

Required Reading for Summer 2021
OAHS English Department

9th Grade

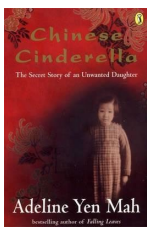
- Students entering the 9 Honors course MUST choose the cluster of texts designated for 9 Honors (Cluster 4).
- All other students must choose one of the themed clusters listed below (Cluster 1-3) and complete the reading of two texts. Students may not mix and match texts from different clusters. Within each cluster, students must read the non-fiction text designated “Required Read,” but they may choose one of the three fiction texts listed.

Cluster 1

Theme: Coming of Age

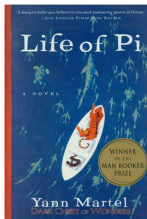
This cluster includes the most accessible reads.

REQUIRED READ:

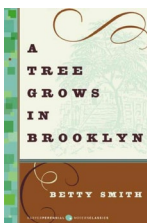


Chinese Cinderella: The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah (nonfiction)
Adeline Yen Mah tells the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they cannot compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family. (960L)

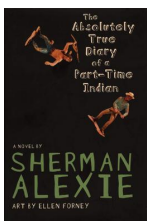
CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



Life of Pi by Yann Martel
The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes. The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. (830L)



A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* tells the story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg. The daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness. (810L)



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie*
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live. (600L) *may contain sensitive content

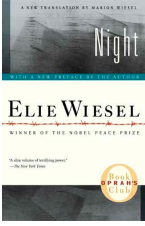
L = Lexile measure

Cluster 2

Theme: Effects of Inequality and Prejudice

This cluster includes more challenging reads.

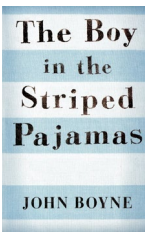
REQUIRED READ:



Night by Elie Wiesel (nonfiction)

Elie Wiesel's masterpiece is a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps, Auschwitz and Buchenwald in 1944–1945, at the height of the Holocaust and toward the end of the Second World War. (570L)

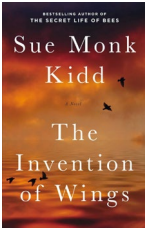
CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



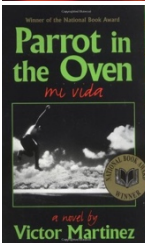
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

A young boy named Bruno returns home from school one day to discover that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. While exploring his new environment called "Out-With", he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences. (1080L)

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd



Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten-year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. (920L)



Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida by Victor Martinez

Manny, a teenage Mexican American boy, attempts to find his place in a society full of disappointment. Set in the projects, Manny gives a very realistic account of what it is like to grow up as a minority in a poor, dysfunctional home. Receiving no real direction from his family, Manny battles with what type of man he should and will become. (1000L)

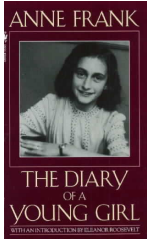
L = Lexile measure

Cluster 3

Theme: Desire for Companionship and Acceptance

This cluster includes more challenging reads.

REQUIRED READ:

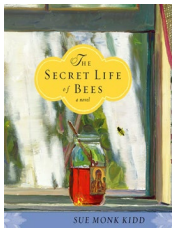


The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank (nonfiction)*

Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the horrors of Nazi occupation forces, hid in the back of an Amsterdam office building for two years. This is Anne's record of that time. She was thirteen when the family went into the "Secret Annex," and in these pages, she grows to be a young woman and proves to be an insightful observer of human nature as well. (1080L)

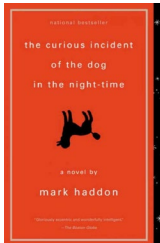
*may contain sensitive content.

CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



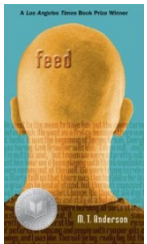
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the town's most vicious racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There they are taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna who presides over their household. (840L)



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon*

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating novels in recent years. (1180L) *may contain sensitive content



Feed by M.T. Anderson*

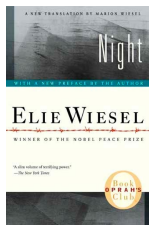
Feed is a smart, savage satire that delves into identity crises, consumerism, and star-crossed teenage love in a futuristic society where people connect to the Internet via feeds implanted in their brains. (770L) *may contain sensitive content

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Cluster 4
9 HONORS

This cluster is designated for 9 Honors students ONLY.

