

ELEVENTH 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/6xt4s6cspfx3ah0/Book%20Review%20Reading%20Guide.pdf?dl=0>
- Bring your notes and 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. (See *Book Review Reading Guide*)

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 (final question posted 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>

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 “**bengal10James021401**”
- 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 English:

In addition to the **on-demand writing OR NYT contest**, you will also be required to read the book, ***The Joy Luck Club*, by Amy Tan**. 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.

Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club*. NY: Penguin Group, 1989.**

ISBN-13: 9780641976469

A stunning literary achievement, *The Joy Luck Club* explores the tender and tenacious bond between four daughters and their mothers. The daughters know one side of their mothers, but they don't know about their earlier never-spoken of lives in China. The mothers want love and obedience from their daughters, but they don't know the gifts that the daughters keep to themselves. Heartwarming and bittersweet, this is a novel for mother, daughters, and those that love them.

Students Entering AP Level English:

Part 1: All students will be required to read the book, ***The Things They Carried*, By Tim O'Brian**. 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 2017-2018 school year.

Part 2: All students entering English 3 AP: American Literature/Language and Composition are **also required** to complete Option #2: enter the *NYT Summer Reading Contest* (please read the directions above for entering the contest carefully.) The NYT contest offers an excellent opportunity to hone the skills measured on the AP exam. In addition to screen shots/prints of your entries, please come to class with a copy of at least one article that you chose to respond to in the contest. We will be working with these articles the first week of school.

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

READ! READ! READ!

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11th Grade Suggested Book List

As juniors, students have a firm understanding of themselves and now begin to look at how they impact the world. They examine themes of **morality and social justice**. How do the actions of the individual impact and shape the world around them?

*(If you choose from outside this list, choose a book that is fitting of the **morality and social justice** theme.)*

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

Asher, Jay. *Thirteen Reasons Why*. NY: Razorbill, 2007.

ISBN-13: 978-1595141712

When Clay Jensen plays the cassette tapes he received in a mysterious package, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker. He's one of 13 people who receive Hannah's story, which details the circumstances that led to her suicide. Clay spends the rest of the day and long into the night listening to Hannah's voice and going to the locations she wants him to visit. The text alternates, sometimes quickly, between Hannah's voice (italicized) and Clay's thoughts as he listens to her words, which illuminate betrayals and secrets that demonstrate the consequences of even small actions. Hannah, herself, is not free from guilt, her own inaction having played a part in an accidental auto death and a rape. The message about how we treat one another, although sometimes heavy, makes for compelling reading.

Davis, James, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt. *The Pact*. NY: Penguin Group, 2003.

ISBN-13: 9781573229890

They grew up on the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attain that dream. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are not only friends to this day—they are all doctors. This is a story about the power of friendship. Of joining forces and beating the odds. A story about changing your life, and the lives of those you love most...together.

Gruwell, Erin. *The Freedom Writers Diary*. NY: Doubleday Publishing, 1999.

ISBN-13: 9780385494229

As an idealistic twenty-three-year-old English teacher at Wilson High School in Long beach, California, Erin Gruwell confronted a room of “unteachable, at-risk” students. One day she intercepted a note with an ugly racial caricature, and angrily declared

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that this was precisely the sort of thing that led to the Holocaust—only to be met by uncomprehending looks. So she and her students, using the treasured books *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* and *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo* as their guides, undertook a life-changing, eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding. They learned to see the parallels in these books to their own lives, recording their thoughts and feelings in diaries and dubbing themselves the “Freedom Writers” in homage to the civil rights activists “The Freedom Riders.”

With funds raised by a “Read-a-thon for Tolerance,” they arranged for Miep Gies, the courageous Dutch woman who sheltered the Frank family, to visit them in California, where she declared that Erin Gruwell’s students were “the real heroes.” Their efforts have paid off spectacularly, both in terms of recognition—appearances on “Prime Time Live” and “All Things Considered,” coverage in *People* magazine, a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley—and educationally. All 150 Freedom Writers have graduated from high school and are now attending college.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*. NY: Random House Publishing, 1997.

ISBN-13: 9780385486804

In April 1992, a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. He had given \$25,000 in savings to a charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet and invented a life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. Jon Krakauer brings Chris McCandless's uncompromising pilgrimage out of the shadows and illuminates it with meaning in this mesmerizing and heartbreaking tour de force

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. NY: Random House, 2006.

ISBN-13: 9780375831003

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak’s groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Sunrise over Fallujah*. NY: Scholastic, 2008.

ISBN-13: 978-0439916257

Robin's parents aspire for him to go to college, but following September 11, he feels compelled to join the Army instead. By early 2003, Robin has completed Basic Training and is deployed to Iraq where he becomes part of a Civil Affairs Unit charged with building the trust of the Iraqi people to minimize fighting. Civil Affairs soldiers are often put into deadly situations to test the waters, and Robin finds that

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the people in his unit, who nickname him "Birdy," are the only ones he can trust. Robin quickly learns that the situation in Iraq will not be resolved easily and that much of what is happening there will never make the news. Facing the horrors of war, Robin tries to remain hopeful and comforting in his letters to his family, never showing his fear or the danger he actually faces. The story of teenagers going to war today is an important one, and it is not told often enough. Myers writes an important book to have in any collection to recognize that many teens will choose to join the military instead of, or before, going on to college. Robin is only eighteen, and it is difficult to watch his innocence erased as war leaves its mark on him, but it is the reality for many young men and women.

