

Summer Reading 2019-2020

For Students in ENGLISH 11 CP and English 11 Honors Courses only (not embedded courses)

Students enrolled in English 11 Honors **MUST** read the following two novels (*Pride and Prejudice*, *Wuthering Heights*); they must also read one of the other works from the titles listed under English 11 CP.

- ***Pride and Prejudice*** -- Jane Austen -- Elizabeth Bennet is the perfect Austen heroine: intelligent, generous, sensible, and incapable of jealousy or any other major sin and with exceptionally sharp 18th century wit.
- ***Wuthering Heights*** – Emily Bronte – Story of the intense passion between the founding Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw, and her betrayal of him.

Students enrolled in English 11 CP **MUST** read two works from the titles listed below.

A writing assessment will be given to students in first semester classes on one novel by the end of September 2019. Other assessment(s) will be given by mid-October 2019 and will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher. These assessments could be in the form of a review, literary analysis, discussion, project, or objective test.

For students in 2nd semester classes, a similar assessment schedule will be announced at that time. Since you will not be tested until January or February of the 2019-20 school year, you might want to wait until the holiday break to read those novels you wish to use for testing.

New to the List:

An Abundance of Katherines – John Green – A sharp, intelligent story, this one full of mathematical problems, historical references, word puzzles, and footnotes. Colin Singleton believes he is a washed-up child prodigy. To make matters worse, he has just been dumped by his most recent girlfriend (a Katherine, of course). What better time for a road trip! He and his buddy Hassan load up and leave Chicago. Then things get interesting. The laugh-out-loud humor ranges from delightfully sophomoric to subtly intellectual. The idea behind the book is that everyone's story counts, and what Colin's contributes to the world, no matter how small it may seem to him, will, indeed, matter.

Where She Went – Gayle Forman -- Picking up several years after the dramatic conclusion of *If I Stay*, *Where She Went* continues the story of Adam and Mia, from Adam's point of view. Ever since Mia's decision to stay - but not with him - Adam's career has been on a wonderful trajectory. His album, borne from the anguish and pain of their breakup, has made him a bona fide star. And Mia herself has become a top-rate cellist, playing in some of the finest venues in the world. When their respective paths put them both in New York City at the same time, the result is a single night in which the two reunite - with wholly satisfying results.

Wintergirls – Laurie Halse Anderson – Lia and Cassie are best friends, wintergirls frozen in fragile bodies, competitors in a deadly contest to see who can be the thinnest. But then Cassie suffers the ultimate loss-her life-and Lia is left behind, haunted by her friend's memory and racked with guilt for not being able to help save her. Award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson explores Lia's struggle, her painful path to recovery, and her desperate attempts to hold on to the most important thing of all: hope.

The Rest of the List

Abe Lincoln Vampire Hunter - Seth Grahame-Smith-- While Abraham Lincoln is widely lauded for saving a Union and freeing millions of slaves, his valiant fight against the forces of the undead has remained in the shadows for hundreds of years. That is, until Seth Grahame-Smith stumbled upon The Secret Journal of Abraham Lincoln, and became the first living person to lay eyes on it in more than 140 years.

The Baseball Codes- Jason Turbow-- Nearly as long as baseball has existed in its current form, so too have unofficial rules that professional players have strictly adhered to. Yet as Turnbow demonstrates in this highly entertaining read, every rule of the code has certain variations.

The Boy Who Fell Out of the Sky: A True Story – Ken Dornstein – a memoir about Dornstein's older brother, David, who was 28 years old and dreamed of being a great writer when he went down with Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland...a completely absorbing look at loss and brotherly love.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon – A bitterly funny novel told by a 15 year old autistic Christopher John Francis Boone who is mathematically gifted and socially hopeless. He takes everything that he sees (or is told) at face-value and is unable to sort out the strange behavior of his elders and peers.

Eaters of the Dead (Previously known as *The 13th Warrior*) or another book by Michael Crichton - Crichton takes his readers on a one-thousand-year-old journey in this adventure novel based on the epic *Beowulf*.

Frankenstein -- Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly – This is a thrilling masterpiece about a man whose hunger to create life drives him to build a monster, which ultimately results in his own ruin.

Grendel - John Gardner - A beautiful and heartbreaking modern retelling of the *Beowulf* epic from the point of view of the monster, Grendel, the villain of the 8th-century Anglo-Saxon epic.

Whitethorn Woods or another novel by Maeve Binchy—In the setting of an Irish village, Binchy is at her best in this tender yet potent tale of a traditional land and people threatened and challenged by the forces of change.

Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10 - Marcus Luttrell-- Four US Navy SEALs departed one clear night in early July 2005 for the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border for a reconnaissance mission. Their task was to document the activity of an al Qaeda leader rumored to be very close to Bin Laden with a small army in a Taliban stronghold. Five days later, only one of those Navy SEALs made it out alive.

The Looking Glass Wars or another volume in the trilogy-- Frank Beddor—A clever, exciting, and humorous novel that puts Lewis Carroll's heroine—along with her loony, puzzle-riddled world—into a new and wholly satisfying frame. In this version, most of Alyss Heart's family and friends are ruthlessly killed by her evil Aunt Redd. Alyss escapes through the Pool of Tears, which is actually a portal between worlds, and winds up in Victorian England and is renamed Alice.

Mister Pip – Lloyd Jones – Reviewed as "One of the best books of the year! Poetic, heartbreaking, surprising, Matilda is a young girl on a tropical island where the horror of civil war lurks. Mr. Watts, the only white person, is the self-appointed teacher of the tiny school where the only textbook is the Dickens novel *Great Expectations*"—includes elements of courage, beauty, memories and sudden violence.

***The Mists of Avalon* or another novel by** Marion Zimmer Bradley – A retelling of The Arthurian Legend from the point of view of the women behind the throne-- Morgaine (Morgan Le Fay) and Gwenhwyfar (Guinevere).

A novel by Agatha Christie, the Grand Dame of Mystery. -- She is especially known for her stories featuring detectives Hercule Poirot or Miss Jane Marple. **Please do not read *And Then There Were None* (*Ten Little Indians*)** as this is a middle school selection.

My Boy Jack?– Tonie Holt – A beautifully written, hard-to-put-down book that covers Kipling's life from childhood thru death and shows how he influenced his only son into joining the Irish Guards at the beginning of the Great War. His son was killed on his first day in combat and his body never recovered. Now, 77 years later, they think they have found him or have they?

The Pillars of the Earth* or *World without End-- Ken Follett -- Spellbinding epics set in England, these novels tell the story of a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state, and brother against brother. This will appeal to lovers of exciting adventure stories and historical fiction

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies - Seth Grahame-Smith-- For more than 50 years, England has been overrun by zombies, prompting people like the Bennets to send their daughters away to China for training in the art of deadly combat, and prompting others, like Lady Catherine de Bourgh, to employ armies of ninjas. Added to the familiar plot turns that bring Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy together is the fact that both are highly skilled killers, gleefully slaying zombies on the way to their happy ending.

Treasure -- or another novel by Clive Cussler – In this thriller, Dirk Pitt is up against an international band of terrorists who are making a play for world power on the high seas, and Pitt is the only man alive who can stop them.

Here be Dragons -- Sharon Kay Penman-- This is the first book in the Wales trilogy (the others are *Falls the Shadow* and *The Reckoning*). It is about Llewelyn, the Great, and his dream to create a free and united Wales. It's got everything: battles, politics, romance and above all, a fascinating, marvelously accurate window into a world completely unlike our own.