home a new wife. Fiercely devout, city-bred, Vasilisa's new stepmother forbids her family from honoring the household spirits. The family acquiesces, but Vasilisa is frightened, sensing that more hinges upon their rituals than anyone knows. And indeed, crops begin to fail, evil creatures of the forest creep nearer, and misfortune stalks the village. All the

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while, Vasilisa's stepmother grows ever harsher in her determination to groom her rebellious stepdaughter for either marriage or confinement in a convent. As danger circles, Vasilisa must defy even the people she loves and call on dangerous gifts she has long concealed—this, in order to protect her family from a threat that seems to have stepped from her nurse's most frightening tales.

***Fountains of Silence*, Ruta Sepetys (Historical Fiction)**

A portrait of love, silence, and secrets under a Spanish dictatorship. Madrid, 1957. Under the fascist dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, Spain is hiding a dark secret. Meanwhile, tourists and foreign businessmen flood into Spain under the welcoming promise of sunshine and wine. Among them is eighteen-year-old Daniel Matheson, the son of an oil tycoon, who arrives in Madrid with his parents hoping to connect with the country of his mother's birth through the lens of his camera. Photography--and fate--introduce him to Ana, whose family's interweaving obstacles reveal the lingering grasp of the Spanish Civil War--as well as chilling definitions of fortune and fear. Daniel's photographs leave him with uncomfortable questions amidst shadows of danger. He is backed into a corner of difficult decisions to protect those he loves. Lives and hearts collide, revealing an incredibly dark side to the sunny Spanish city. Includes vintage media reports, oral history commentary, photos, and more.

***Station Eleven*, by Emily St. John Mandel (Science Fiction)**

An audacious, darkly glittering novel set in the eerie days of civilization's collapse, *Station Eleven* tells the spellbinding story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity. One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of *King Lear*. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time—from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theater troupe known as the Traveling Symphony roams the wasteland of what remains—this suspenseful, elegiac, spellbinding novel charts the strange twists of fate that connect five people: the actor, the man who tried to save him, the actor's first wife, his oldest friend, and a young actress with the Traveling Symphony, caught in the crosshairs of a dangerous self-proclaimed prophet. Sometimes terrifying, sometimes tender, *Station Eleven* tells a story about the relationships that sustain us, the ephemeral nature of fame, and the beauty of the world as we know it.

***Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe (Historical Fiction, Tragedy)**

THINGS FALL APART tells two overlapping, intertwining stories, both of which center around Okonkwo, a “strong man” of an Ibo village in Nigeria. The first of these stories traces Okonkwo's fall from grace with the tribal world in which he lives, and in its classical purity of line and economical beauty it provides us with a powerful fable about the immemorial conflict between the individual and society. The second story, which is as modern as the first is ancient, and which elevates the book to a tragic plane, concerns the clash of cultures and the destruction of Okonkwo's world through the arrival of aggressive, proselytizing European missionaries. These twin dramas are perfectly harmonized, and they are modulated by an awareness capable of encompassing at once the life of nature, human history, and the mysterious compulsions of the soul.

***We Are Displaced*, Malala Yousafzai (Non-fiction)**

Nobel Peace Prize-winner Malala Yousafzai will start with her own story of displacement as an Internally Displaced Person to show what it means to lose your home, your community, and the only world you've ever known. She will also share the personal stories of some of the girls she has met on her various journeys to refugee camps and the cities where refugee girls and their families have settled. In a time of immigration crises, war, and border conflicts, *We Are Displaced* is a reminder from one of the world's most famous people who experienced displacement that everyone deserves universal human rights and a home.

***The Belles*, Dhonielle Clayton (Fantasy)**

Camellia Beauregard is a Belle. In the opulent world of Orléans, Belles are revered, for they control Beauty, and Beauty is a commodity coveted above all else. In Orléans, the people are born gray, and only with the help of a Belle and her talents can they transform and be made beautiful. But once Camellia and her Belle sisters arrive at court, it becomes clear that being the favorite is not everything she always dreamed it would be. Behind the dazzling veneer of wealth, opulence, and endless pursuit of perfect beauty lurk dark secrets. As dreams come true, hopes are dashed and mysteries deepen with the screams in the night.