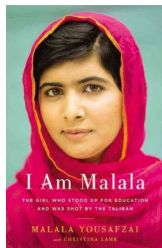
REQUIRED READ:



Night by Elie Wiesel (nonfiction)

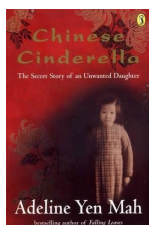
Elie Wiesel's masterpiece is a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps, Auschwitz and Buchenwald in 1944–1945, at the height of the Holocaust and toward the end of the Second World War. (570L)

CHOOSE ONE (both nonfiction):



I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai (nonfiction)

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. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. (1000L)



Chinese Cinderella: The Secret Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah (nonfiction)

Adeline Yen Mah tells the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled.

Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they cannot compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family. (960L)

L = Lexile measure

9th Grade Assignment: Clusters 1-3

Formative Assessments

Students will complete written and multiple-choice assessments designed to measure reading comprehension and knowledge of literary devices during the **second week of school**. Students are strongly urged but NOT required to take notes on the recommended form while reading.

9th Grade Assignment: 9 Honors ONLY

Expository Essay

(performance assessment)

Essay will be written the **first week of school**. Students are strongly urged but NOT required to take their own notes while reading.

10th Grade

- Students entering the 10 Honors course **MUST** choose the cluster of texts designated for 10 Honors

(Cluster 4).

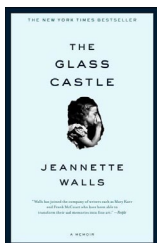
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Cluster 1

Theme: The Quest for Self-Identity

This cluster includes the most accessible reads.

REQUIRED READ:

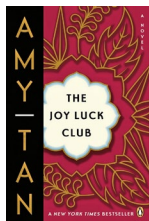


The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls (nonfiction)*

Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves and finally found the resources and will to leave home. (1010L)

*may contain sensitive content

CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



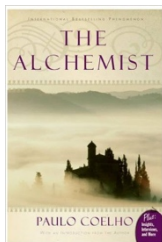
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. (920L)



Paper Towns by John Green*

When Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night—dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge—he follows her. Margo’s always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she’s always planned solo. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q . . . until day breaks and she has vanished. Always an enigma, Margo has now become a mystery. But there are clues. And they’re for Q. (850L) *may contain sensitive content



The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

This story is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. What starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within. (910L)

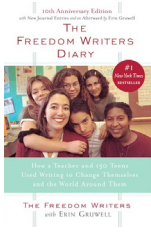
L = Lexile measure

Cluster 2

Theme: Exploring Diversity: Underrepresented Groups

This cluster includes more challenging reads.

REQUIRED READ:

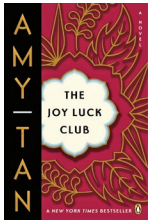


The Freedom Writers Diaries by Erin Gruwell (nonfiction)*

When Erin Gruwell was a first-year high school teacher in Long Beach, CA, teaching the "unteachables" (kids that no other teacher wanted to deal with), she discovered that most of her students had not heard of the Holocaust. Shocked, she introduced them to books about tolerance. The students were inspired to start keeping diaries of their lives that showed the violence, homelessness, racism, illness, and abuse that surrounded them. (900L)

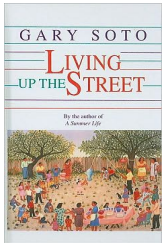
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CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



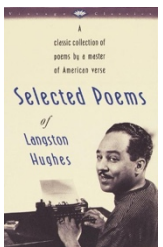
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. (920L)



Living up the Street by Gary Soto

Living up the Street tells the story of a boy's coming of age in the barrio and parochial school while attending church, public summer school, and trying to fall out of love so he can join in a Little League baseball team. (1140L)



The Selected Poems of Langston Hughes by Langston Hughes

The poems in this collection were chosen by Hughes himself shortly before his death in 1967 and represent work from his entire career. His poems celebrate the experience of invisible men and women: of slaves who "rushed the boots of Washington"; of musicians on Lenox Avenue; of the poor and the lovesick; of losers in "the raffle of night." (NP)

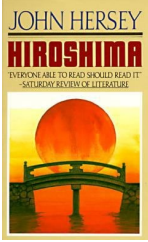
L = Lexile measure

Cluster 3

Theme: The Many Faces of Human Nature

This cluster includes more challenging reads.

