

# TENTH GRADE SUMMER READING

## Option #1: On-Demand Writing Assignment

Upon return to school in September of 2017, you will be asked to write in response to one of the books you have read over the summer. During the first two weeks of school, your 2017 English teacher will schedule the date where you will be given a prompt to which you will respond in writing. In order to be prepared for the summer reading writing assignment, please be sure to do the following:

- Select a book to read from the list of suggested titles for your grade level (If you opt to read a title not on the list, be prepared to justify how your selected book fits the grade level theme.)
- Enjoy reading the book!!!
- Take notes and/or mark key passages with sticky notes. Use the link below to access a graphic organizer that will help in preparing your notes.  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6xt4s6csphx3ah0/Book%20Review%20Reading%20Guide.pdf?dl=0>
- Bring the book with you to school in September for use in providing text evidence in your written response. If you are unable to have the book with you, come prepared with important information (book title, author, and genre, date written etc.) and key text quotations.

## Option #2: New York Times Summer Reading Contest

As a second option for summer reading you may enter the New York Times Summer Reading Contest which asks students to respond to New York Times content **between June 16 and August 25 (last question posted on August 18)**.

**First:** Review the rules for entry at [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/27/learning/the-eighth-annual-new-york-times-summer-reading-contest.html?\\_r=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/27/learning/the-eighth-annual-new-york-times-summer-reading-contest.html?_r=1)

**Next:**

Adhere to the following additional criteria in order to get full credit upon return to school in September.

- Submit 3 separate blog entries in 3 separate weeks.
- When submitting your entry online, use the following code pattern so that your teacher can verify that it is your entry: the word "Bengal", incoming grade level, first name, and six-digit birthday. For example "**bengal10James021402**"
- Print a screen shot of your entries once they are posted on the New York Times website to hand in to your English teacher in September 2017.
- In addition to the screen shots, please have your 3 entries typed in a separate word document with your full name and your coded name.
- When you return to school, you will be asked to take part in a discussion group where you will share your NYT contest entries with your teacher and other students.

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### **Students Entering Honors Level ELA:**

In addition to the **on-demand writing** or **NYT contest**, you will also be required to read the book, ***Purple Hibiscus***, by **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**. Come prepared with notes on your reading including marked text references (sticky-notes, annotations, etc.) that can be used in seminar discussion at the start of the 2016-2017 School year.

We hope you enjoy your summer reading! Read as many books as possible, and we look forward to hearing your talk in September.

If you have any questions during the summer months, please contact Suzanne Johnson, Supervisor of English Language Arts. [sjohnson@bloomfield.k12.nj.us](mailto:sjohnson@bloomfield.k12.nj.us)

**READ! READ! READ!**

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### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Suggested Book List

Sophomores examine how the individual is affected **by society and the world at large**. They examine themes such as peer pressure and censorship. As they transition from freshman year, they begin to explore who they are in relation to their environment.

*(If you choose from outside this list, choose a book that is fitting of the **society and the world at large** theme.)*

**\*\*These titles have been used on the AP English Literature and Composition test.**

**Dumas, Firoozeh. *Funny in Farsi*. NY: Random House Publishing, 2004.**

ISBN-13: 9780812968378

In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here. More family soon followed, and the clan has been here ever since.

*Funny in Farsi* chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on Bowling for Dollars and in Las Vegas, and later lost his job during the Iranian revolution; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie, and who encountered a second wave of culture shock when she met and married a Frenchman, becoming part of a one-couple melting pot.

**Soto, Gary. *Jesse*. NY: Scholastic Books, 1996.**

ISBN-13: 9780590528375

*Jesse* is a gentle story of a gentle boy growing into manhood. There is violence-Jesse must fight a bully twice-and there is an ominous background of a drunken stepfather, poverty and prejudice in Mexican-American life, and the era of Vietnam. Author Gary Soto nevertheless writes in a quiet tone of hope and faith. Jesse, artistic and religious, is forced to field work to pay for food while he attends a junior college after leaving high school. He remembers that once "I worked on my knees nine hours - one hundred seventy-eight trays of grapes-so I could buy my mom an umbrella." The book ends with the shock of Abel, Jesse's older brother, being drafted. A friend (named Jesus) tells Jesse not to follow by enlisting. Instead he returns to summer field labor. Readers of *Jesse* will gain appreciation for a young man persevering amid family dysfunction, ethnic injustice, and confusion about goals and girls.

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**De La Pena, Matt. *Mexican White Boy*. NY: Random House, 2008.**

ISBN-13: 9780385733106

Danny's tall and skinny. Even though he's not built, his arms are long enough to give his pitch a power so fierce any college scout would sign him on the spot. A 95 mph fastball, but the boy's not even on a team. Every time he gets up on the mound he loses it. But at his private school, they don't expect much else from him. Danny's brown. Half-Mexican brown. And growing up in San Diego that close to the border means everyone else knows exactly who he is before he even opens his mouth. Before they find out he can't speak Spanish, and before they realize his mom has blond hair and blue eyes, they've got him pegged. Danny's convinced it's his whiteness that sent his father back to Mexico. And that's why he's spending the summer with his dad's family. Only, to find himself, he might just have to face the demons he refuses to see right in front of his face.

**Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*. NY: Doubleday, 2004.**

ISBN-13: 9780375714573

Originally published to wide critical acclaim in France, where it elicited comparisons to Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

*Persepolis* paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran: of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life and of the enormous toll repressive regimes exact on the individual spirit. Marjane's child's-eye-view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a stunning reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, through laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. And, finally, it introduces us to an irresistible little girl with whom we cannot help but fall in love.

**Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. NY: Brown, 2009.**

ISBN-13: 978-0316013697

Exploring Indian identity, both self and tribal, Alexie's first young adult novel is a semiautobiographical chronicle of Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, WA. The bright 14-year-old was born with water on the brain, is regularly the target of bullies, and loves to draw. He says, "I think the world is a series of broken dams and floods, and my cartoons are tiny little lifeboats." He expects disaster when he transfers from the reservation school to the rich, white school in Reardan, but soon finds himself

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making friends with both geeky and popular students and starting on the basketball team. Meeting his old classmates on the court, Junior grapples with questions about what constitutes one's community, identity, and tribe. The daily struggles of reservation life and the tragic deaths of the protagonist's grandmother, dog, and older sister would be all but unbearable without the humor and resilience of spirit with which Junior faces the world. The many characters, on and off the rez, with whom he has dealings are portrayed with compassion and verve, particularly the adults in his extended family. Forney's simple pencil cartoons fit perfectly within the story and reflect the burgeoning artist within Junior.

**Alvarez, Julia. *How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents*. NY: Penguin Group, 1992.**

ISBN-13: 9780452268067

This sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic is told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood, when their lives have been shaped by U. S. mores, and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island. Adapting to American life is difficult and causes embarrassment when friends meet their parents, anger as they are bullied and called "spics," and identity confusion following summer trips to the family compound in the Dominican Republic. These interconnected vignettes of family life, resilience, and love are skillfully intertwined and offer young adults a perspective on immigration and families as well as a look at America through Hispanic eyes. This unique coming-of-age tale is a feast of stories that will enchant and captivate readers.

**Ngozi Adichie , Chimamanda. *Purple Hibiscus*. NC: Algonquin, 2003**

ISBN: 1616202416 **(Required reading for students entering honors)**

In the city of Enugu, Nigeria, fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother, Jaja, lead a privileged life. Their Papa is a wealthy and respected businessman; they live in a beautiful house; and they attend an exclusive missionary school. But, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, their home life is anything but harmonious. Her father, a fanatically religious man, has impossible expectations of his children and wife, and severely punishes them if they're less than perfect. Home is silent and suffocating.

When Kambili's loving and outspoken Auntie Ifeoma persuades her brother that the children should visit her in Nsukka, Kambili and Jaja take their first trip away from home. Once inside their Auntie Ifeoma's flat, they discover a whole new world. Books cram the shelves, curry and nutmeg permeate the air, and their cousins' laughter rings throughout the house. Jaja learns to garden and work with his hands, and Kambili secretly falls in love with a young charismatic priest.

When a military coup threatens to destroy the country and Kambili and Jaja return home changed by their newfound freedom, tension within the family escalates. And Kambili must find the strength to keep her loved ones together after her mother commits a desperate act.

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Lahiri, Jhumpa. **\*\**The Namesake*. NY: Mariner Books, 2003**

ISBN-13: 978-0618485222

*The Namesake* takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd, antic name. Lahiri brings great empathy to Gogol as he stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. With penetrating insight, she reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents, but also the means by which we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves. *The New York Times* has praised Lahiri as "a writer of uncommon elegance and poise." *The Namesake* is a fine-tuned, intimate, and deeply felt novel of identity.

Golden, Arthur. **\*\**Memoirs of a Geisha*. NY: Random House, 1993.**

ISBN-13: 9780375411557

An epic on an intimate scale, *Memoirs of a Geisha* takes the reader behind the rice-paper screens of the geisha house to a vanished floating world of beauty and cruelty, from a poor fishing village in 1929 to the decadence of 1940s Kyoto, through the chaos of World War II to the towers of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where the gray-eyed geisha Sayuri unfolds the remarkable story of her life.

Roy, Arundhati. **\*\**The God of Small Things*. NY: Random House, 1997**

ISBN-13: 978-1606865613

Compared favorably to the works of Faulkner and Dickens, Arundhati Roy's debut novel is a modern classic that has been read and loved worldwide. Equal parts powerful family saga, forbidden love story, and piercing political drama, it is the story of an affluent Indian family forever changed by one fateful day in 1969. The seven-year-old twins Estha and Rahel see their world shaken irrevocably by the arrival of their beautiful young cousin, Sophie. It is an event that will lead to an illicit liaison and tragedies accidental and intentional, exposing "big things [that] lurk unsaid" in a country drifting dangerously toward unrest. Lush, lyrical, and unnerving, *The God of Small Things* is an award-winning landmark that started for its author an esteemed career of fiction and political commentary that continues unabated.

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Patton, Allan. **\*\*Cry, the Beloved Country.** NY: Scribner, 1948

ISBN-13: 9780743262170

Cry, the beloved country, for the unborn child that is the inheritor of our fear. Let him not love the earth too deeply. Let him not laugh too gladly when the water runs through his fingers, nor stand too silent when the setting sun makes red the veld with fire. Let him not be too moved when the birds of his land are singing, nor give too much of his heart to a mountain or valley. For fear will rob him of all if he gives too much."

The most famous and important novel in South Africa's history, and an immediate worldwide bestseller when it was published in 1948, Alan Paton's impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law is a work of searing beauty. The eminent literary critic Lewis Gannett wrote, "We have had many novels from statesmen and reformers, almost all bad; many novels from poets, almost all thin. In Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* the statesman, the poet and the novelist meet in a unique harmony."

*All synopses were taken from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)*

**\*\*Link to additional titles from the AP book list**

<http://mseffie.com/AP/APtitles.html>