***The Crossover*, Kwame Alexander (Novel in Verse, Poetry)**

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle novel of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

***Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram (Realistic Fiction)**

Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He's about to take his first-ever trip to Iran, and it's pretty overwhelming--especially when he's also dealing with clinical depression, a disapproving dad, and a chronically anemic social life. In Iran, he gets to know his ailing but still formidable grandfather, his loving grandmother, and the rest of his mom's family for the first time. And he meets Sohrab, the boy next door who changes everything. Sohrab makes sure people speak English so Darius can understand what's going on. He gets Darius an Iranian National Football Team jersey that makes him feel like a True Persian for the first time. And he understands that sometimes, best friends don't have to talk. Darius has never had a true friend before, but now he's spending his days with Sohrab playing soccer, eating rosewater ice cream, and sitting together for hours in their special place, a rooftop overlooking the Yazdi skyline. Sohrab calls him Darioush--the original Persian version of his name--and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he's Darioush to Sohrab. When it's time to go home to America, he'll have to find a way to be Darioush on his own.

***Love from A to Z*, S.K. Ali (Realistic Fiction, Romance)**

A *marvel*: something you find amazing. Even ordinary-amazing. Like potatoes—because they make French fries happen. Like the perfect fries Adam and his mom used to make together. An *oddity*: whatever gives you pause. Like the fact that there are hateful people in the

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world. Like Zayneb's teacher, who won't stop reminding the class how "bad" Muslims are. But Zayneb, the only Muslim in class, isn't bad. She's angry. When she gets suspended for confronting her teacher, and he begins investigating her activist friends, Zayneb heads to her aunt's house in Doha, Qatar, for an early start to spring break. Fueled by the guilt of getting her friends in trouble, she resolves to try out a newer, "nicer" version of herself in a place where no one knows her. Then her path crosses with Adam's. Since he got diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in November, Adam's stopped going to classes, intent, instead, on perfecting the making of things. Intent on keeping the memory of his mom alive for his little sister. Adam's also intent on keeping his diagnosis a secret from his grieving father. Alone, Adam and Zayneb are playing roles for others, keeping their real thoughts locked away in their journals. Until a marvel and an oddity occurs... *Marvel*: Adam and Zayneb meeting. *Oddity*: Adam and Zayneb meeting.

***Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town*, Warren St. John (Non-fiction, Sports)**

The extraordinary story of a refugee football team and the transformation of a small American town. Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical Southern town until it was designated a refugee settlement centre in the 1990s, becoming home to scores of families in flight from the world's war zones—from Liberia and Sudan to Iraq and Afghanistan. Suddenly Clarkston's streets were filled with women wearing the hijab, the smells of cumin and curry, and kids of all colours playing football in any open space they could find. Among them was Luma Mufleh, a Jordanian woman who founded a youth football team to unify Clarkston's refugee children and keep them off the streets. These kids named themselves the Fugees. *Outcasts United* follows a pivotal season in the life of the Fugees and their charismatic coach. Warren St. John documents the lives of a diverse group of young people as they miraculously coalesce into a band of brothers, while also drawing a fascinating portrait of a fading American town struggling to accommodate its new arrivals. At the centre of the story is fiery Coach Luma, who relentlessly drives her players to success on the football field while holding together their lives—and the lives of their families—in the face of a series of daunting challenges. This fast-paced chronicle of a single season is a complex and inspiring tale of a small town becoming a global community—and an account of the ingenious and complicated ways we create a home in a changing world.