REQUIRED READ:



Hiroshima by John Hersey (nonfiction)

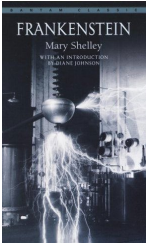
On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey's journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told through the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic “that stirs the conscience of humanity.” (1190L)

CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



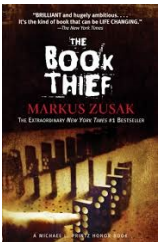
1984 by George Orwell*

In *1984*, London is a grim city where Big Brother is always watching you and the Thought Police can practically read your mind. Winston is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be. (1090L) *may contain sensitive content



Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Scientist Victor Frankenstein assembles a body of stolen body parts and brings it to life, only to discover horrific consequences. (1170L)



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

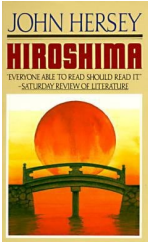
Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing 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 before he is marched to Dachau. (730L)

L = Lexile measure

Cluster 4 10 HONORS

This cluster is designated for 10 Honors students ONLY.

BOTH REQUIRED READS:



Hiroshima by John Hersey (nonfiction)

On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey's journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told through the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic “that stirs the conscience of humanity.” (1190L)



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L = Lexile measure

10th Grade Assignment: Clusters 1-3

Formative Assessments

Students will complete written and multiple-choice assessments designed to measure reading comprehension and knowledge of literary devices during the **second week of school**. Students are strongly urged but NOT required to take notes on the recommended form while reading.

10th Grade Assignment: 10 Honors ONLY

Expository Essays (timed and written in class) (performance assessment)

Essays will be written within the **first two weeks of school**. Students are strongly urged but NOT required to take their own notes while reading.

11th Grade

- Students entering the 11 Honors course MUST choose the cluster of texts designated for 11 Honors (Cluster 4).
- All other students must choose one of the themed clusters listed below (Cluster 1-3) and complete the reading of two texts. Students may not mix and match texts from different clusters. Within each cluster, students must read

the non-fiction text designated “Required Read,” but they may choose one of the three fiction texts listed.

Cluster 1

Theme: Challenges to the American Dream

This cluster includes the most accessible reads.

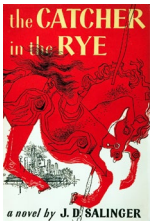
REQUIRED READ:



I Never Promised You a Rose Garden by Joanne Greenberg (Pen Name Hannah Green)
(nonfiction)

Enveloped in the dark inner kingdom of her schizophrenia, sixteen-year-old Deborah is haunted by private tormentors that isolate her from the outside world. With the reluctant and fearful consent of her parents, she enters a mental hospital where she will spend the next three years battling to regain her sanity with the help of a gifted psychiatrist. (960L)

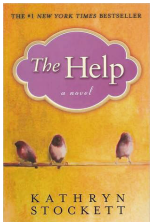
CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger*

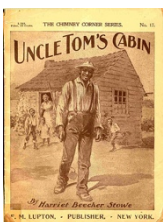
Holden narrates the story of a couple of days in his sixteen-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school. His constant wry observations about what he encounters, from teachers to phonies, capture the essence of the eternal teenage experience of alienation. (790L)

*may contain sensitive content



The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Jackson, Mississippi, 1962: where black maids raise white children, but aren't trusted not to steal the silver. There's Aibileen, raising her seventeenth white child and nursing the hurt caused by her own son's tragic death; Minny, whose cooking is nearly as sassy as her tongue; and white Miss Skeeter, home from college, who wants to know why her beloved maid has disappeared. As each woman finds the courage to cross boundaries, they come to depend and rely upon one another. Each is in search of a truth. And together they have an extraordinary story to tell. (730L)



Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Published in 1852, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is the powerful abolitionist novel fueled by the fire of the human rights debate in 1852. Denouncing the institution of slavery in dramatic terms, the novel quickly draws the reader into the world of slaves and their masters. (1050L)

L = Lexile measure

Cluster 2

Theme: New Frontiers: Exploration and Adventure

This cluster includes more challenging reads.



