



Dear Northwest ISD High School Parents/ Guardians,

In an effort to keep our NISD students engaged in literacy throughout the summer, students are expected to read **one or more** novels from the following district approved grade level lists.

This novel should be read in its entirety before school starts. This will ensure that the student is well-prepared to participate in classroom discussions and assignments over their chosen book, and is ready to begin the year with the rigor and challenges of our district curriculum.

Since the student will be self-selecting a text from the list for him/herself, if the student or parent finds the material in one book too mature, the student should choose another book on their grade level list.

- **GT and Pre-AP** students are expected to read **at least** one novel in the GT/Pre-AP column from their grade level list. After at least one title is read from this list, then GT/Pre-AP students may read other titles from either the GT/ Pre-AP list OR from the On-Level list.
- **On-Level** students are expected to read **at least** one novel in the On-Level column from their grade level list. After at least one title is read from this list, then On-Level students may read other titles from either the On-Level list OR from the GT/Pre-AP list.

	GT/Pre-AP/AP	On-Level
<b>English I</b>		
	<i>The Adoration of Jenna Fox</i> by Mary E. Pearson	<i>The Adoration of Jenna Fox</i> by Mary E. Pearson
	<i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell	<i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell
	<i>Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines in World War II</i> by Joseph Bruchak	<i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card
	<i>Dracula</i> by Brom Stoker	<i>The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi</i> by Neal Bascomb
	<i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card	<i>Red Queen</i> by Victoria Aveyard
	<i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien	<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd
	<i>Mythology</i> by Edith Hamilton	<i>A Separate Peace</i> by John Knowles
	<i>Salt to the Sea</i> by Ruta Sepetys	<i>The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> by Sean Covey
	<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd	<i>Solo</i> by Kwame Alexander
	<i>A Separate Peace</i> by John Knowles	<i>The Tiger's Curse</i> by Colleen Houck
		<i>When Zachary Beaver Came to Town</i> by Kimberly Willis Holt
<b>English II</b>		
	<i>All We Have Left</i> by Wendy Mills	<i>The Belles</i> by Dhonielle Clayton
	<i>The Chosen</i> by Chaim Potok	<i>The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century</i> by Sarah Miller
	<i>The Life of Pi</i> by Yann Martel	<i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander
	<i>Station Eleven</i> by Emily St. John Mandel	<i>Darius the Great is Not Okay</i> by Adib Khorram
	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> by Arthur Conan Doyle
	<i>Watched</i> by Marina Budhos	
<b>English III</b>	<b><i>AP English III Language and Composition</i></b>	<b>English III On-Level</b>
	<i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta Nehisi Coates	<i>Bleachers</i> by John Grisham
	<i>Cinderella Ate My Daughter</i> by Peggy Orenstein	<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>Hillbilly Elegy</i> by J.D Vance	<i>The Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London
	<i>Dear America: Notes of An Undocumented Citizen</i> by Jose Antonio Vargas	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> by Tennessee Williams
		<i>The Help</i> by Katherine Stockett
		<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> by Frederick Douglass
		<i>Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan (Book 1)</i> by John Flanagan
		<i>Sandcastle Empire</i> by Kayla Olsen
		<i>The Things They Carried</i> by Tim O'Brien
<b>English IV</b>	<b><i>AP English IV Literature and Composition</i></b>	<b>English IV On-Level</b>
	All students will be expected to read <a href="#">How to Read Literature Like a Professor</a> by Dr. Thomas C. Foster.	<i>The Alchemist</i> by Paulo Coelho
	All students will be expected to select and read <b>10</b> of the short stories from the last page of this document. While reading, students are to consider which chapters from <a href="#">How to Read Literature Like a Professor</a> best assist in understanding each short story.	<i>I Am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai
	-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. ---	<i>Sully: The Untold Story Behind the Miracle on the Hudson</i> by Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III
	-We have provided a <a href="#">template</a> that students may choose to use for their notes.	<i>The Sword and the Stone (from the Once and Future King Tetralogy)</i> by T.H White
	-When school begins in the fall, there will be an assignment that connects the short stories to <a href="#">How to Read Literature Like a Professor</a> .	<i>Warcross</i> by Marie Lu
<b>OnRamps</b>	<b>*Same Options as AP English III Language and Composition Above</b>	
	<i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta Nehisi Coates	
	<i>Cinderella Ate My Daughter</i> by Peggy Orenstein	
	<i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> by J.D Vance	
	<i>Dear America: Notes of An Undocumented Citizen</i> by Jose Antonio Vargas	
<b>STEM Academy</b>	For those students attending the STEM Academy at Northwest High School, the text needing to be read at each grade level include... <u>9<sup>th</sup> grade-</u> <i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> by Sean Covey <u>10<sup>th</sup> grade-</u> <i>Dream Differently</i> by Vince Bertram <u>11<sup>th</sup> Grade-</u> <i>Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance</i> by Angela Duckworth <u>12<sup>th</sup> grade-</u> <i>Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way we Make Things</i> by Michael Braungart and William McDonough	
<b>Steele Accelerated High School</b>	For those students attending Steele Accelerated High School, the text needing to be read at each grade level is included in the the link below. Steele <a href="#">Summer Reading List</a>	