***Time Bomb*, Joelle Charbonneau (Mystery)**

A congressman's daughter who has to be perfect. A star quarterback with a secret. A guy who's tired of being ignored. A clarinet player who's done trying to fit in. An orphaned rebel who wants to teach someone a lesson. A guy who wants people to see *him*, not his religion. They couldn't be more different, but before the morning's over, they'll all be trapped in a school that's been rocked by a bombing. When they hear that someone inside is the bomber, they'll also be looking to one another for answers.

English III Advanced Placement Language and Composition

***Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, Jose Antonio Vargas (Biography)**

Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, called "the most famous undocumented immigrant in America," tackles one of the defining issues of our time in this explosive and deeply personal call to arms. "This is not a book about the politics of immigration. This book—at its core—is not about immigration at all. This book is about homelessness, not in a traditional sense, but in the unsettled, unmoored psychological state that undocumented immigrants like myself find ourselves in. This book is about lying and being forced to lie to get by; about passing as an American and as a contributing citizen; about families, keeping them together, and having to make new ones when you can't. This book is about constantly hiding from the government and, in the process, hiding from ourselves. This book is about what it means to not have a home. After 25 years of living illegally in a country that does not consider me one of its own, this book is the closest thing I have to freedom."—Jose Antonio Vargas, from *Dear America*

***Educated*, Tara Westover (Non-fiction, Memoir)**

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard. Her father forbade hospitals, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. Then, lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she studied history, learning for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the civil rights movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.

***The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After*, Clemantine Wamariya (Memoir, Nonfiction)**

A riveting story of dislocation, survival, and the power of the imagination to save us. Clemantine Wamariya was six years old when her mother and father began to speak in whispers, when neighbors began to disappear, and when she heard the loud, ugly sounds her brother said were "thunder." It was 1994, and in 100 days more than 800,000 people would be murdered in Rwanda and millions more displaced. Clemantine and her fifteen-year-old sister, Claire, ran and spent the next six years wandering through seven African countries searching for safety—hiding under beds, foraging for food, surviving and fleeing refugee camps, finding unexpected kindness, witnessing unimaginable cruelty. They did not know whether their parents were alive. At age twelve, Clemantine, along with Claire, was granted asylum in the United States—a chance to build a new life. Chicago was disorienting, filled with neon lights, antiseptic smells, endless concrete. Clemantine spoke five languages but almost no English, and had barely gone to school. Many people wanted to help—a family in the North Shore suburbs invited Clemantine to live with them as their daughter. Others saw her only as broken. They thought she needed, and wanted, to be saved. Meanwhile Claire, who had for so long protected and provided for Clemantine, found herself on a very different path, cleaning hotel rooms to support her three children. Raw, urgent, yet disarmingly beautiful, *The Girl Who Smiled Beads* captures the true costs and aftershocks of war: what is forever lost, what can be repaired, the fragility and importance of memory, the faith that one can learn, again, to love oneself, even with deep scars.

***Hill Women: Finding Family and a Way Forward in the Appalachian Mountains*, Cassie Chambers (Memoir, Nonfiction)**

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Nestled in the Appalachian mountains, Owsley County is one of the poorest counties in both Kentucky and the country. Buildings are crumbling and fields sit vacant, as tobacco farming and coal mining decline. But strong women are finding creative ways to subsist in their hollers in the hills. Cassie Chambers grew up in these hollers and, through the women who raised her, she traces her own path out of and back into the Kentucky mountains. Chambers's Granny was a child bride who rose before dawn every morning to raise seven children. Despite her poverty, she wouldn't hesitate to give the last bite of pie or vegetables from her garden to a struggling neighbor. Her two daughters took very different paths: strong-willed Ruth—the hardest-working tobacco farmer in the county—stayed on the family farm, while spirited Wilma—the sixth child—became the first in the family to graduate from high school, then moved an hour away for college. Married at nineteen and pregnant with Cassie a few months later, Wilma beat the odds to finish school. She raised her daughter to think she could move mountains, like the ones that kept her safe but also isolated her from the larger world. Cassie would spend much of her childhood with Granny and Ruth in the hills of Owsley County, both while Wilma was in college and after. With her “hill women” values guiding her, Cassie went on to graduate from Harvard Law. But while the Ivy League gave her knowledge and opportunities, its privileged world felt far from her reality, and she moved back home to help her fellow rural Kentucky women by providing free legal services. Appalachian women face issues that are all too common: domestic violence, the opioid crisis, a world that seems more divided by the day. But they are also community leaders, keeping their towns together in the face of a system that continually fails them.

