

Lake Mary High School Summer Reading Selections 2022

Please choose one novel from your grade level options to read and complete over the summer. During the first week of school in August, you will be given the assignment from your English teacher. AP selections are not optional (see below) Happy reading!!!

9th Grade Summer Reading Novel Options (for ALL levels)

***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green (ISBN-13: 978-0142424179)**

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, *The Fault in Our Stars* is award-winning author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.

***Looking For Alaska* by John Green (ISBN-13: 978-0142402511)**

Before. Miles "Pudge" Halter is done with his safe life at home. His whole life has been one big non-event, and his obsession with famous last words has only made him crave "the Great Perhaps" even more (Francois Rabelais, poet). He heads off to the sometimes crazy and anything-but-boring world of Culver Creek Boarding School, and his life becomes the opposite of safe. Because down the hall is Alaska Young. The gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy, self-destructive, screwed up, and utterly fascinating Alaska Young. She is an event unto herself. She pulls Pudge into her world, launches him into the Great Perhaps, and steals his heart. Then. . . .

After. Nothing is ever the same.

***I am not your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erica Sanchez (ISBN-13: 978-1524700485)**

Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family.

But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role.

Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first kiss, first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho (ISBN-13: 978-0061122415)**

Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and soul-stirring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago, who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids.

Along the way he meets a Romany woman, a man who calls himself a king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the right direction for his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or whether Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles in his path; but what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of treasure within.

Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts.

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart (ISBN-13: 978-0385741262)

A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy.

A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret.

Lies upon lies. True love.

The truth.

We Were Liars is a modern, sophisticated suspense novel from New York Times bestselling author, National Book Award finalist, and Printz Award honoree E. Lockhart.

Read it.

And if anyone asks you how it ends, just LIE.

10th Grade Summer Reading Novel Options (for ALL levels)

***My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult (ISBN # 978-0-7434-5453-7)**

My Sister's Keeper examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person. Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life, even if that means infringing upon the rights of another? Is it worth trying to discover who you really are, if that quest makes you like yourself less? Should you follow your own heart, or let others lead you? Once again, in *My Sister's Keeper*, Jodi Picoult tackles a controversial real-life subject with grace, wisdom, and sensitivity.

***A Long Way Gone* by Ishmal Beah (ISBN #9780374531263)**

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 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 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.

***Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger (ISBN # 0802139256)**

Leif Enger's debut, *Peace Like a River*, is one such work. His richly evocative novel, narrated by an asthmatic 11-year-old named Reuben Land, is the story of Reuben's unusual family and their journey across the frozen Badlands of the Dakotas in search of his fugitive older brother. Charged with the murder of two locals who terrorized their family, Davy has fled, understanding that the scales of justice will not weigh in his favor. But Reuben, his father, Jeremiah—a man of faith so deep he has been known to produce miracles—and Reuben's little sister, Swede, follow closely behind the fleeing Davy.

***A Separate Peace* by John Knowles (ISBN # 0-03-055464-0)**

Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline (ISBN # 978-0-307-88744-3)**

In 2045 the planet is on the brink of chaos and collapse, but people find salvation in the OASIS: an expansive virtual reality universe created by eccentric James Halliday. When Halliday dies, he promises his immense fortune to the first person to discover a digital Easter egg that's hidden somewhere in the OASIS. When young Wade Watts joins the contest, he finds himself becoming an unlikely hero in a reality-bending treasure hunt through a fantastical world of mystery, discovery and danger.

11th Grade Summer Reading Novel Options (for S, H only)

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte**

The novel follows the story of Jane, a seemingly plain and simple girl as she battles through life's struggles. Jane has many obstacles in her life - her cruel and abusive Aunt Reed, the grim conditions at Lowood school, her love for Rochester and Rochester's marriage to Bertha.

***Billy Budd* by Herman Melville**

Billy Budd is a "handsome sailor" who strikes and inadvertently kills his false accuser, Master-at-arms John Claggart. The ship's Captain, Edward Vere, recognizes Billy's lack of intent, but claims that the law of mutiny requires him to sentence Billy to be hanged.

***The Surrender Tree* by Margarita Engle**

The story is based on Rosario Castellanos Castellanos, a famous figure in Cuban history. Rosa is a freed slave who becomes a nurse in hiding as she helps the mambí rebels fight for independence from Spanish rule in mid-nineteenth-century Cuba.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston**

Hurston employs the symbolism of a pear tree – its mysteries and wonders – as a representation of Janie's questions, hopes, and aspirations. The tree embodies the roots of her memories, the branches of her vision, and the blossoming of her dreams.

