

TWELFTH 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>

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 “**bengal11James021400**”
- 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 4:

In addition to the **on-demand writing** or **NYT contest**, you will also be required to read the book, ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey***. 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.

Students Entering AP English Literature and Composition:

You will have two **required** readings.

Part 1: Choose a book from either the suggested 12th grade reading list or from the link below. Come prepared for seminar discussion with notes and annotations.

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

Part 2: *1984* by George Orwell is required reading for **all** incoming AP students. On the first day of school, students will be expected to come prepared with the following:

- A written response of 3-5 pages discussing one aspect of the novel (themes, symbols, setting, characterization, etc.). *The paper must be reflective of college-level analysis and writing.* MLA format is required. Please refer to <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> for specific information regarding this format.
- Notes/questions about *1984*, as well as biographical information about the author for use during Socratic Seminar.

Please Note: No other assignments for *1984* will be accepted.

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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12th Grade Suggested Book List

Seniors look at the structure of society. This is a continuation of the democratic principles they begin to explore junior year, with implications for the future. As students venture out into the world, what will their impact be? What will their **future society** look like?

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

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

Straser, Todd. *The Wave*. NY: Random House, 1981.

ISBN-13: 9780440993711

The Wave is based on a true incident that occurred in a high school history class in Palo Alto, California, in 1969. The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.

Bloor, Edward. *Taken*. NY: Random House, 2007.

ISBN-13: 9780375836367

By 2035 the rich have gotten richer, the poor have gotten poorer, and kidnapping has become a major growth industry in the United States. The children of privilege live in secure, gated communities and are escorted to and from school by armed guards. But the security around Charity Meyers has broken down. On New Year's morning, she wakes and finds herself alone, strapped to a stretcher, in an ambulance that's not moving. She is amazingly calm - kids in her neighborhood have been well trained in kidnapping protocol. If this were a normal kidnapping, Charity would be fine. But as the hours of her imprisonment tick by, Charity realizes there is nothing normal about what's going on here. No training could prepare her for what her kidnapers really want . . . and worse, for who they turn out to be.

Sleator, William. *Test*. NY, NY: Amulet Books, 2008.

ISBN-13: 9780810993563

Pass, and have it made—fail, and suffer the consequences. A master of teen thrillers tests readers' courage in an edge-of-your-seat novel that echoes the fears of exam-takers everywhere. Ann, a teenage girl living in the security-obsessed, elitist United States of the very near future, is threatened on her way home from school by a mysterious man on a black motorcycle. Soon, she and a new friend are caught up in a vast conspiracy of greed

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involving the mega wealthy owner of a school testing company. Students who pass his test have it made; those who don't disappear . . . or worse. Will Ann be next? For all those who suspect standardized tests are an evil conspiracy, here's an edge-of-your-seat thriller that really satisfies.

Westerfield, Scott. *The Uglies*. NY: Simon & Schuster, 2005.

ISBN-13: 9780689865381

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her license -- for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. In just a few weeks Tally will be there. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world -- and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she can imagine: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. The choice Tally makes changes her world forever.

Burgess, Anthony. *A Clockwork Orange*. 1962. NY: Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc., 1995.

ISBN-13: 9780393312836

A vicious fifteen-year-old droog is the central character of this 1963 classic. In Anthony Burgess's nightmare vision of the future, where the criminals take over after dark, the story is told by the central character, Alex, who talks in a brutal invented slang that brilliantly renders his and his friends' social pathology. *A Clockwork Orange* is a frightening fable about good and evil, and the meaning of human freedom. And when the state undertakes to reform Alex to "redeem" him, the novel asks, "At what cost?"**Includes strong language. Parents are encouraged to use discretion when choosing books.**

Obama, Barack. *The Audacity of Hope*. NY: Random House, 2006.

ISBN-13: 9780307237699

In *The Audacity of Hope*, President Obama called for a different brand of politics—a politics for those weary of bitter partisanship and alienated by the “endless clash of armies” we see in congress and on the campaign trail; a politics rooted in the faith, inclusiveness, and nobility of spirit at the heart of “our improbable experiment in democracy.” He explores those forces—from the fear of losing to the perpetual need to raise money to the power of the media—that can stifle even the best-intentioned politician. He also writes, with surprising intimacy and self-deprecating humor, about settling in as a senator, seeking to balance the demands of public service and family life, and his own deepening religious commitment.

At the heart of this book is President Obama's vision of how we can move beyond our divisions to tackle concrete problems. He examines the growing economic insecurity of American families, the racial and religious tensions within the body politic, and the

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transnational threats—from terrorism to pandemic—that gather beyond our shores. And he grapples with the role that faith plays in a democracy—where it is vital and where it must never intrude. Underlying his stories about family, friends, members of the Senate, even the president, is a vigorous search for connection: the foundation for a radically hopeful political consensus.

Nafisi, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. NY: Random House, 2003.