***Call Me American: The Extraordinary Story of a Young Somali Immigrant*, Abdi Nor Iftin (Memoir, Nonfiction)**

The incredible true story of a boy living in war-torn Somalia who escapes to America--first by way of the movies; years later, through a miraculous green card. Abdi Nor Iftin first fell in love with America from afar. As a child, he learned English by listening to American pop artists like Michael Jackson and watching films starring action heroes like Arnold Schwarzenegger. When U.S. marines landed in Mogadishu to take on the warlords, Abdi cheered the arrival of these real Americans, who seemed as heroic as those of the movies. Sporting American clothes and dance moves, he became known around Mogadishu as Abdi American, but when the radical Islamist group al-Shabaab rose to power in 2006, it suddenly became dangerous to celebrate Western culture. Desperate to make a living, Abdi used his language skills to post secret dispatches to NPR and the Internet, which found an audience of worldwide listeners. But as life in Somalia grew more dangerous, Abdi was left with no choice but to flee to Kenya as a refugee. In an amazing stroke of luck, Abdi won entrance to the U.S. in the annual visa lottery, though his route to America--filled with twists and turns and a harrowing sequence of events that nearly stranded him in Nairobi--did not come easily. Parts of his story were first heard on the *BBC World Service* and *This American Life*. Now a proud resident of Maine, on the path to citizenship, Abdi Nor Iftin's dramatic, deeply stirring memoir is truly a story for our time: a vivid reminder of why western democracies still beckon to those looking to make a better life.

English III

***A Sky Painted Gold*, Laura Wood (Historical Fiction, Romance)**

Growing up in her sleepy Cornish village dreaming of being a writer, seventeen-year-old Lou has always wondered about the grand Cardew house which has stood empty for years. And when the owners arrive for the summer - a handsome, dashing brother and sister - Lou is quite swept off her feet and into a world of moonlit cocktail parties and glamour beyond her wildest dreams. But, as she grows closer to the Cardews, is she abandoning her own ambitions... And is there something darker lurking at the heart of the Cardew family? A gorgeously dreamy coming-of-age romance set against a stunning Gatsby-esque backdrop.

***Bleachers*, John Grisham (Realistic Fiction)**

High school All-American Neely Crenshaw was probably the best quarterback ever to play for the legendary Messina Spartans. Fifteen years have gone by since those glory days, and Neely has come home to Messina to bury Coach Eddie Rake, the man who molded the Spartans into an unbeatable football dynasty. As Coach Rake's 'boys' sit in the bleachers waiting for the dimming field lights to signal his passing, they replay the old glories, and try to decide once and for all whether they love Eddie Rake - or hate him. For Neely Crenshaw, still struggling to come to terms with his explosive relationship with the Coach, his dreams of a great career in the NFL, and the choices he made as a young man, the stakes could not be higher.

***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*, Daniel James Brown (Non-Fiction)**

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. Drawing on the boys' own diaries and journals, their photos and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, *The Boys in the Boat* is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant.

***Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan (Book 1)* by John Flanagan (Science Fiction, Dystopian)**

They have always scared him in the past — the Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. And now 15-year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't yet realize is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing. The exiled Morgarath, Lord of the Mountains of Rain and Night, is gathering his forces for an attack on the kingdom. This time, he will not be denied....

