

Purpose: The Summer Reading Program encourages students to enjoy, think about, and evaluate what they read.

Reading/Writing Requirements: Summer reading is worth up to **10 %** of your first-quarter grade. Read the book closely and be prepared to respond to a long composition prompt during the first full week of school in September.

- CP and Standard students choose **one** book from the list below.
- Honors students choose **two** books from the list below.
- AP students must read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain and another book from this list.

EXTRA CREDIT: You may earn extra credit by reading a second book from this list and / or keeping a journal using the summer reading journal prompts (see your teacher or the FHS website).

Albee, Edward: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

In this play, George and Martha, a middle-aged couple, who hurl insults at each other unravel the innocence of the other couple, Nick and Honey. Each character must face a host of emotions caused by frustration, unrequited love, and guilt.

Alexie, Sherman: Flight

Zits is a fifteen-year-old who is half Native/half Irish who has been through the foster care system many times. He escapes into a fantasy world where he time travels and takes on the persona of several characters, including an FBI agent and a Native boy at Custard's Last Stand.

Benioff, David: City of Thieves

Having elected to stay in Leningrad during the siege during WWII in Russia, 17-year-old Lev Beniov is caught looting a German paratrooper's corpse. The penalty for this infraction is execution. But when Colonel Grechko confronts Lev, he spares them by sending them on a mission that exposes him to the starved populace and takes them behind enemy lines to the Russian countryside.

Carson, Rachel: Silent Spring

In 1960, a woman noticed the birds had stopped singing and their population had severely decreased in her neighborhood. She summoned a friend, biologist/writer Rachel Carson, to investigate this mystery. Subsequently, Carson's discoveries and efforts were brought to the forefront in this book. The overuse of pesticides, including DDT, had poisoned the environment. Carson's book prompted the environmental movement that exists today.

Collins, Suzanne: Catching Fire

In this sequel to Hunger Games, Katniss, the narrator, returns home to find herself more the center of attention than ever. Though initially bewildered by the attention paid to her, Katniss comes to embrace her status as the rebels' symbolic leader.

Conroy, Pat: My Losing Season

Conroy's tale follows his senior year, but also delves into his life as it centers around his basketball and academic careers. At the forefront of the scenes from his life is the behavior of his father, an abusive marine. He chronicles, game by game, his teammates' talent and his sheer determination and grit.

D'Orso, Michael: Eagle Blue: A Team, a Tribe:

The author follows the Fort Yukon Eagles through their 2005 season to the state championship, shifting between a mesmerizing narrative and the thoughts of the players, their coach and fans. It's a striking portrait of a community consisting of a traditional culture bombarded with modernity, where alcoholism, domestic violence and school dropout rates run wild.

Ellison, Ralph: Invisible Man

This book chronicles the travels of a young black man from his expulsion from a southern black college to NYC. It's about the human race stumbling down the path to identity. To find the truth about himself becomes tricky, and yet no one knows this better than the invisible man.

Faulkner, William: Light in August/The Sound and the Fury

Light in August: This novel mixes three stories into one: Lena Grove, Joe Christmas, and Reverend Gail Hightower. Set in the American south, the characters feel trapped and isolated by the bigotry of a small town, race identity, and strict religious upbringing.

The Sound and The Fury: Benjy, Quentin, and Jason Compson each narrate this novel about the downfall of their family, and in particular, the obsessive focus on their beautiful and rebellious sister, Caddy. Benjy is a mentally-challenged man who has no concept of time. Quentin is a young man who is full of despair. Jason is considered the "cruel" brother. The last section is narrated by an omnipresent narrator, but the focus is on Dilsey, the Compson's African-American servant.

Hemingway, Ernest: A Farewell to Arms

Frederick Henry, an American ambulance driver for the Italian army falls in love with a British nurse named Catherine Barkley during WWI. It is a story of love, desertion, and the inevitable approach of death.

Kingsolver, Barbara: Pigs in Heaven

In this sequel to The Bean Trees, a young Cherokee tribal lawyer comes to the door to claim Taylor's illegally adopted Indian daughter. The story follows Taylor and Turtle's odyssey across the West as they flee from the threat of separation and exist on minimum-wage earnings.

