

Summer Reading 2017-2018

Honors English 9

Mrs. Bradley

Welcome!

In preparation for next school year, you are expected to complete the following summer reading assignment:

You will read three novels. Two will be chosen from the provided list, and the third will be an individual selection.

From the following list, please choose **two** works:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Mark Haddon

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

The Book Thief, Markus Zusak

The Last Lecture, Randy Pausch

(Several of these titles deal with adult and 'real-world' issues and/or use mature language. Please check out some Amazon reviews in your decision making process.)

For your final novel, you may choose a book. Make sure it's something that's interesting to you, but it should also be a challenging read. It must be at least a ninth-grade reading level, and it must be something you haven't already read. Novels are given a Lexile Level score. Your book should be no less than an 855L. There are websites that list books by Lexile level, or you can choose a book, and then Google 'lexile score for [title of your book]'.

If you are worried about your choice, feel free to email me. My address is at the end of this document.

Once you've completed your readings, you must respond to the following:

For the **two novels from the list**:

You will compose an expository essay that discusses the following:

Explain what drew you to the two novels you chose and whether or not they lived up to your expectations.

This essay should be a minimum of 5 paragraphs, adhering to proper essay structure and proper mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation), and it must include textual evidence and support.

For your **choice** novel:

You will prepare a book talk to be given during the first two weeks of school. The project assignment is attached.

Summer Reading Book Talks

You will choose and complete one of the following assignments, which will be turned in on the first day of school.

Then during the first two weeks of school, you will present your book talk project.

1. Complete each of these eight ideas with material growing out of the book you read: This book made me wish that. . ., realize that. . ., decide that. . ., wonder about. . ., see that. . ., believe that . . ., feel that . . ., and hope that. . .
2. Imagine that you have been given the task of conducting a tour of the town in which the book you read is set. Make a tape describing the homes of your characters and the places where important events in the book took place. You may want to use a musical background for your tape.
3. Plan a party for the characters in the book you read. In order to do this, complete each of the following tasks: (a) Design an invitation to the party which would appeal to all of the characters. (b) Imagine that you are five of the characters in the book and tell what each would wear to the party. (c) Tell what food you would serve and why. (d) Tell what games or entertainment you will provide and why your choices are appropriate. (e) Tell how three of the characters will act at the party. (f) What kind of a party is this? (birthday, housewarming, un-birthday, anniversary, etc.)
4. Design an advertising campaign to promote the sale of the book you read. Include each of the following: a poster, a radio or TV commercial, a magazine or newspaper ad, a bumper sticker, and a button.
5. Rewrite the story as a picture book. Use simple vocabulary so that it may be enjoyed by younger students.
6. Write the first chapter for a sequel. Outline what would happen in the rest of book.

A few parting words:

Do not plagiarize. If you plagiarize, you will receive no points. Please do not waste your time or mine.

Spelling and grammar count!

Be prepared to take an essay test over the readings within the first few weeks of the year (up to 100 points). You will also be participating in 'chat stations' during the first week of school to discuss your readings.

If you have any questions throughout the summer, please feel free to email me at cassandra.bradley@strutherscityschools.org. Put "summer reading" in the subject line.

Have a wonderful summer, and I'll see you in August!

Mrs. Bradley

Honors English 10 Summer Reading List
Mr. Gage

Read **three** novels from the list below. At least one of the books must come from the asterisked (*) titles.

- **The Last of the Mohicans* – James Fenimore Cooper
- A Lesson Before Dying* - Ernest Gaines
- **The Grapes of Wrath* - John Steinbeck
- **The Red Badge of Courage* - Stephen Crane
- * *Oliver Twist* – Charles Dickens
- The Old Man and the Sea* - Ernest Hemingway
- **Les Misérables* – Victor Hugo (Abridged Version)
- **The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald
- **The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne (Do not read “The Custom House”)
- The Five People You Meet in Heaven* – Mitch Albom
- The DaVinci Code* – Dan Brown
- Angels and Demons* – Dan Brown
- **Ethan Frome* – Edith Wharton
- **Don Quixote* – Miguel de Cervantes (Abridged Version)

On the first day of school, you will turn in six **hard copy** journal entries (two for each novel) of about 150 words each in which you explore your reactions to the novel, observations on the process of your reading, and the significance of any *literary elements* you notice contributing to your experience with the novel. For each book, write one journal when you reach the halfway point and the other upon completion. (100 pts.)

-- You will also be given an essay test covering your summer readings at the beginning of the school year. (100 pts.)

Cautions:

1. Plagiarism of any type (including Spark Notes, etc.) will result in a grade of zero. Is it worth the risk?
2. If there is a film version of the novel, chances are real good I've seen it.
3. The thinnest books are not necessarily the easiest ones to read (don't judge a book by its thickness).

If you have any questions concerning the summer reading requirements, please feel free to contact me. (Do not send me invitations to edit unless you have a specific question).

E Mail: richard.gage@strutherscityschools.org (type “summer reading” as the subject)

Have a Nice Summer – See You on August 23!

Honors English 11

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

From the list provided, select **THREE** that interest you. After reading, respond to the following prompt.

FORMAT: Times New Roman, 12, Double-spaced, Length: You decide.

PROMPT: A literary critic once wrote, “Each individual carries a seed of destiny within him or herself and is thus endowed with a mission – which may be only dimly perceived – to grow, to struggle free and assert his or her own unique existence.” After reflecting on characters from this summer reading list, choose **THREE** who can be identified with this idea of mission. Explain whether you think these characters recognize and accept their missions. Also explore how one’s knowledge of his or her mission spurs his or her character development within the book.