***The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh*, Candace Fleming (Non-Fiction, Biography)**

Discover the dark side of Charles Lindbergh—one of America's most celebrated heroes and complicated men—in this riveting

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biography from the acclaimed author of *The Family Romanov*. First human to cross the Atlantic via airplane; one of the first American media sensations; Nazi sympathizer and anti-Semite; loner whose baby was kidnapped and murdered; champion of Eugenics, the science of improving a human population by controlled breeding; tireless environmentalist. Charles Lindbergh was all of the above and more. Here is a rich, multi-faceted, utterly spellbinding biography about an American hero who was also a deeply flawed man. In this time where values Lindbergh held, like white Nationalism and America First, are once again on the rise, *The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh* is essential reading for teens and history fanatics alike.

***Sandcastle Empire*, Kayla Olson (Science Fiction, Dystopian)**

Before the war, Eden's life was easy—air conditioning, ice cream, long days at the beach. Then the revolution happened, and everything changed. Now a powerful group called the Wolfpack controls the earth and its resources. Eden has lost everything to them. They killed her family and her friends, destroyed her home, and imprisoned her. But Eden refuses to die by their hands. She knows the coordinates to the only neutral ground left in the world, a place called Sanctuary Island, and she is desperate to escape to its shores.

Eden finally reaches the island and meets others resistant to the Wolves. But their solace is short-lived when one of Eden's new friends goes missing. Braving the jungle in search of their lost ally, they quickly discover Sanctuary is filled with lethal traps and an enemy they never expected. This island might be deadlier than the world Eden left behind, but surviving is all that stands between her and freedom.

***Swing*, Kwame Alexander (Novel in Verse, Poetry)**

Things usually do not go as planned for seventeen-year-old Noah. He and his best friend Walt (aka Swing) have been cut from the high school baseball team for the third year in a row, and it looks like Noah's love interest since third grade, Sam, will never take it past the "best friend" zone. Noah would love to retire his bat and accept the status quo, but Walt has big plans for them both, which include making

the best baseball comeback ever, getting the girl, and finally finding cool. To go from lovelorn to ladies' men, Walt introduces Noah to a relationship guru—his Dairy Queen-employed cousin, Floyd—and the always informative Woohoo Woman Podcast. Noah is reluctant, but decides fate may be intervening when he discovers more than just his mom's birthday gift at the thrift shop. Inside the vintage Keepall is a gold mine of love letters from the 1960s. Walt is sure these letters and the podcasts are just what Noah needs to communicate his true feelings to Sam. To Noah, the letters are more: an initiation to the curious rhythms of love and jazz, as well as a way for him and Walt to embrace their own kind of cool. While Walt is hitting balls out of the park and catching the eye of the baseball coach, Noah composes anonymous love letters to Sam in an attempt to write his way into her heart. But as things are looking up for Noah and Walt, a chain of events alters everything Noah knows to be true about love, friendship, sacrifice, and fate.

***The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien (Short Stories, Memoirs)**

They carried malaria tablets, love letters, 28-pound mine detectors, illustrated bibles, each other. And if they made it home alive, they carried unrelenting images of a nightmarish war that history is only beginning to absorb. Since its first publication, *The Things They Carried* has become an unparalleled Vietnam testament, a classic work of American literature, and a profound study of men at war that illuminates the capacity, and the limits, of the human heart and soul.

English IV Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

***How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines*, Thomas C. Foster (Nonfiction)**

What does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface -- a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character -- and there's that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you.

In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

English IV

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho (Fiction)**

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

***I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai (Non- Fiction)**

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. *I AM MALALA* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. *I AM MALALA* will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

***Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers (Military/ Historical Fiction)**

A powerful new novel about the heroics and horror of war from Walter Dean Myers, whose bestselling book *FALLEN ANGELS* celebrates its 20th anniversary. Operation Iraqi Freedom, that's the code name. But the young men and women in the military's Civil Affairs Battalion

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have a simpler name for it: WAR. In this new novel, Walter Dean Myers looks at a contemporary war with the same power and searing insight he brought to the Vietnam war of his classic, *FALLEN ANGELS*. He creates memorable characters like the book's narrator, Birdy, a young recruit from Harlem who's questioning why he even enlisted; Marla, a blond, tough-talking, wisecracking gunner; Jonesy, a guitar-playing bluesman who just wants to make it back to Georgia and open a club.

