

Grade 10 Summer Reading Requirements

These summer reading selections represent authors and issues that are addressed in the tenth grade curriculum. This list is offered to help prepare you for next year's studies. The faculty and administration believe that it is very important for students to continue reading during the summer months. In September or January, teachers in Language Arts classes will provide opportunities for students to discuss their summer reading, and will use the required material as a springboard to assignments for their course. *To this end, your teachers will test you on your knowledge and understanding of the required readings.* It is strongly recommended that you **take detailed notes about plot, characters, your questions, and your reactions as you read**, and that you **review your notes carefully** before the first day of class.

📖 TENTH GRADE REQUIRED READINGS This year you will explore many views of the America Dream. Your first encounter with this theme will be in a novel by Steinbeck, an American writer and Nobel Prize winner, who frequently set his stories in early 20th century California. Even 100 years ago, people were “California Dreamin’”—viewing the West as the quintessential land of opportunity. Steinbeck shows his readers not only “the dream,” but his take on “the reality” as well.

Honors Language Arts students:

1) Honors students must read

- **John Steinbeck *East of Eden***
This very readable novel is both a family saga and a modern retelling of the biblical story of Cain and Abel. Through the intertwined fates of two families, the Trasks and the Hamiltons, Steinbeck explores the mystery of identity and the inexplicability of love.

2) In addition, Honors students must read ONE of the following books:

- **Julia Alvarez *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents***
Four sisters must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic.
- **Anne Tyler *Digging to America***
Two American families arrive at Baltimore/Washington International Airport in August 1997 to claim the Korean infants they adopted. Strangers until that evening, they are destined to begin a friendship that will span their adoptive daughters' childhoods.
- **Veronica Chambers *Mama's Girl***
This memoir chronicles the author's rise from her underprivileged childhood in Brooklyn to a successful career in journalism. Veronica must come to terms with the painful circumstances of her life - an abusive father, her mother's coldness, and what it means to be black in 1970s America.

REQUIRED READINGS (con't)

CP Language Arts students must read the following book:

- **John Steinbeck *East of Eden*** (See Honors Language Arts for a description.)

CCP Language Arts students must read the following book:

- **John Steinbeck *Of Mice and Men***
This novel, set in Great Depression, tells the story of two migrant workers, who are mutually dependent--one detached from others because he is mentally challenged, the other reliant on the companionship and trust of his slow but adoring partner. By the end, all the major players experience a profound change in their lives--some through prejudice, some through intense tragedy.

📖 OTHER RECOMMENDED (OPTIONAL) READINGS

Reading for pleasure is a habit that has tremendous payoffs. Good readers generally have a better vocabulary, a better knowledge base, and better writing skills than those who rarely read for pleasure. The faculty and administration urge you to make time to read books that you enjoy. For your consideration, here are some recommendations for pleasure reading:

John Steinbeck *Journal of a Novel: The East of Eden Letters*

If you have wondered what the dedication in *East of Eden* means or what Steinbeck originally called the book, this is the place to find the answer. This book recounts the frustrations and musings of Steinbeck during the composition of *East of Eden*.

Steve Lopez *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music*

This is a true story of the remarkable bond between a journalist and a homeless, classically trained musician.

Jeanette Walls *The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls*

In this memoir of her childhood, the author recounts her life with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity present her with major challenges.

Kuwana Haulsey *Angel of Harlem*

This novel is based on the true story of May Edward Chinn, who became the first female physician of Harlem. Weaving scenes from Civil War battlefields, where May's father escaped from slavery, to Harlem kitchen tables, where May is sometimes forced to operate on her patients, this story provides a vivid portrait of a woman who changed the face of medicine.

Mark Salzman *True Notebooks: A Writer's Year at Juvenile Hall*

The author chronicles his first year teaching at Central Juvenile Hall, a lockup for Los Angeles's most violent teenage offenders, and examines what his students taught him about life.

Ken Silverstein *The Radioactive Boy Scout: The Frightening True Story of a Whiz Kid and His Homemade Nuclear Reactor*

This is the story of David Hahn, the Michigan teenager who built a nuclear breeder reactor in his backyard in 1994, endangering the residents of his Michigan hometown and raising the ire of the federal government.

David Guterson *Snow Falling on Cedars*

A murder trial recalls the wartime internment of Japanese-Americans in the Northwest.

Toni Morrison *The Bluest Eye*

Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove -- a black girl in an America with a love for blonde, blue-eyed children -- prays for her eyes to turn blue. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning and the tragedy of its fulfillment.

H.G. Bissinger *Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream*

This is a true story of a Texas oil town's high school football team, and how the Permian Panthers became more than a simple Friday night diversion.

Laura Hillenbrand *Seabiscuit*

Author Laura Hillenbrand brilliantly re-creates a universal underdog story, one that proves life is a horse race.

Dave Eggers *What is the What?*

Eggers tells the story of Valentino Achak Deng, who, along with thousands of other children – the so-called Lost Boys – was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and travel by foot to safety in African refugee camps, and eventually, in America.

Alex Haley *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

This book is the result of a unique collaboration between Malcolm X and Alex Haley, whose own search for his African past, inspired by an encounter with Malcolm X, led him to write the celebrated bestseller *Roots*. The book has since been adapted into a feature film by Spike Lee.

10th Grade Summer Reading



Strath Haven High School 2010