

SOPHOMORE AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION  
SUMMER READING LIST

As part of our effort here at Chilton County High School to improve reading scores (ACT), the faculty and administration require all students to participate in the summer reading program. The truth is that students do not read as much as they have in the past. Sadly, this trend is often reflected in graduation rates, ACT scores, and lowered freshman college grades. Good reading and writing skills are imperative for future success in all areas of life. Therefore, like many schools in the state and nation, summer reading is a necessary part of the curriculum at CCHS.

Summer reading is a way of completing part of the REQUIRED reading for English classes ahead of time. This summer, please read from the following list of literary works, and to have it/them completed by the first day of school in August 2018. Within the first three weeks of school in August, you will need to complete an Accelerated Reader test for each book and/or play. These grades will be among the first grades you will receive in your English class, regardless of your teacher. Having said that, you will not be able to take an AR test for a book on which you have already tested; therefore, **you must choose a book that you have not read, or been tested on, previously.** Summer reading is just that: **SUMMER READING.** All students will be given an opportunity to take the AR test in the library during the first week of school. **It will be your responsibility to avail yourself of that opportunity. No grade(s) will be given for AR tests taken after the closing date.**

Students enrolled in **GENERAL ENGLISH 10** should read at least **ONE (1)** book from the following selections:

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| 1. <i>For One More Day</i> , by Mitch Albom;   | 13. <i>Across Five Aprils</i> , by Irene Hunt;                       |
| 2. <i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i> , by Mitch Albom;   | 14. <i>Legend</i> , by Marie Lu;                                     |
| 3. <i>Brian's Song</i> , by William Blinn;   | 15. <i>Cinder</i> , by Marissa Meyer;                                |
| 4. <i>Inferno</i> , by Dan Brown;  | 16. <i>The Things They Carried</i> , by Tim O'Brien;                 |
| 5. <i>City of Ashes</i> , by Clarissa Clare;   | 17. <i>The Last Lecture</i> , by Randy Pausch;                       |
| 6. <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> , by Frederick Douglass;                           | 18. <i>A Day No Pigs Would Die</i> , by Robert Newton Peck;          |
| 7. <i>Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, &amp; Priorities of a Winning Life</i> , by Tony Dungy; | 19. <i>The Yearling</i> , by Marjorie Rawlings;                      |
| 8. <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> , by Ernest Gaines;  | 20. <i>A Break with Charity</i> , by Ann Rinaldi;                    |
| 9. <i>Looking for Alaska</i> , by John Green;  | 21. <i>Article 5</i> , by Kristen Simmons;                           |
| 10. <i>Black Like Me</i> , by John Griffin;  | 22. <i>The Guardian</i> , by Nicholas Sparks;                        |
| 11. <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> , by Lorraine Hansberry;  | 23. <i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i> , by Elizabeth George Speare; |
| 12. <i>North of Beautiful</i> , by Justina Chen Headley;   | 24. <i>Izzy-Willy Nilly</i> , by Cynthia Voigt;                      |
|  | 25. <i>The Piano Lesson</i> , by August Wilson;                      |
|  | 26. <i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i> , by Jane Yolen.                   |

You may find these works at any bookstore or public library, or you may check them out from our school library. Listen for announcements concerning check-out times. Additionally, many of these books are available online, at no cost you, at [googlebooks.com](http://googlebooks.com). E-book formats are also available, free of charge, from a number of providers (e.g., [librivox.org](http://librivox.org), Kindle, and/or Project Gutenberg). Finding copies for the summer is **your** responsibility. When I say **READ**, I do mean **READ**. Watching the movie or reading the Sparknotes summary is not satisfactory. **The AR test(s) you will take on the books are based on the books, and the movies always get something wrong.**

A WORD OF CAUTION: The books listed for summer reading are meant to give you a positive literary experience of reading powerful writing. The books are not all young-adult literature; some are adult novels and many are written from a mature perspective. Some of the books on this list contain scenes of graphic violence, drug usage, sexual situations, and/or language, that some may perceive as offensive. Students should exercise good judgment in reading these books. Reading works which investigate difficult ethical choices and/or actions does not necessarily celebrate the choices made by a character. English classes are designed to enable students to see how the English language can be used to convey the human experience in vivid, dramatic, and often unforgettable ways. If you would like assistance in selecting a book for summer reading, please ask a teacher or librarian for help, or come to Room 6 before school dismisses for Summer.

Sincerely,

Carter Buttram  
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