REQUIRED READ:

Into Thin Air by John Krakauer (nonfiction)

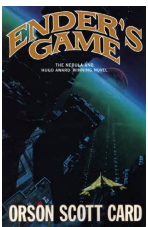
A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm provides the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster. (1320L)

CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



The Last of the Mohicans by James Fennimore Cooper

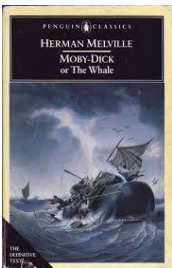
Deep in the forests of upper New York State, the brave woodsman Hawkeye (Natty Bumppo) and his loyal Mohican friends Chingachgook and Uncas become embroiled in the bloody battles of the French and Indian War. The abduction of the beautiful Munro sisters by hostile savages, the treachery of the renegade brave Magua, the ambush of innocent settlers, and the thrilling events that lead to the final tragic confrontation between rival war parties create an unforgettable, spine-tingling picture of life on the frontier. (930L)



Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card*

In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers, Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. (780L)

*may contain sensitive content



Moby Dick by Herman Melville

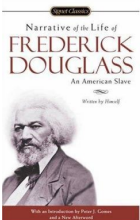
Moby Dick is the story of Captain Ahab's quest to avenge the whale that 'reaped' his leg. The quest is an obsession and the novel is a diabolical study of how a man becomes a fanatic. But it is also a hymn to democracy. Bent as the crew is on Ahab's appalling crusade, it is equally the image of a co-operative community at work: all hands dependent on all hands, each individual responsible for the security of each. Among the crew is Ishmael, the novel's narrator, ordinary sailor, and extraordinary reader. (420L)

L = Lexile measure

Cluster 3

Theme: Embracing Cultural Identity

This cluster includes more challenging reads.



REQUIRED READ:

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass (nonfiction)

Former slave, impassioned abolitionist, brilliant writer, newspaper editor and eloquent orator whose speeches fired the abolitionist cause, Frederick Douglass (1818–1895) led an astounding life. Physical abuse, deprivation and tragedy plagued his early years, yet through sheer force of character he was able to overcome these obstacles to become a leading spokesman for his people. (1040L)

CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston*

Their Eyes Were Watching God tells the life story of Janie, an African-American woman.

Hurston's great dialogue captures both the ongoing "war of the sexes," as well as the truces, joys, and tender moments of male-female relations. But equally important are Janie's relationships with other black women. There are powerful themes of female bonding, identity, and empowerment, which bring an added dimension to this book. (1080L) *may contain sensitive content



In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez*

During the last days of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, three young women, members of a conservative, pious Catholic family, who had become committed to the revolutionary overthrow of the regime, were ambushed and assassinated as they drove back from visiting their jailed husbands. Thus martyred, the Mirabal sisters have become mythical figures in their country, where they are known as las mariposas (the butterflies), from their underground code names. (910L) *may contain sensitive content



Native Son by Richard Wright*

Native Son, published in 1940, tells the story of a young African-American man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Wright's powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America. (700L) *may contain sensitive content

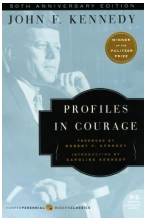
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Cluster 4

11 HONORS

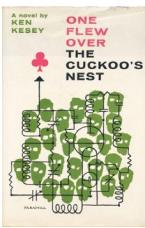
This cluster is designated for 11 Honors students ONLY.

ALL REQUIRED READS:



Profiles in Courage by John F. Kennedy (nonfiction)

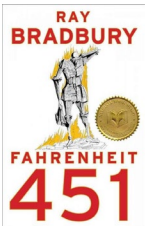
Written in 1955 by the then junior senator from the state of Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage* includes the inspiring true accounts of eight unsung heroic acts by American patriots at different junctures in our nation's history. Kennedy's book became an instant classic and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Now, a half-century later, it remains a moving, powerful, and relevant testament to the indomitable national spirit and an unparalleled celebration of that most noble of human virtues. (1410L)



One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey*

Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* chronicles the head-on collision between its hell-raising, life-affirming hero Randle Patrick McMurphy and the totalitarian rule of Big Nurse. McMurphy swaggers into the mental ward like a blast of fresh air and turns the place upside down, but McMurphy's revolution against Big Nurse and everything she stands for quickly turns from sport to a fierce power struggle with shattering results. (1110L)

*may contain sensitive content



Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury*

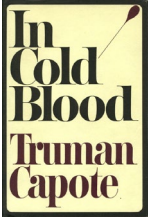
In Bradbury's classic, frightening vision of the future, firemen don't put out fires--they start them in order to burn books. Bradbury's vividly painted society holds up the appearance of happiness as the highest goal--a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad. (890L) *may contain sensitive content

L = Lexile measure

Cluster 5
11 AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

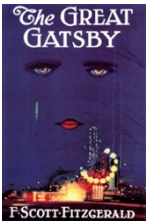
This cluster is designated for 11 AP students ONLY.

