

Summer Reading 2022-23 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 11th 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 may 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*.
- You may NOT read *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy, and *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward, because these are typically senior English texts.

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
The Code Breakers, Walter Isaacson

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
What's Mine and Yours, Naima Coster
The Four Winds, Kristin Hannah

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