***The Sword and the Stone*, (from the Once and Future King Tetralogy) T.H. White (Fantasy)**

"Learn. That is the only thing that never fails."- Merlyn the Wizard

Before there was a famous king named Arthur, there was a curious boy named Wart and a kind old wizard named Merlyn. Transformed by Merlyn into the forms of his fantasy, Wart learns the value of history from a snake, of education from a badger, and of courage from a hawk- the lessons that help turn a boy into a man. Together, Wart and Merlyn take the reader through this timeless story of childhood and adventure.

***They Went Left* by Monica Hesse (Historical Fiction)**

Germany, 1945. The soldiers who liberated the Gross-Rosen concentration camp said the war was over, but nothing feels over to eighteen-year-old Zofia Lederman. Her body has barely begun to heal; her mind feels broken. And her life is completely shattered: Three years ago, she and her younger brother, Abek, were the only members of their family to be sent to the right, away from the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Everyone else--her parents, her grandmother, radiant Aunt Maja--they went left. Zofia's last words to her brother were a promise: Abek to Zofia, A to Z. When I find you again, we will fill our alphabet. Now her journey to fulfill that vow takes her through Poland and Germany, and into a displaced persons camp where everyone she meets is trying to piece together a future from a painful past: Miriam, desperately searching for the twin she was separated from after they survived medical experimentation. Breine, a former heiress, who now longs only for a simple wedding with her new fiancé. And Josef, who guards his past behind a wall of secrets, and is beautiful and strange and magnetic all at once. But the deeper Zofia digs, the more impossible her search seems. How can she find one boy in a sea of the missing? In the rubble of a broken continent, Zofia must delve into a mystery whose answers could break her--or help her rebuild her world.

***Warcross* by Marie Lu (Dystopian)**

For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game—it's a way of life. The world is obsessed with the game of Warcross. It is a diversion, an escape, a way to make money. During the championships, brilliant coder Emika hacks in and catches the attention of everyone- including the game's creator. He makes her an irresistible offer that sets her life on a thrilling (and dangerous!) new course she never could have imagined. For those fans who enjoyed Ernest Cline's *Ready, Player One* this book is highly recommend as the author, Marie Lu, has a passion for writing books that include modern-day technology, media, and the video gaming industry. With *Warcross*, comes a great action story, with a strong female protagonist, and a plot that is both twisted and suspenseful.

AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2021

1. All students will be expected to read [How to Read Literature Like a Professor](#) by Dr. Thomas C. Foster.
2. All students will be expected to select and read **10** of the short stories from the list below. While reading, students are to consider which chapters from [How to Read Literature Like a Professor](#) best assist in understanding each short story.
 - a. It is suggested that students take notes over these connections in order to better prepare them for discussions at the beginning of the school year
3. When school begins in the fall, there will be an assignment that connects the short stories to [How to Read Literature Like a Professor](#).

| Author | Short Story |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Adichie | “The American Embassy” |
| Bierce | “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” |
| Carver | “Cathedral” |
| Chopin | “Desiree’s Baby” |
| Garcia Marquez | “A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings” |
| Hawthorne | “The Minister’s Black Veil” |
| Hemingway | “Hills Like White Elephants” |
| Kafka | “A Hunger Artist” |
| Lahiri | “The Boundary” |
| Lawrence | “The Rocking-Horse Winner” |
| Le Guin | “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” |
| Mukherjee | “The Management of Grief” |
| O’Conner | “A Good Man is Hard to Find” |
| | “The Life You Save May Be Your Own” |
| Orwell | “Shooting an Elephant” |
| Perkins Gilman | “The Yellow Wallpaper” |
| Tan | “Two Kinds” |
| Updike | “A&P” |
| Walker | “Everyday Use” |