

Dear Students,

Welcome to **Honors English II** (formerly known as Pre-AP)! One of the primary concerns of this course is the world around us and how we make sense of it, and the consumption of literature allows for these questions and studies to take place. Your Summer Reading assignment is to choose and independently **read one** work of fiction **from the list of books below**. This list was generated using recommendations from past Honors English II students and in consideration of the reading level expected from students in an advanced course; many titles on this list have received awards and accolades from a wide variety of literary magazines and organizations.

To help with your selection and as you preview each option, you will need to do some research on authors, reviews, and story summaries. Amazon or Goodreads are good places to start this process. Additionally, please keep your personal and family values in mind as you choose a title, and know that we encourage you to speak with your parents/guardians about your text selection. Remember that we want you to enjoy reading this novel! You may purchase or locate a hard copy or digital version of your book.

The Kite Runner — Khaled Hosseini
The Nickel Boys—Colson Whitehead
All the Light We Cannot See—Anthony Doerr
No Country for Old Men—Cormac McCarthy
The Goldfinch—Donna Tartt
Everything I Never Told You—Celeste Ng
The Lovely Bones—Alice Sebold
11/22/63—Stephen King
The Girl Who Fell From the Sky—Heidi Durrow

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime—Mark Haddon
Where the Crawdads Sing—Delia Owens
One of Us is Lying—Karen McManus
In the Time of Butterflies—Julia Alvarez
The Bonesetter's Daughter—Amy Tan
The Blind Assassin—Margaret Atwood
There, There—Tommy Orange

Remember that we read literature to figure out the tough stuff in the world. So look for **complexity** in the author's choices of characterization, POV, plot, setting, and style:

- a. **Tensions** - conflicts between two forces or ideas.
- b. **Paradoxes** - a person or situation that contains contradictions.
- c. **Ironies** - a state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects.
- d. **Parallels** - two people or ideas or elements of the text that are so similar, but also different.
- e. **Ambiguities** - purposefully vague. Something that raises questions. There's a reason that something hasn't been revealed yet.

As you read, keep a pencil handy to annotate your observations and thoughts as you read. Be ready by the first day of school to discuss your reading with your classmates and to complete a writing assignment using your book.

In addition to reading one book from this list for class, we encourage you to continue reading for your own enjoyment. We will read these titles (whole class/choice literature circles) during the school year, so please **do not** select them for your independent reading:

The Catcher in the Rye — J.D. Salinger
1984 — George Orwell
The Handmaid's Tale — Margaret Atwood
Brave New World — Aldous Huxley
Fahrenheit 451— Ray Bradbury

Outliers—Malcolm Gladwell
The Glass Castle — Jeannette Walls
A Long Way Gone—Ishmael Beah

Please finish reading your book by the first day of school. Have a great summer! 😎

Best wishes,

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