ISBN-13: 9780812971064

An inspired blend of memoir and literary criticism, *Reading Lolita in Tehran* is a moving testament to the power of art and its ability to change and improve people's lives. In 1995, after resigning from her job as a professor at a university in Tehran due to repressive policies, Azar Nafisi invited seven of her best female students to attend a weekly study of great Western literature in her home. Since the books they read were officially banned by the government, the women were forced to meet in secret, often sharing photocopied pages of the illegal novels. For two years they met to talk, share, and "shed their mandatory veils and robes and burst into color." Though most of the women were shy and intimidated at first, they soon became emboldened by the forum and used the meetings as a springboard for debating the social, cultural, and political realities of living under strict Islamic rule. They discussed their harassment at the hands of "morality guards," the daily indignities of living under the Ayatollah Khomeini's regime, the effects of the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, love, marriage, and life in general, giving readers a rare inside look at revolutionary Iran. The books were always the primary focus, however, and they became "essential to our lives: they were not a luxury but a necessity," she writes.

Threaded into the memoir are trenchant discussions of the work of Vladimir Nabokov, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Jane Austen, and other authors who provided the women with examples of those who successfully asserted their autonomy despite great odds. The great works encouraged them to strike out against authoritarianism and repression in their own ways, both large and small: "There, in that living room, we rediscovered that we were also living, breathing human beings; and no matter how repressive the state became, no matter how intimidated and frightened we were, like Lolita we tried to escape and to create our own little pockets of freedom," she writes. In short, the art helped them to survive.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *The Slaughter-House Five*. 1969. NY: Dell Publishing, 1991.

ISBN-13: 9780440180296

Unstuck in time, Billy Pilgrim, Vonnegut's shattered survivor of the Dresden bombing, relives his life over and over again under the gaze of aliens; he comes at last to some understanding of the human comedy. The basis of George Roy's great 1972 film and perhaps the signature student's novel in the 1960's embracing protest and the absurdity of war.

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Follet, Ken. *The Pillars of the Earth*. NY: Signet, 1990.

ISBN-13: 978-0451166890

Everything readers expect from Follett is here: intrigue, fast-paced action, and passionate romance. But what makes *The Pillars of the Earth* extraordinary is the time—the twelfth century; the place—feudal England; and the subject—the building of a glorious cathedral. Follett has re-created the crude, flamboyant England of the Middle Ages in every detail. The vast forests, the walled towns, the castles, and the monasteries become a familiar landscape. Against this richly imagined and intricately interwoven backdrop, filled with the ravages of war and the rhythms of daily life, the master storyteller draws the reader irresistibly into the intertwined lives of his characters—into their dreams, their labors, and their loves: Tom, the master builder; Aliena, the ravishingly beautiful noblewoman; Philip, the prior of Kingsbridge; Jack, the artist in stone; and Ellen, the woman of the forest who casts a terrifying curse. From humble stonemason to imperious monarch, each character is brought vividly to life.

Orwell, George. *1984*. 1950. NY: Signet Classic, 1977. (Required for all students entering 12th grade AP lit.)**

ISBN-13: 978-0451524935

Among the seminal texts of the 20th century, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a rare work that grows more haunting as its futuristic purgatory becomes more real. Published in 1949, the book offers political satirist George Orwell's nightmare vision of a totalitarian, bureaucratic world and one poor stiff's attempt to find individuality. The brilliance of the novel is Orwell's prescience of modern life--the ubiquity of television, the distortion of the language--and his ability to construct such a thorough version of hell. Required reading for students since it was published; it ranks among the most terrifying novels ever written.

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. 1985. NY: Random House, 1998.**

ISBN-13: 9780385490818

In the world of the near future, who will control women's bodies?

Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred and the other Handmaids are only valued if their ovaries are viable. Offred can remember the days before, when she lived and made love with her husband Luke; when she played with and protected her daughter; when she had a job, money of her own, and access to knowledge. But all of that is gone now....

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McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*. NY: Doubleday, 2007.

ISBN-13: 9780307387899

The searing, post-apocalyptic novel destined to become Cormac McCarthy's masterpiece. A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other. *The Road* is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. 1847. NY: Barnes & Noble Classics, 2003. (Off theme)

ISBN-13: 9781593080075

Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* is an extraordinary coming-of-age story featuring one of the most independent and strong-willed female protagonists in all of literature. Poor and plain, Jane Eyre begins life as a lonely orphan in the household of her hateful aunt. Despite the oppression she endures at home, and the later torture of boarding school, Jane manages to emerge with her spirit and integrity unbroken. She becomes a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she finds herself falling in love with her employer—the dark, impassioned Mr. Rochester. But an explosive secret tears apart their relationship, forcing Jane to face poverty and isolation once again.

Hosseini, Khaled. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. NY: Penguin, 2008. (Off theme)

ISBN-13: 9781594483851

A Thousand Splendid Suns is a breathtaking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years—from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding—that puts the violence, fear, hope and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives—the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness—are inextricable from the history playing out around them.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. NY: Doubleday, 2004. (Off theme)

ISBN: 1400033411

Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding audio transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still

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not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, *Beloved* is a towering achievement.

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