



Strath Haven High School

205 S. Providence Road • Wallingford, PA 19086 • 610-892-3470

Grade 12 Summer Reading 2023

The 12th-grade English curriculum, *The Will to Meaning in Literature*, has two core works and other student-selected texts. All seniors will study [*Man's Search for Meaning*](#) and they are encouraged to purchase and read that book prior to the start of the school year.

The following summer reading selections, **English and Social Studies**, thematically complement the 12th-grade curriculum. This list will help prepare you for next year's studies. In September, teachers in Language Arts and/or Social Studies classes will provide opportunities for students to discuss and write about their summer reading. Please note which works are *suggested* versus those that are *required*.

NOTE: If you are in AP Literature, College Social Science Seminar OR AP Language, the summer reading is REQUIRED.

• LANGUAGE ARTS RECOMMENDED READING

AP Literature and Composition students **MUST** read at least three novels. Do not read more than one novel from a category:

- **CHOOSE ONE:**
 - o Emily Brontë *Wuthering Heights*
 - o Toni Morrison *Beloved*
 - o Barbara Kingsolver *The Poisonwood Bible*
 - o Sylvia Plath *The Bell Jar*
 - o Carson McCullers *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*
- **CHOOSE ONE**
 - o Cormac McCarthy *The Road*
 - o Octavia Butler *The Parable of the Sower*
 - o Anthony Burgess *A Clockwork Orange*
 - o Kurt Vonnegut *Cat's Cradle*
 - o Margaret Atwood *The Handmaid's Tale*
- **CHOOSE ONE**
 - o Donna Tartt *The Goldfinch*
 - o Jason Mott *Hell of a Book*
 - o Andrew Sean Greer *Less*
 - o Viet Thanh Nguyen *Sympathizer*
 - o Jennifer Egan *A Visit from the Goon Squad*
 - o Adam Johnson *The Orphan Master's Son*

All A.P. English Language & Composition students must read TWO books:

- Jay Heinrichs *Thank You for Arguing*
- A nonfiction book of your choice

Honors English 12 students SHOULD read two books. These are some recommendations:

- **Fiction Suggestions:**
 - o Jason Mott *Hell of a Book*
 - o Viet Thanh Nguyen *Sympathizer*
 - o Jennifer Egan *A Visit from the Goon Squad*

- Andrew Sean Greer *Less*
- Colson Whitehead *The Nickel Boys*
- Susan Frazer King *Lady Macbeth*
- Paul Beatty *The Sellout*
- **Non-fiction Suggestions:**
 - Tim Madigan *The Burning: Massacre, Destruction, and The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921*
 - 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.*
 - Bryan Stevenson *Just Mercy*
 - Daniel Tammet *Born on a Blue Day*
 - J. D. Vance *Hillbilly Elegy*
 - Tara Westover *Educated*

CP Language Arts students *SHOULD* read two books. These are some recommendations:

- **Fiction Suggestions:**
 - Matthew Quick *Boy21*
 - Angie Thomas *On the Come Up*
 - V. E. Schwab *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*
 - Rainbow Rowell *Carry On*
 - Andy Weir *Project Hail Mary*
 - Jim Carroll *The Basketball Diaries*
 - Margaret Atwood *Oryx and Crake*
- **Non-fiction Suggestions:**
 - Tim Madigan *The Burning: Massacre, Destruction, and The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921*
 - 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.*
 - Bryan Stevenson *Just Mercy*
 - Daniel Tammet *Born on a Blue Day*
 - J. D. Vance *Hillbilly Elegy*
 - Tara Westover *Educated*

● **SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIRED READING**

The following summer reading selections represent authors and issues addressed in the 12th-grade curriculum. This list will help prepare you for next year's studies. In September, teachers in Social Studies classes will provide opportunities for students to discuss their summer reading and will use the recommended material as a springboard to assignments for their courses.

College Social Science Seminar students *MUST* read the following three books:

- **Thomas de Zengotita** *Mediated: 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.

Political Philosophy & American Government:

Honors and CP *MUST* read:

- **Emily Guendelsberger** *On the Clock: What Low Wage Work Did to Me and How It Drives America Insane*