The following summer reading selections represent authors and issues addressed in the twelfth grade curriculum. This list will 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, teachers in Language Arts and/or Social Studies classes will provide opportunities for students to discuss their summer reading and will use the required material as a springboard to assignments for their courses. 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.

**LANGUAGE ARTS REQUIRED READING**

**AP Literature and Composition** students must read four novels:
- Tim O’Brien *The Things They Carried* - REQUIRED
- Carson McCullers *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* - REQUIRED
- **CHOOSE ONE:**
  - Emily Bronte *Wuthering Heights*
  - Toni Morrison *Beloved* (Pulitzer Prize 1988)
  - Barbara Kingsolver *The Poisonwood Bible*
  - Donna Tartt *The Goldfinch* (Pulitzer Prize 2014)
- **CHOOSE ONE**
  - Cormac McCarthy *The Road* (Pulitzer Prize 2007)
  - Octavia Butler *The Parable of the Sower*
  - Anthony Burgess *A Clockwork Orange*
  - Kurt Vonnegut *Cat’s Cradle*

**OPTIONAL and SUGGESTED:**
- Ken Kesey *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (complements *The Bell Jar*)
- Jennifer Egan *A Visit from the Goon Squad* (Pulitzer Prize 2011)
- Jonathan Franzen *Freedom* (Swarthmore College alum)
- Steve Hely *How I Became a Famous Novelist* (contemporary satire)

**Honors Language Arts** students must read two books:
- Tim O’Brien *The Things They Carried*
- **Choose ONE of the following five works:**
  - Paul Kalanithi and Abraham Verghese *When Breath Becomes Air*
  - Drs. Samson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt *The PACT: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream.*
  - Daniel Tammet *Born on a Blue Day*
  - J. D. Vance *Hillbilly Elegy*
  - Tara Westover *Educated*
- **Honors students are encouraged to read** *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl. Every senior will study this work in senior English.

**CP Language Arts students:**
- **Choose ONE of the following five works:**
  - Paul Kalanithi and Abraham Verghese *When Breath Becomes Air*
  - Drs. Samson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt *The PACT: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream.*
  - Daniel Tammet *Born on a Blue Day*
  - J. D. Vance *Hillbilly Elegy*
  - Tara Westover *Educated*
- **CP students are encouraged to read** *Man’s Search for Meaning*. Every senior will study this work in senior English.
Business English students:
- Barbara Ehrenreich *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*

**SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIRED READING**
*College Social Science Seminar* students must read the following three books:
- Thomas de Zengotita *Meditated: How the Media Shapes Your World and the Way You Live in It*
  This book argues that every experience of the individual in today’s world is mediated by technologies to the degree that all of our thoughts and actions have become reflexive and inauthentic.
- Jonathan Kozol *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*
  The author maintains that the educational status of inner-city schools has worsened since the dismantling of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.
- Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein *Nudge*
  The book draws on research in psychology and behavioral economics to defend libertarian paternalism and active engineering of choice architecture.

**Government & Political Philosophy:**
Honors read BOTH. CP read *Nickel and Dimed* only.
- Barbara Ehrenreich *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*
  The author describes her own “undercover” experiment, exploring the situations of Americans who are expected to survive on “the wages of the unskilled.”
- Tim O’Brien *The Things They Carried* (also honors and AP English requirement)

**OTHER RECOMMENDED (OPTIONAL) READINGS**
*These two selections complement Macbeth, a core work in the 12th grade curriculum:*

Margaret Atwood *Oryx and Crake*
This is a dystopian novel (the first in a trilogy) that is at once an unforgettable love story and a disturbing vision of the future.

M.K. Asante *Buck*
In this bruising memoir, author, filmmaker, and Professor Asante recalls his troubled youth in Philadelphia, or, as he calls it, “Killadelphia, Pistolvania.”

Louise Erdich *The Round House*
This novel transports readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. It is an exquisitely told story of a boy on the cusp of manhood who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever transforms his family.

Susan Frazer King *Lady Macbeth*
This work of historical fiction provides an account of the real Lady Macbeth. It transports readers to the heart of 11th century Scotland, painting a bold, vivid portrait of a woman much maligned by history.

Liza Campbell *A Charmed Life: Growing Up in Macbeth’s Castle*
This memoir tells the story of Liza Campbell, the last child to be born at the impressive and renowned Cawdor Castle, as featured in Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*. Honest, entertaining, and well-written, she chronicles the ruination of her father, the twenty-fifth Thane of Cawdor.

Steve Hely *How I Became a Famous Novelist*
The hilarious tale of how an unlikely literary legend’s “pile of garbage” called *The Tornado Ashes Club* becomes the most talked about, blogged about, read, admired, and reviled novel in America.

Robert Louis Stevenson *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
This novel dramatically brings to life a science-fiction case study of the nature of good and evil and the duality that can exist within one person.