There will be an additional assignment when we return from summer break.

I can’t wait to see you in August!

If you have questions, please e-mail me: stephanie.muntean@strutherscityschools.org

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons — their love, their sacrifices, their lies.



A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years, *The Kite Runner* is an unusual and powerful novel that has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic.

***Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline**

Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to “aging out” out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...



As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance.

Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life — answers that will ultimately free them both.

Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

***Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein**

Oct. 11th, 1943. A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun.



When “Verity” is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution.

As she intricately weaves her confession, Verity uncovers her past, how she became friends with the pilot Maddie, and why she left Maddie in the wrecked fuselage of their plane. On each new scrap of paper, Verity battles for her life, confronting her views on courage, failure and her desperate hope to make it home. But will trading her secrets be enough to save her from the enemy?

A Michael L. Printz Award Honor book that was called “a fiendishly-plotted mind game of a novel” in *The New York Times*, *Code Name Verity* is a visceral read of danger, resolve, and survival that shows just how far true friends will go to save each other.

***The Lock Artist* by Steve Hamilton**

"I was the Miracle Boy, once upon a time. Later on, the Milford Mute. The Golden Boy. The Young Ghost. The Kid. The Boxman. The Lock Artist. That was all me. But you can call me Mike."

Marked by tragedy, traumatized at the age of eight, Michael, now 18, is no ordinary young man. Besides not uttering a single word in 10 years, he discovers the one thing he can somehow do better than anyone else. Whether it's a locked door without a key, a padlock with no combination, or even an 800 pound safe... he can open them all.



It's an unforgivable talent. A talent that will make young Michael a hot commodity with the wrong people and, whether he likes it or not, push him ever close to a life of crime. Until he finally sees his chance to escape, and with one desperate gamble risks everything to come back home to the only person he ever loved, and to unlock the secret that has kept him silent for so long.

Steve Hamilton steps away from his Edgar Award-winning Alex McKnight series to introduce a unique new character, unlike anyone you've ever seen in the world of crime fiction.

***The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E. Lockhart**

Frankie Landau-Banks at age 14:

Debate Club.

Her father's "bunny rabbit."

A mildly geeky girl attending a highly competitive boarding school.



Frankie Landau-Banks at age 15:

A knockout figure.

A sharp tongue.

A chip on her shoulder.

And a gorgeous new senior boyfriend: the supremely goofy, word-obsessed Matthew Livingston.

Frankie Landau-Banks.

No longer the kind of girl to take "no" for an answer.

Especially when "no" means she's excluded from her boyfriend's all-male secret society.

Not when her ex-boyfriend shows up in the strangest of places.

Not when she knows she's smarter than any of them.

When she knows Matthew's lying to her.

And when there are so many, many pranks to be done.

Frankie Landau-Banks, at age 16:

Possibly a criminal mastermind.

This is the story of how she got that way.

***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett**

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town...



***The Martian* by Andy Weir**

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars.

Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there.



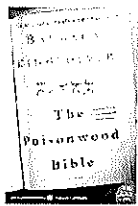
After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive — and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive.

Chances are, though, he won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first.

But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills — and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit — he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver**

The Poisonwood Bible is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it — from garden seeds to Scripture — is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.



The novel is set against one of the most dramatic political chronicles of the 20th century: the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium, the murder of its first elected prime minister, the CIA coup to install his replacement, and the insidious progress of a world economic order that robs the fledgling African nation of its autonomy. Against this backdrop, Orleana Price reconstructs the story of her evangelist husband's part in the Western assault on Africa, a tale indelibly darkened by her own losses and unanswerable questions about her own culpability. Also narrating the story, by turns, are her four daughters — the self-centered, teenaged Rachel; shrewd adolescent twins Leah and Adah; and Ruth May, a prescient five-year-old. These sharply observant girls, who arrive in the Congo with racial preconceptions forged in 1950s Georgia, will be marked in surprisingly different ways by their father's intractable mission, and by Africa itself. Ultimately each must strike her own separate path to salvation. Their passionately intertwined stories become a compelling exploration of moral risk and personal responsibility.

Dancing between the dark comedy of human failings and the breathtaking possibilities of human hope, *The Poisonwood Bible* possesses all that has distinguished Barbara Kingsolver's previous work, and extends this beloved writer's vision to an entirely new level. Taking its place alongside the classic works of postcolonial literature, this ambitious novel establishes Kingsolver as one of the most thoughtful and daring of modern writers.

***I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai**

“I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday.”



When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala’s miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At 16, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I Am Malala is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls’ education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

I Am Malala will make you believe in the power of one person’s voice to inspire change in the world.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

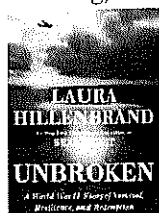


Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist – books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

***Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand**

In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World



War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended

on the fraying wire of his will.

Unbroken is an unforgettable testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit, brought vividly to life by *Seabiscuit* author Laura Hillenbrand.

***Stolen* by Lucy Christopher**



Gemma, 16, is on layover at Bangkok Airport, en route with her parents to a vacation in Vietnam. She steps away for just a second, to get a cup of coffee. Ty — rugged, tan, too old, oddly familiar — pays for Gemma's drink. And drugs it. They talk. Their hands touch. And before Gemma knows what's happening, Ty takes her. Steals her away. The unknowing object of a long obsession, Gemma has been kidnapped by her stalker and brought to the desolate Australian Outback. *Stolen* is her gripping story of survival, of how she has to come to terms with her living nightmare — or die trying to fight it.

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho**



Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different — and far more satisfying — than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