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. NY: Penguin Group, 2003.

ISBN-13: 9781594480003

Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the present, *The Kite Runner* is the unforgettable and beautifully told story of the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Raised in the same household and sharing the same wet nurse, Amir and Hassan grow up in different worlds: Amir is the son of a prominent and wealthy man, while Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant, is a Hazara — a shunned ethnic minority. Their intertwined lives, and their fates, reflect the eventual tragedy of the world around them. When Amir and his father flee the country for a new life in California, Amir thinks that he has escaped his past. And yet he cannot leave the memory of Hassan behind him.

The Kite Runner is a novel about friendship and betrayal, and about the price of loyalty. It is about the bonds between fathers and sons, and the power of fathers over sons — their love, their sacrifices, and their lies. Written against a backdrop of history that has not been told in fiction before, *The Kite Runner* describes the rich culture and beauty of a land in the process of being destroyed. But through the devastation, Khaled Hosseini offers hope: through the novel's faith in the power of reading and storytelling, and in the possibilities he shows us for redemption.

Includes some strong language. Parents are encouraged to use discretion when choosing books.

Beah, Ismael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*.

ISBN-13: 9780374531263

This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived. In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the

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government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty. **Includes some strong language. Parents are encouraged to use discretion when choosing books.**

Gaines, Ernest. *A Lesson Before Dying*. 1933. NY: Vintage Books, 1993.**

ISBN-13: 9780375702709

From the author of *A Gathering of Old Men* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* comes a deep and compassionate novel. A young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resistance.

Kesey Ken. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. NY: Penguin Group, 1963.**

ISBN-13: 9780451163967

Boisterous, ribald, and ultimately shattering, Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is the seminal novel of the 1960s that has left an indelible mark on the literature of our time. Here is the unforgettable story of a mental ward and its inhabitants, especially the tyrannical Big Nurse Ratched and Randle Patrick McMurphy, the brawling, fun-loving new inmate who resolves to oppose her. We see the struggle through the eyes of Chief Bromden, the seemingly mute half-Indian patient who witnesses and understands McMurphy's heroic attempt to do battle with the awesome powers that keep them all imprisoned. **Includes some strong language. Parents are encouraged to use discretion when choosing books.**

Hurston, Zora Neal. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. 1937. NY: Harper Collins, 2006.**

ISBN-13: 9780060838676

At the height of the Harlem Renaissance during the 1930s, Zora Neale Hurston was the preeminent black woman writer in the United States. She was a sometime-collaborator with Langston Hughes and a fierce rival of Richard Wright. Her stories appeared in major magazines, she consulted on Hollywood screenplays, and she penned four novels, an autobiography, countless essays, and two books on black mythology. Yet by the late 1950s, Hurston was living in obscurity, working as a maid in a Florida hotel. She died in 1960 in a Welfare home, was buried in an unmarked grave, and quickly faded from literary consciousness until 1975 when Alice Walker almost single-handedly revived interest in her work.

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. 1958. NY: Mc-Graw-Hill, 2000.**

ISBN-13: 9780072435184

The 1958 novel chronicles the life of Okonkwo, the leader of an Igbo (Ibo) community, from the events leading up to his banishment from the community for accidentally killing a clansman, through the seven years of his exile, to his return. Addresses the problem of the intrusion in the 1890s of white missionaries and colonial government into tribal Igbo society, and describes the simultaneous disintegration of its

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protagonist Okonkwo and of his village. The novel was praised for its intelligent and realistic treatment of tribal beliefs and of psychological disintegration coincident with social unraveling. *Things Fall Apart* helped create the Nigerian literary renaissance of the 1960s.

O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried*. 1990. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

ISBN-13: 9780767902892 (Required reading for students entering AP.)

The Things They Carried depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and of course, the character Tim O'Brien who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. They battle the enemy (or maybe more the idea of the enemy), and occasionally each other. In their relationships we see their isolation and loneliness, their rage and fear. They miss their families, their girlfriends and buddies; they miss the lives they left back home. Yet they find sympathy and kindness for strangers (the old man who leads them unscathed through the mine field, the girl who grieves while she dances), and love for each other, because in Vietnam they are the only family they have. We hear the voices of the men and build images upon their dialogue. The way they tell stories about others, we hear them telling stories about themselves. With the creative verve of the greatest fiction and the intimacy of a searing autobiography, *The Things They Carried* is a testament to the men who risked their lives in America's most controversial war. It is also a mirror held up to the frailty of humanity. Ultimately *The Things They Carried* and its myriad protagonists call to order the courage, determination, and luck we all need to survive. **Includes some violence.**

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

<http://www.madeiracityschools.org/userfiles/300/Classes/39310/Most%20frequently%20cited%20books.pdf>

All synopses were taken from www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com