



Summer Reading Suggestions

As with all high schools in the area, we participate in a Summer Reading program. This year, although there is no formal written assignment, **you will be expected to read at least one novel or work of nonfiction over the summer, and you will have to discuss or write about it at the beginning of the new school year.**

We have compiled a list of enjoyable books from the English Department. Although none of these are mandatory, they are options that we feel readers of different levels may enjoy. Literature offers a universal experience and can be of great benefit in regards to creativity, writing, and exploring themes. Hopefully, you find something that you enjoy on the list or on your own—who doesn't love a trip to Barnes and Noble or your local library!

Each book has a link to 'Good Reads' so you can read a review, look at any parental warnings, or just browse similar novels.

Enjoy your summer! We are looking forward to seeing you in August and discussing your book choice.

Classics and other Critically Acclaimed Novels

One Hundred Years of Solitude--Gabriel Garcia Marquez: "It is a rich and brilliant chronicle of life and death, and the tragicomedy of humankind. In the noble, ridiculous, beautiful, and tawdry story of the family, one sees all of humanity."

[-Good Reads Review](#)

Jane Eyre--Charlotte Bronte: "Orphaned into the household of her Aunt Reed at Gateshead and subject to the cruel regime at Lowood charity school, Jane Eyre nonetheless emerges unbroken in spirit and integrity."

[-Good Reads Review](#)

The Secret Life of Bees—Sue Monk Kidd: "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."

[-Good Reads Review](#)

The Horse Whisperer—Nicholas Evans: "His name is Tom Booker. His voice can calm wild horses, his touch can heal broken spirits. And Annie Graves has traveled across a continent to the Booker ranch in Montana, desperate to heal her injured daughter, the girl's savage horse, and her own wounded heart."

[-Good Reads Review](#)

Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald—Therese Anne Fowler: For those who have read and are fans of Gatsby. New Amazon series with some adult themes. “When beautiful, reckless Southern belle Zelda Sayre meets F. Scott Fitzgerald at a country club dance in 1918, she is seventeen years old and he is a young army lieutenant stationed in Alabama...Everything seems new and possible. Troubles...fade like morning mist. But not even Jay Gatsby's parties go on forever.”

[-Good Reads Review](#)

The Count of Monte Cristo—Alexandre Dumas: “Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantès...there he learns of a great hoard of treasure...and he becomes determined not only to escape, but also to unearth the treasure and use it to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration.”

[-Good Reads Review](#)

Little Women—Louisa May Alcott: “Following the lives of four sisters on a journey out of adolescence, Louisa May Alcott's Little Women explores the difficulties associated with gender roles in a Post-Civil War America.”

[-Good Reads Review](#)

Young Adult Novels and Novels for Reluctant Readers:

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children—Ransom Riggs: Already a motion picture, this series is a fun, fantastic read. “A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of curious photographs”

[- Good Reads Review](#)

Quarantine—Lex Thomas: “It was just another ordinary day at McKinley High—until a massive explosion devastated the school. When loner David Thorpe tried to help his English teacher to safety, the teacher convulsed and died right in front of him. And that was just the beginning.”

[- Good Reads Review](#)

Born to Rock—Gordon Korman: “Leo Caraway, president of the Young Republicans Club and a future Harvard student, has his entire future planned. But Leo is soon thrown for a loop when he discovers that the lead singer of punk rock's most destructive band is his biological father.”

[- Good Reads Review](#)

Talon—Julie Kagawa: “THE DRAGONS OF TALON: Once hunted nearly to extinction, they are now poised to take over the world. THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE: The legendary dragon slayers will stop at nothing to wipe dragons from the face of the earth. These mortal enemies are locked in secret and deadly combat, with humanity none the wiser.

To take her rightful place in the Talon organization, young dragon Ember Hill must prove she can hide her true nature and blend in with humans. However, her delight at the prospect of a summer of "normal" teen experiences is short-lived.”

[-Amazon.com](#)

Tiger Lily—Jodi Lynn Anderson: “Before Peter Pan belonged to Wendy, he belonged to the girl with the crow feather in her hair...Fifteen-year-old Tiger Lily doesn't believe in love stories or happy endings. Then she meets the alluring teenage Peter Pan in the forbidden woods of Neverland and immediately falls under his spell.”

[-Good Reads Review](#)

Novels that may not be for everyone. Some of these novels may have adult language or themes.

Perks of Being a Wallflower—Stephen Chbosky: “The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky, Perks follows observant “wallflower” Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood.”
[-Good Reads Review](#)

Looking for Alaska—John Green: “Miles “Pudge” Halter is done with his safe life at home. His whole life has been one big non-event, and his obsession with famous last words has only made him crave “the Great Perhaps” even more.”
[-Good Reads Review](#)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian—Sherman Alexie: “Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.”
[-Good Reads Review](#)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time—Mark Haddon: “Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.”
[-Good Reads Review](#)

Upstate—Kalisha Buckhanon: “So begins Upstate, a powerful story told through letters between seventeen-year-old Antonio and his sixteen-year-old girlfriend, Natasha, set in the 1990's in New York. Antonio and Natasha's world is turned upside down, and their young love is put to the test.”
[-Good Reads Review](#)

The Handmaid's Tale—Margret Atwood: “Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births...” Now a Hulu Original Television series.
[-Good Reads Review](#)

The Kings of the Wyld—Nicholas Eames: “Clay Cooper and his band were once the best of the best -- the meanest, dirtiest, most feared crew of mercenaries this side of the Heartwyld.

Their glory days long past, the mercs have grown apart and grown old, fat, drunk - or a combination of the three. Then an ex-bandmate turns up at Clay's door with a plea for help. His daughter Rose is trapped in a city besieged by an enemy one hundred thousand strong and hungry for blood...It's time to get the band back together for one last tour across the Wyld.”
[-Good Reads Review](#)

If you have a novel of your own that you can't wait to read, do so, or browse the amazing town libraries that are available in your area! Be prepared for a discussion or assignment based on your novel upon your return.

----The English Department