

2020 CCDS Upper School English Summer Reading

Note that Honors students are required to read an additional book. If you have any questions about the titles or expectations, please speak with your English teacher.

This will be the first test of the semester. You may also be required to write an essay.

Each grade will read the “required” book and choose one from the remaining options. *nonfiction.

9th grade, two books:

The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkien

Whisked away on an adventure by a wizard and dwarves, a complacent hobbit sets out for treasure but discovers a dark, menacing world and a magic ring.

Additionally, choose one of the following:

Does My Head Look Big in This, Randa Abdel-Fattah

Sixteen-year-old Amal decides to wear the hijab full-time and her world changes.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie

A young boy leaves his Spokane Indian reservation for an all-white school.

10th grade, two books:

Required: ***The Shadow of the Wind, Carlos Ruiz Zafon***

A boy's magical journey through the secrets and shadows of postwar Barcelona in search of a mysterious author whose book proves as dangerous to own as it is impossible to forget.

Additionally, choose one of the following:

****They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky, Benjamin Ajak, Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng***

Driven from their homes by civil war, three young Sudanese boys embark on an epic odyssey of survival, face life-threatening perils, and ultimately find a new life in America.

The Hate U Give, Angie Thomas

After her friend is killed by a white police officer, the sole witness, whose life straddles the worlds of privilege and poverty, must testify before a grand jury that will decide whether to indict.

We Were Liars, E. Lockhart

Lazy days of sticky lemonades on the roof and marathon Scrabble games give way to suspense, love, and good intentions gone wrong.

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Honors 19th Century Literature: In addition to these 2 selections, ***The Handmaid’s Tale*** by Margaret Atwood

11th grade, two books:

Required:

A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Hosseini

Three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny is told through the lives of two women.

Additionally, choose one of the following:

Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel

A devastating flu pandemic arrives in the city, and within weeks civilization as we know it comes to an end.

****Educated, Tara Westover***

In this memoir, a young girl, kept out of school until age 17, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

Trail of Lightning, Rebecca Roanhorse

Navajo monster-slayer Maggie Hoskie must track and defeat a mysterious magical enemy in the postapocalyptic remnants of the North American west.

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AP Literature Students: In addition to these 2 selections, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

Juniors taking Honors 19th Century Literature: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

12th grade, two books:

Required:

Parable of the Sower, Octavia Butler

In an America suffering a slow economic and ecological collapse, the adults in Lauren's gated community are clinging to the world as they knew it, but teenaged Lauren is planning for the future.

Additionally, choose one of the following:

Everything I never told you, Celeste Ng

A girl goes missing, a boy who was one of the last to see her won't say what he knows, and a family unravels.

Oryx and Crake, Margaret Atwood

In a near-future world the only human left on the planet scavenges and tends to his insect bites as he recalls in flashbacks how the world fell apart.

****Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail, Cheryl Strayed***

Alone and inexperienced, the author hikes more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert to Washington State.

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Honors Modern Literature Students: In addition to these 2 selections, *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid

AP Literature Students: In addition to these 2 selections, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.