

**Summer Reading 2021-22     American Literature, Grade 11**  
**Ms. Eileen Carlson, Mount de Sales Academy**

**Purpose:**

Summer Reading is assigned to encourage students to read independently and to practice public speaking skills by giving a book talk. You must choose a book to read during the summer and come to school, with book in hand, prepared to share your analysis and impressions of the book with other students.

**Choosing a book:**

You must choose a book, either fiction or nonfiction, by an American author. You may **not** choose a young adult book. A suggested list of titles and authors is attached, but you are not limited to these titles or authors. Look for similar books or books by these authors. I encourage you to use internet searches to review the suggested books and to look at other 11<sup>th</sup> grade reading American Literature lists. Choose a book that you will **enjoy**, one which you believe to be of recognizable **literary merit**, but appropriate to your grade level and personal **reading ability** and aligned with **your family's values**. You may NOT read a book that you have previously read and studied in school. You may NOT read *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Crucible*, or *The Great Gatsby*, which will be read in class. The following five books will be offered as choices for your research paper; if you read one of these books during the summer, you may NOT use the same book for your research paper: *The Red Badge of Courage*, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

**Assessment:**

You will give an oral book talk in front of your class. You will be expected to:

- Begin with an attention-getting quote.
- Show the cover of the book and state the title, author, and genre.
- Briefly summarize the plot, without giving away the ending, including
  - Setting
  - Theme
  - Point of View
- Describe a character. Include two or three personality traits and supporting details from the text. (You may “become the character” if you wish.)
- Fluently read a favorite or significant passage (5-10 sentences) from the book, discussing why you chose this passage.
- Share examples of at least three literary techniques used by the author and explain why the author chose each element and why it is effective.
- Share your reaction to the book, tell the audience to whom you would recommend this book, and explain why.

**This Summer:**

As you read, you should annotate (mark) in the book as you encounter important passages, questions, literary techniques, or significant details, so that you can easily find them later (use sticky notes, or highlight or underline and write notes in the margins). I suggest that you prepare notecards to keep you on track during your talk. You may want to start writing these notes as you read during the summer.

When you come to school in August, you must have your book with you. You should have annotated in the book. If you have prepared note cards, bring them. Your assessment will be based entirely on the oral book talk, including preparation, content, and presentation style.

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**American Literature, 11th Grade, Suggested Summer Reading**

**Nonfiction:**

*Unbroken*, Laura Hillenbrand  
*Seabiscuit*, Laura Hillenbrand  
*The Boys in the Boat*, Daniel James Brown  
*The Killer Angels*, Michael Shaara  
*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou  
*Native Son*, Richard Wright  
*The Boys of Summer*, Roger Kahn  
*Friday Night Lights*, Buzz Bissinger  
*A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bill Bryson  
*Up From Slavery*, Booker T. Washington  
*Between the World and Me*, Ta-Nehisi Coates  
*Devil in the White City*, Erik Larsen  
*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, John Berendt  
*Into the Wild*, Jon Krakauer  
*Rocket Boys*, Homer Hickam  
*Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson  
*Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson  
*Barracoon*, Zora Neale Hurston  
*The Perfect Storm*, Sebastian Junger  
*The Audacity of Hope*, Barack Obama  
*Becoming*, Michelle Obama  
*Angela's Ashes*, Frank McCourt  
*1776*, David McCullough  
*Praying for Sheetrock*, Melissa Fay Greene  
*The River of Doubt*, Candice Millard  
*Roots*, Alex Haley

**Fiction:**

*The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd  
*The Invention of Wings*, Sue Monk Kidd  
*The Bean Trees*, Barbara Kingsolver  
*The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver  
*The Call of the Wild*, Jack London  
*The Color Purple*, Alice Walker  
*In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote  
*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Ken Kesey  
*Snow Falling on Cedars*, David Guterson  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston  
*The Chosen*, Chaim Potok

*Cold Mountain*, Charles Frazier  
*Fallen Angels*, Walter Dean Myers  
*The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien  
*The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros  
*The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck  
*The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, Mitch Albom  
*A Separate Peace*, John Knowles  
*The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane  
*Wise Blood*, Flannery O'Connor  
*Water for Elephants*, Sara Gruen  
*The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood  
*A Farewell to Arms*, Ernest Hemingway  
*Go Tell It On the Mountain*, James Baldwin  
*The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair  
*The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan  
*The Bell Jar*, Sylvia Plath  
*Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*, Fannie Flagg  
*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, Julia Alvarez  
*Beloved*, Toni Morrison  
*A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving  
*A Separate Peace*, John Knowles  
*Killer Angels*, Michael Shaara  
*The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger  
*The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini  
*All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr  
*Ordinary Grace*, William Kent Krueger  
*Cold Sassy Tree*, Olive Ann Burns  
*South of Broad*, Pat Conroy  
*The Help*, Kathryn Stockett  
*The Sound and the Fury*, William Faulkner  
*Dragon Teeth*, Michael Crichton  
*The Round House*, Louise Erdrich  
*Where the Crawdads Sing*, Delia Owens

**Plays:**

*A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry  
*Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller  
*The Laramie Project*, Moises Kaufman  
*Fences*, August Wilson  
*A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams  
*Our Town*, Thornton Wilder