

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF EDISON TOWNSHIP
10th GRADE SUMMER READING

*Directions: Select **ONE book** (either fiction OR non-fiction) and **ONE non-fiction article** from the list below. When you return to school in September, you will submit a **Double-Entry Journal** for the texts that you have read (worksheet is attached to this packet). Please choose quotations that support the theme below. Assignments and links to the non-fiction articles are provided on the school and District Websites.*

GRADE 10 THEME: American Dream

The **American Dream** can be defined as having the opportunity and freedom that allows all citizens to achieve their goals in life through hard work and determination. It is something that many strive for, but do not always achieve. Include references from the text that you read that relate to the theme of the **American Dream**.

For students entering Grade 10

Fiction

Dreamland by Sarah Dessen

The New York Times bestselling author. Rogerson Biscoe, with his green eyes and dark curly hair, is absolutely seductive. Before long, sixteen-year-old Caitlin finds herself under his spell. And when he starts to abuse her, she finds she's in too deep to get herself out...

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

The New York Times bestseller and Coretta Scott King Honor selection. "I'll call it what the lady prosecutor called me ... *Monster*." A novel that tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. The book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.

Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

#1 *The New York Times* bestseller. The world of first dates, family dramas, and new friends. Of sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Of those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up, otherwise known as the uncharted territory of high school.

Side Effects May Vary by Julie Murphy

When sixteen-year-old Alice is diagnosed with leukemia, she vows to spend her final months righting wrongs by creating a take-no-prisoners bucket list that sets off a war at school. But when Alice goes into remission, she must face the consequences of all she's said and done.

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

From the author of *The Hate U Give*, comes another #1 *New York Times* Bestseller. Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. As the daughter of an underground hip hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill. But it's hard to get your come up when you're labeled a hoodlum at school, and your fridge at home is empty after your mom loses her job. Bri soon finds herself at the center of a controversy, portrayed by the media as more menace than MC. But with an eviction notice staring her family down, Bri doesn't just want to make it—she *has* to.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett #1 *The New York Times* bestseller. Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue, but now she must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town.

Non-Fiction

The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead by David Callahan

Free cable television. Imaginary tax deductions. Do you take your chance to cheat? David Callahan thinks many of us would; witness corporate scandals, doping athletes, and plagiarizing journalists. Why all the cheating? Why now?

Friday Night Lights by H.G. Bissinger

#1 *The New York Times* bestseller. Every Friday night from September to December, the Permian High School Panthers play football. This West Texas town becomes a place where dreams can come true. Devotion to the team shapes the socially and racially divided community and inspires – and sometimes shatters – the teenagers who wear the Panthers' uniforms.

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals

Amazon bestseller. An innocent teenager. An unexpected hero. In 1957, Melba Pattillo turned sixteen. That was also the year she became a warrior on the front lines of a civil rights firestorm. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.

How Does It Feel to be a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America by Moustafa Bayoumi

Moustafa Bayoumi takes readers into the lives of seven twenty-somethings living in Brooklyn, home to the largest Arab-American population in the United States. He moves beyond stereotypes and clichés to reveal their often unseen struggles, from being subjected to government surveillance to the indignities of workplace discrimination. Through it all, these young men and women persevere through triumphs and setbacks as they help weave the tapestry of a new society that is, at its heart, purely American.

We Beat the Street by Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt

A *New York Times* bestseller. Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors.

Non-Fiction Articles

["The Perfect Essay" – John Kaag](#)

["Why Is the American Dream Dead in the South?" – Matthew O'Brien](#)

["Invisible Child. Girl in the Shadows: Dasani's Homeless Life" –Andrea Elliott](#)

**Links of articles are also provided on the school and District Websites.*

A reading program is a joint responsibility between school and family. Parents might very reasonably disagree about what material constitutes suitable reading for children. The titles suggested are not Board of Education approved texts. They are works that are recommended by such organizations as the American Library Association, the *New York Times*, and the National Council for Teachers of English. They appear on many reading lists across the nation. Nevertheless, certain titles may contain subject matter that some parents may not want their children to read (whether Grimm's Fairy Tales for young children or books with mature themes and graphic language for older students). Only parents can determine appropriate choices for their children. Check with teachers, local librarians, and book websites for reading levels and information about the various titles.