ALL REQUIRED READS:



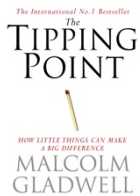
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote (nonfiction)*

Capote's *In Cold Blood* is a nonfictional recreation of the murder of a Kansas family and the subsequent capture of the killers. (1040L) *may contain sensitive content



The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald's third book, stands as the supreme achievement of his career. This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s. (1010L)



The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell (nonfiction)

The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. This widely acclaimed bestseller, in which Malcolm Gladwell explores and brilliantly illuminates the tipping point phenomenon, is already changing the way people throughout the world think about selling products and disseminating ideas. (1160L)

L = Lexile measure

11th Grade Assignment: Clusters 1-3

Formative Assessments

Students will complete written and multiple-choice assessments designed to measure reading comprehension and knowledge of literary devices during the second week of school. Students are strongly urged but NOT required to take notes on the recommended form while reading.

11th Grade Assignment: 11 Honors ONLY

Expository Essay

(performance assessment)

The essay will be due the first day of school.

Prompt for essay*:

Write a 750-1000-word essay that compares and/or contrasts the portrayal of individuality vs. conformity in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Formulate a strong thesis statement and use direct references to the novels to support your argument. Your essay must follow MLA guidelines: 12 pt. Times New Roman font with double spaced text, one inch margins, and a works cited page.

*For more information, contact Ms. McDevitt.

Expository Essay (timed and written in class)

(performance assessment)

An additional essay regarding *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy will be written within the first three weeks of school. Students are strongly urged but NOT required to take their own notes while reading.

11th Grade Assignment: 11 AP Language and Composition ONLY

Expository Essay and Dialectical Journals

(performance assessment)

The essay and (2) journals will be due the first day of school.

Prompt for essay*:

Write a 750-1000-word essay that explores how Fitzgerald portrays the American Dream in *The Great Gatsby*. Formulate a strong thesis statement and use direct reference to the novel to support your arguments. Your essay must follow MLA guidelines: Times New Roman/ 12 point font/ Double-spaced/1 inch margins, in-text citations, Works Cited page, etc.

Directions for journals*:

For *The Tipping Point* and *In Cold Blood*, keep separate dialectical journals with two columns. On the left side copy lines or passages that you feel are stylistically important. On the right side discuss what aspect of style is exemplified and identify its impact on the work as a whole. At a minimum, you should have 15-20 responses in each journal.

*For more information, contact Ms. McDevitt.

12th Grade

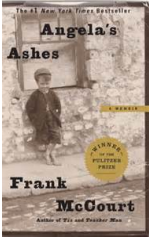
- Students entering the 12 Honors and 12 Advanced Placement courses MUST choose the cluster of texts designated for those levels (Cluster 4-5).
- All other students must choose one of the themed clusters listed below (Cluster 1-3) and complete the reading of two texts. Students may not mix and match texts from different clusters. Within each cluster, students must read the non-fiction text designated “Required Read,” but they may choose one of the three fiction texts listed.

Cluster 1

Theme: Individualism vs. Conformity

This cluster includes the most accessible reads.

REQUIRED READ:



Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt (nonfiction)

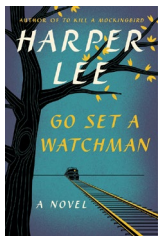
The autobiography of Frank McCourt chronicles growing up against all odds in the slums of Ireland. (1110L)

CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



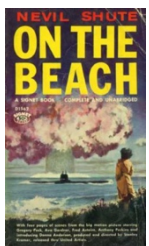
Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt

After their mother abandons the four Tillerman children somewhere in the middle of Connecticut, they have to find their way, somehow, to Great-aunt Cilla's house in Bridgeport, which may be their only hope of staying together as a family. But when they get to Bridgeport, they learn that Great-aunt Cilla has died, and the home they find with her daughter, Eunice, isn't the permanent haven they've been searching for. Their journey continues to its unexpected conclusion -- and some surprising discoveries about their history, and their future. (630L)



Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch—"Scout"—returns home from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town, and the people dearest to her. (870L)