## Story Summaries

## English I Pre-AP/GT

### ***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?”

### ***Animal Farm*, George Orwell (Political Satire)**

*Animal Farm* is Orwell’s classic satire of the Russian Revolution -- an account of the bold struggle, initiated by the animals, that transforms Mr. Jones’s Manor Farm into Animal Farm--a wholly democratic society built on the credo that All Animals Are Created Equal. But are they?

### ***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.

### ***Ender’s Game*, Orson Scott Card (Science Fiction)**

Andrew “Ender” Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life. The only way to find out is to throw Ender into ever harsher training, to chip away and find the diamond inside, or destroy him utterly. Ender Wiggin is six years old when it begins. He will grow up fast. But Ender is not the only result of the experiment. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway almost as long. Hiding his youth and identity behind the anonymity of the computer networks, Ender begins working to shape the destiny of Earth--an Earth that has no future at all if he fails.

### ***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.

### ***Mythology*, Edith Hamilton (Fantasy)**

Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology* succeeds like no other book in bringing to life for the modern reader the Greek, Roman, and Norse myths that are the keystone of Western culture--the stories of gods and heroes that have inspired human creativity from antiquity to the present. We meet the Greek gods on Olympus and Norse gods in Valhalla. We follow the drama of the Trojan War and the wanderings of Odysseus. We hear the tales of Jason and the Golden Fleece, Cupid and Psyche, and mighty King Midas. We discover the origins of the names of the constellations. And we recognize reference points for countless works of art, literature, and cultural inquiry--from Freud’s Oedipus complex to Wagner’s Ring Cycle of operas to Eugene O’Neill’s *Mourning Becomes Electra*. Praised throughout the world for its authority and lucidity, *Mythology* is Edith Hamilton’s masterpiece--the standard by which all other books on mythology are measured.

### ***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.

### ***A Separate Peace*, John Knowles (Fiction)**

An American classic and great bestseller for over thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to the second world war. Set at a boys boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world. A bestseller for more than thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is John Knowles crowning achievement and an undisputed American classic.

## **English I On-Level**

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### ***The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World’s Most Notorious Nazi*, Neal Beacom (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.

### ***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.

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Knowles crowning achievement and an undisputed American classic.

### ***The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, Sean Covey (Nonfiction)**

Being a teenager is both wonderful and challenging. In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, author Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* will engage teenagers unlike any other book. An indispensable book for teens, as well as parents, grandparents, and any adult who influences young people, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* is destined to become the last word on surviving and thriving as a teen and beyond.

### ***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.

### ***The Tiger's Curse*, Colleen Houck (Fiction)**

Would you risk it all to change your destiny? The last thing Kelsey Hayes thought she'd be doing this summer was trying to break a 300-year old Indian curse. With a mysterious white tiger named Ren. Halfway around the world. But that's exactly what happened. Face-to-face with dark forces and mystical worlds where nothing is what it seems, Kelsey risks everything to piece together an ancient prophecy that could break the curse forever. Packed with magic, action-adventure, and romance, the epic *Tiger's Curse* series will keep you breathless and yearning for more. Fans of the *Twilight* series make an exceptional audience for this new, action-packed series.