Kuklin, Susan: No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row (hardback)

Kuklin takes us inside America's prisons and allows the teenagers to speak in their own voices. They reveal their feelings about their lives in prison and how they arrived there. Taken from interview transcripts, the prisoners' words are weaved with Kuklin's details about the alleged crimes, legal issues, and prisoners' backgrounds.

Lamb, Wally: She's Come Undone

Dolores Price experiences pain and sadness, but she also wants to reclaim her life with hope and laughter. It is about a young girl's transformation from a victim of abuse to a self-aware young woman.

Lott, Bret: Jewel

Jewel gives birth to Brenda Kay, a Down Syndrome child, and refuses to put her in an institution. Her devotion causes financial and domestic hardship on her husband, Leston and her five other children. It is a story of familial love, acceptance, and sacrifice.

Morgenroth, Kate: Jude

Morgenroth tells the compelling story of Jude, 15, who is caught in a world of murder, drugs, and cover ups that reaches into his Connecticut home and high school.

Morrison, Toni: The Bluest Eye

Claudia MacTeer recounts the tragic events of her best friend, Pecola Breedlove. Pecola's family constantly fights, and she and her brother look for ways to escape. She thinks that if her eyes were blue, things would be different—they would be pretty, and more than that, she would be pretty.

Nguyen, Kien: Unwanted

In this memoir, Nguyen writes a poignant and honest portrayal of the day-to-day life of the Vietnamese after the fall of Saigon in 1975. Nguyen reveals how he went from a child of privilege to one of fear in Communist Vietnam. As an Amerasian, the illegitimate child of an American GI and a wealthy Vietnamese woman, he endures the shallowness of the bureaucracy, family betrayal, and physical and emotional turmoil until his emigration to the United States ten years later.

Patterson, James: Lifeguard

Ned Kelly grew up on the wrong side of the tracks in Brockton, but he got out, and now he's interested in a beautiful woman named Tess. He has decided to chance one last heist with four of his childhood friends. Ned's friends realize they've been double-crossed, and all four are murdered. Then Tess is found dead in her hotel room, and, fearing how bad things are looking for him, Ned goes on the lam.

Picoult, Jodi: The Tenth Circle

When Daniel Stone was a child, he was the only white boy in a native Eskimo village where his mother taught, and he was teased mercilessly because he was different. He fought back: stealing, drinking, robbing and cheating his way out of the Alaskan bush—where he honed his artistic talent and fell in love with a girl.

Small, David: Stitches: a memoir by David Small

Small uses his drawings to depict the consciousness of a young boy from six years old through adolescence and into adulthood. The youngest member of a silent and unhappy family, David is subjected to repeated x-rays to monitor sinus problems. When he develops cancer as a result of this procedure, he is operated on which results in the loss of his voice. Small's black and white pen and ink drawings are endlessly perceptive as they portray the layering of dream and imagination onto the real-life experiences of the young boy.

Steinbeck, John: The Grapes of Wrath

The Joads are good and decent people looking for the means to earn an honest wage and thereby feed their family. They are tenant farmers from Oklahoma, but are forced off the land. They dream of California with its luscious crops to pick and load up their belongings for the journey. Unfortunately, thousands of others are making this journey as well, and soon there are too few jobs and they have to work for low wages. It is a moving portrayal of a family love and survival.

Stout, Elizabeth: Olive Kitteredge

Olive Kitteridge, a seventh-grade math teacher in Crosby, Maine is quite a force. Her husband, Henry, loves and tolerates her. She drives her son, Chris, into therapy and across the country. However, she is an easy character to sympathize with and undoubtedly one to remember.

Suskind, Ron: A Hope Unseen

Suskind writes about Cedric Jennings in his last 18 months of high school and into his first year at Brown. Cedric, an African-American living in inner-city DC, struggles with his desire to succeed and to fit in. His mother believes in him, but she also cannot support him financially. His father is in and out of prison. Cedric is a determined young man who wrestles with the inner city culture of drugs, his childhood faith, and his loyalty to his family.

Twain, Mark: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

A Connecticut shop foreman from the 19th century "time travels" to sixth century Great Britain. Twain's satire reveals how a barely educated man, Hank Morgan, can become "The Boss," (basically the King) because of his ability to have knowledge that a sixth century man hasn't acquired yet. Twain mocks the concept of the hereditary monarchy and the church which supported it.