



South Mecklenburg High School
Suggested Summer Reading Titles
2018-2019

11th grade

We believe our Sabres should continue to read over the summer months. While no formal assignment is due, students should challenge themselves to read as much as possible to help increase their vocabulary and reading comprehension. A list of suggested titles, appropriate for our rising 11th graders, is below. (Descriptions are taken from amazon.com)

Each novel title has a Lexile number next to it. A Lexile measure of a book refers only to its text difficulty; it does not address the content or quality of the book. A Lexile measure is based on two strong predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend, word frequency and sentence length. Many other factors affect the relationship between a reader and a book, including its content, the age and interests of the reader, and the design of the actual book. The Lexile measure is a good starting point while choosing a title, but these other factors should be considered when making a decision about which book to choose.

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson (1210L)

Back in America after twenty years in Britain, Bill Bryson decided to reacquaint himself with his native country by walking the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine.

The Color of Water – A Black Man’s Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride (1140L)

Here is the story of James McBride and his mother--a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a church, and put 12 children through college.

Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier (1140L)

Sorely wounded and fatally disillusioned in the fighting at Petersburg, Inman, a Confederate soldier, decides to walk back to his home in the Blue Ridge Mountains and to Ada, the woman he loved there years before. His trek across the disintegrating South brings him into intimate and sometimes lethal converse with slaves and marauders, bounty hunters and witches, both helpful and malign. At the same time, Ada is trying to revive her father's derelict farm and learn to survive in a world where the old certainties have been swept away.

A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future by Daniel Pink (1150L)

The future belongs to a different kind of person with a different kind of mind: artists, inventors, storytellers-creative and holistic “right brain” thinkers whose abilities mark the fault line between who gets ahead and who doesn’t. The author outlines six fundamentally human abilities that are absolute essentials for professional success and personal fulfillment – and reveals how to master them.

The Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle (1210L)

Topanga Canyon is home to two couples on a collision course. Los Angeles liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher lead an ordered sushi-and-recycling existence in a newly gated hilltop community: he a sensitive nature writer, she an obsessive realtor. Mexican illegals Candido and America Rincon desperately cling to their vision of the American Dream as they fight off starvation in a makeshift camp deep in the ravine. And from the moment a freak accident brings Candido and Delaney into intimate contact, these four and their opposing worlds gradually intersect in what becomes a tragicomedy of error and misunderstanding.

Feed by M.T. Anderson (770L)

A brilliant new satire from the author of *BURGER WUSS* For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play around with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who knows something about what it's like to live without the feed-and about resisting its omnipresent ability to categorize human thoughts and desires.

The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man by James Weldon Johnson (1110L)

"The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man" is James Weldon's Johnson fictional account of a young biracial man living in America during the second half of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century. The so-called "Ex-Colored" man makes his living as a jazz pianist playing ragtime music at a popular New York club. It is here that he catches the attention of a wealthy white gentleman who takes a curious interest in him and employs him to play at his parties. While he becomes friends with the man a feeling of subservience reminiscent of slavery prompts him to part ways. He travels to the south where he intends to work on his music in an attempt to glorify the artistry of his race. After witnessing a terribly horrific lynching he abandons his desire to embrace his black heritage opting instead to "pass" as a white man.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy (670L)

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.