### ***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*, Kimberly Willis Holt (Realistic Fiction)**

Nothing ever happens in Toby's small Texas town. Nothing much until this summer that's full of big changes. It's tough for Toby when his mother leaves home to be a country singer. Toby takes it hard when his best friend Cal's older brother goes off to fight in Vietnam. Now their sleepy town is about to get a jolt with the arrival of Zachary Beaver. Toby is in for a summer unlike any other, a summer sure to change his life. While it's a summer filled with heartache of every kind, it's also a summer of new friendships gained and old friendships renewed. And it's Zachary Beaver who turns the town of Antler upside down and leaves everyone, especially Toby, changed forever. With understated elegance, Kimberly Willis Holt tells a compelling coming-of-age story about a thirteen-year-old boy struggling to find himself in an imperfect world. At turns passionate and humorous, this extraordinary novel deals sensitively and candidly with obesity, war, and the true power of friendship.

## **English II Pre-AP/GT**

### ***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 Chosen*, Chaim Potok (Fiction)**

The classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again...

### ***The Life of Pi*, Yann Martel (Fiction, Adventure)**

Pi Patel is an unusual boy. The son of a zookeeper, he has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior, a fervent love of stories, and practices not only his native Hinduism, but also Christianity and Islam. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes. The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat for 227 days. His only companions are a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. *Life of Pi* is at once a realistic, rousing adventure and a meta-tale of survival that explores the redemptive power of storytelling and the transformative nature of fiction. Winner of the 2002 Book Prize.

**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.

**Watched, Marina Budhos (Realistic Fiction)**

Marina Budhos's extraordinary and timely novel examines what it's like to grow up under surveillance, something many Americans experience and most Muslim Americans know. Naeem is far from the "model teen." Moving fast in his immigrant neighborhood in Queens is the only way he can outrun the eyes of his hardworking Bangladeshi parents and their gossipy neighbors. Even worse, they're not the only ones watching. Cameras on poles. Mosques infiltrated. Everyone knows: Be careful what you say and who you say it to. Anyone might be a watcher. Naeem thinks he can charm his way through anything, until his mistakes catch up with him and the cops offer a dark deal. Naeem sees a way to be a hero—a protector—like the guys in his brother's comic books. Yet what is a hero? What is a traitor? And where does Naeem belong? Acclaimed author Marina Budhos delivers a riveting story that's as vivid and involving as today's headlines.

**English II On-Level**

**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 Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century, Sarah Miller (Non-Fiction, Historical, Suspense/Thriller)**

Many of us have heard the saying, "Lizzie Borden took an axe, gave her mother forty whacks. When she saw what she had done, she gave her father forty-one." But how many readers actually know the real story behind this saying? In a linear narrative, appropriate for upper middle school and above readers, author Sarah Miller takes readers along non-fiction story line that actually reads more like a thriller, as she investigates a brutal crime: the August 4, 1892, murders of wealthy and prominent Andrew and Abby Borden. The accused? Mild-mannered and highly respected Lizzie Borden, daughter of Andrew and stepdaughter of Abby. Most of what is known about Lizzie's arrest and subsequent trial (and acquittal) comes from sensationalized newspaper reports; as Miller sorts fact from fiction, and as a legal battle gets under way, a portrait of a woman and a town emerges.

**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.

**The Hound of the Baskervilles, Arthur Conan Doyle (Mystery, Adventure, Classic)**

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are faced with their most terrifying case yet. The legend of the devil-beast that haunts the moors around the Baskerville family's home warns the descendants of that ancient clan never to venture out in those dark hours when the power of evil is exalted. Now, the most recent Baskerville, Sir Charles, is dead and the footprints of a giant hound have been found near his body. Will the new heir meet the same fate?

## English III Advanced Placement Language and Composition

### ***Between the World and Me*, Ta Nehisi Coates (Nonfiction)**

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? *Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.