***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* (2011) by Ransom Riggs ISBN 9786070714818**

Fans of fantasy fiction books for teens will no doubt enjoy Ransom Riggs's debut novel, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. Told through both prose and a series of photographs, the novel tells the story of Jacob Magellan Portman, who is on a quest to learn more about the stories his grandfather told him about surviving as a Jew during World War II.

***Stuck in Neutral* (2000) by Terry Trueman ISBN 9780064472135**

This contemporary fiction novel tells the story of Shawn McDaniel, a 14-year-old boy with cerebral palsy. He's highly intelligent yet unable to move his muscles, feed himself, or communicate. Through his first-person narrative, he remains positive about his life, even when people treat him like he's brain-damaged. This short book forces young readers to think about the assumptions they make about people with disabilities and also addresses euthanasia and quality of life as pertinent social issues.

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (ISBN 1-59448-000-1)**

The A.P. Summer reading assignment IS NOT OPTIONAL--it is REQUIRED.

Growing up in pre-Civil War Afghanistan is ideal for Amir; but a shameful secret and the Soviet invasion cause Amir and his father to flee to America. When he returns years later to right a wrong, the country of his birth, now under the infamous Taliban rule, is hardly recognizable.

· We require a focused reading; simply reading on-line information /seeing a film is insufficient for A.P. study

· During the second week of school, you will take a reading assessment test, complete a written assessment, analyze specific diction and syntax, and actively contribute to class discussion. This novel results in multiple grades—opting to not read it or find an easy way around reading it may be an unwise choice.

· You have NO written assignment—BUT, it is our strong suggestion that while reading you:

1. Take note of characters—their traits, relationships, and actions (do not dismiss minor characters' roles)

2. Take note of settings and their importance.

3. Pay attention to authorial style—his diction, syntax, symbolism, figurative language, etc.

Consider the effect of these choices.

Enjoy this wonderful novel!

Mrs. Weger: wegerlp@myscps.us

Mrs.Cavallaro: cavallpz@myscps.us

12th Grade Summer Reading Novel Options (for S, H only)

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien: *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three.

Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls: *The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt: Frank McCourt was born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank's mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank's father, Malachy, rarely works, and when he does, he drinks his wages. Yet Malachy—exasperating, irresponsible and beguiling—does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story. Wearing rags for diapers, begging a pig's head for Christmas dinner and gathering coal from the roadside to light a fire, Frank endures poverty, near-starvation and the casual cruelty of relatives and neighbors—yet lives to tell his tale with eloquence, exuberance and remarkable forgiveness.

Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs: *Running with Scissors* is the true story of a boy whose mother (a poet with delusions of Anne Sexton) gave him away to be raised by her unorthodox psychiatrist who bore a striking resemblance to Santa Claus.

Educated by Tara Westover: Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. Then, lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself.

AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien (ISBN# 978-0-618-70641-9)

Only a handful of novels and short stories have managed to clarify, in any lasting way, the meaning of the war in Vietnam for America and for the soldiers who served there. With *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien adds his second title to the short list of essential fiction about Vietnam. As he did in his novel *Going After Cacciato* (1978), which won a National Book Award, he captures the war's pulsating rhythms and nerve-racking dangers. But he goes much further. By moving beyond the horror of the fighting to examine with sensitivity and insight the nature of courage and fear, by questioning the role that imagination plays in helping to form our memories and our own versions of truth, he places *The Things They Carried* high up on the list of best fiction about any war. (excerpt from *The New York Times*, March 11, 1990).

Assignment: We require a focused reading; simply reading on-line information or seeing a film is insufficient for A.P. study.

You have no required written assignment; however, during the first week of school, you will complete a written assessment, take a reading assessment test, analyze specific literary elements, apply various literary criticisms, connect the novel's themes and motifs to those found in trench poems, and actively contribute to class discussion. This novel results in multiple grades—opting to not read it or finding an easy way around reading it is an unwise choice.

As you read and explore the novel, we strongly advise that you take notes in which you analyze literary elements such as symbol, imagery, character, theme, motif, figurative language, and narrative perspective. It is not enough to merely identify a device or write a generalization; instead, consider how the device affects the meaning of the text or how your observations shape relationships or connect to the historical or social aspects of the time period in which the text is set.

Ideas to consider as you complete a close and careful reading of the text:

- Interplay between truth and fiction within the context of the novel
- Narrative techniques, particularly the effects of shifting points of view
- The novel as a social commentary on American involvement in the Vietnam War
- The relationship between writing and reality as modeled by Tim O'Brien
- The novel as an instructional manual for how to write well
- Interplay between death/loss and love/intimacy/romance within the context of the novel
- The complex and ambiguous meaning of "to carry"
- The powerful emotions of guilt and shame for the characters in the novel