### ***Cinderella Ate My Daughter*, Peggy Orenstein (Nonfiction)**

Sweet and sassy or predatory and hardened, sexualized girlhood influences our daughters from infancy onward, telling them that how a girl looks matters more than who she is. Somewhere between the exhilarating rise of Girl Power in the 1990s and today, the pursuit of physical perfection has been recast as *the* source of female empowerment. And commercialization has spread the message faster and farther, reaching girls at ever-younger ages. But how dangerous is pink and pretty, anyway? Being a princess is just make-believe; eventually they grow out of it. . . or do they? In search of answers, Peggy Orenstein visited Disneyland, trolled American Girl Place, and met parents of beauty-pageant preschoolers tricked out like Vegas showgirls. The stakes turn out to be higher than she ever imagined. From premature sexualization to the risk of depression to rising rates of narcissism, the potential negative impact of this new girlie-girl culture is undeniable—yet armed with awareness and recognition, parents can effectively counterbalance its influence in their daughters' lives.

### ***Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, J.D Vance (Memoir, Nonfiction)**

From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class *Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck. The Vance family story begins hopefully in postwar America. J. D.'s grandparents were "dirt poor and in love," and moved north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually their grandchild (the author) would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving generational upward mobility. But as the family saga of *Hillbilly Elegy* plays out, we learn that this is only the short, superficial version. Vance's grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother, struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, and were never able to fully escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. Vance piercingly shows how he himself still carries around the demons of their chaotic family history. A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.

### ***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*

## English III On-Level

### ***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.

***Call of the Wild*, Jack London (Adventure, Fiction)**

*The Call of the Wild* is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece. Based on London's experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness and his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, *The Call of the Wild* is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike.

***The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams (Fiction)**

Amanda Wingfield is a woman from Mississippi whose husband moved the family to St. Louis and abandoned her and her two children. Laura has been left disabled by disease, and Tom is a would-be poet. Amanda yearns for her youth, when she was a Southern belle in plantation society in the Mississippi Delta.

***The Help*, Kathryn Stockett (Fiction)**

Twenty-two-year old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy until Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken. Minny, Aibileen's best friend is perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation, but her new boss has secrets of her own. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a secret project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed. In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women—mothers, daughters, caregiver, friends—view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, *The Help* is a timeless universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.

***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass, (Memoir, Nonfiction)**

Published in the bicentenary year of Frederick Douglass's birth and in a Black Lives Matter era, this edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* presents new research into his life as an activist and an author. A revolutionary reformer who traveled in Scotland, Ireland, England, and Wales as well as the US, Douglass published many foreign-language editions of his *Narrative*. While there have been many Douglasses over the decades and even centuries, the Frederick Douglass we need now is no iconic, mythic, or legendary self-made man but a fallible, mortal, and human individual: a husband, father, brother, and son. His rallying cry inspires today's activism: "Agitate! Agitate! Agitate!" Recognizing that Douglass was bought and sold on the northern abolitionist podium no less than on the southern auction block, this edition introduces readers to Douglass's multiple declarations of independence. The *Narrative* appears alongside his private correspondence as well as the early speeches and writings in which he did justice to the "grim horrors of slavery." This volume also traces Douglass's activism and authorship in the context of the reformist work of his wife, Anna Murray, and of his daughters and sons.

***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....

***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 it is the only thing that stands between her and freedom.

***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 On-Level

***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.

***Sully: The Untold Story Behind the Miracle on the Hudson* by Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III (Non-Fiction)**

This is the inspirational autobiography by one of the most captivating American heroes of our time, Capt. "Sully" Sullenberger--the pilot who miraculously landed a crippled US Airways Flight 1549 in New York's Hudson River, saving the lives of all 155 passengers and crew. On January 15, 2009, the world witnessed a remarkable emergency landing when Captain "Sully" Sullenberger skillfully glided US Airways Flight 1549 onto the Hudson River, saving the lives of all 155 passengers and crew. His cool actions not only averted tragedy but made him a hero and an inspiration worldwide. Sully's story is one of dedication, hope, and preparedness, revealing the important lessons he learned through his life, in his military service, and in his work as an airline pilot. It reminds us all that, even in these days of conflict, tragedy and uncertainty, there are values still worth fighting for--that life's challenges can be met if we're ready for them.

***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.

***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 2019

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. We have provided a [template](#) that students may choose to use for their notes.
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.

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

Updike	<a href="#">“A&amp;P”</a>
Walker	<a href="#">“Everyday Use”</a>