On the Beach by Nevil Shute

On the Beach, published in 1957, provides an unforgettable vision of a post-apocalyptic world. After a nuclear World War III has destroyed most of the globe, the few remaining survivors in southern Australia await the radioactive cloud that is heading their way and bringing certain death to everyone in its path. Both terrifying and intensely moving, *On the Beach* is a remarkably convincing portrait of how ordinary people might face the most unimaginable nightmare. (730L)

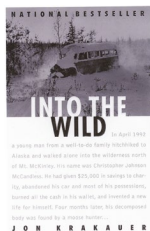
L = Lexile measure

Cluster 2

Theme: Heroism

This cluster includes more challenging reads.

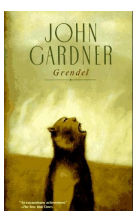
REQUIRED READ:



Into the Wild by John Krakauer (nonfiction)

In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. (1270L)

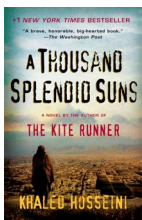
CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



Grendel by John Gardner*

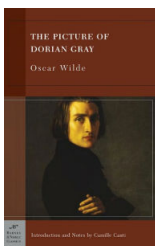
Grendel is a retelling of part of the Old English poem *Beowulf* from the perspective of the antagonist, Grendel. In the novel, Grendel is portrayed as an antihero. The novel deals with finding meaning in the world, the power of literature and myth, and the nature of good and evil. (920L)

*may contain sensitive content



A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them-in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul, they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. (830L)



The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

The Picture of Dorian Gray, published in 1891, is a tale of the moral decline of its title character, Dorian Gray. When Dorian has his portrait painted by Basil Hallward and wishes that he would stay young while his picture changes, his wish comes true. In exchange for this, Dorian gives up his soul and as he ages, the bad deeds that he commits are reflected in his painting and not him. (880L)

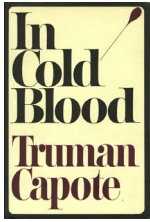
L = Lexile measure

Cluster 3

Theme: Moral Dilemmas

This cluster includes more challenging reads.

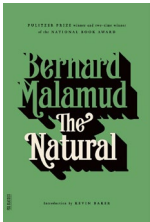
REQUIRED READ:



In Cold Blood by Truman Capote (nonfiction)*

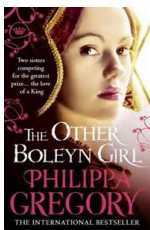
Capote's *In Cold Blood* is a nonfictional recreation of the murder of a Kansas family and the subsequent capture of the killers. (1040L) *may contain sensitive content

CHOOSE ONE (all fiction):



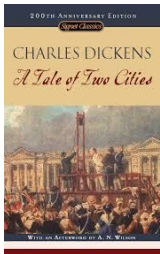
The Natural by Bernard Malamud

Malamud's *The Natural* tells the story of Roy Hobbs, a baseball prodigy who battles with the forces of good and evil. (1060L)



The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory

When Mary Boleyn comes to court as an innocent girl of fourteen, she catches the eye of the handsome and charming Henry VIII. Dazzled by the king, Mary falls in love with both her golden prince and her growing role as unofficial queen. However, she soon realizes just how much she is a pawn in her family's ambitious plots as the king's interest begins to wane, and soon she is forced to step aside for her best friend and rival: her sister, Anne. (1160L)



A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

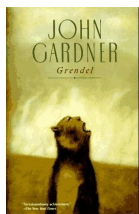
A Tale of Two Cities, published in 1859, is set in the late 18th century against the background of the French Revolution. The novel depicts the plight of the French peasantry demoralized by the French aristocracy in the years leading up to the revolution, the corresponding brutality demonstrated by the revolutionaries toward the former aristocrats in the early years of the revolution, and many unflattering social parallels with life in London during the same time period. (1080L)

L = Lexile measure

Cluster 4
12 HONORS

This cluster is designated for 12 Honors students ONLY.

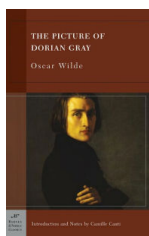
ALL REQUIRED READS:



Grendel by John Gardner (fiction)*

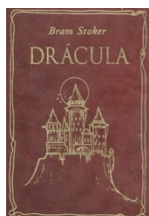
Grendel is a retelling of part of the Old English poem *Beowulf* from the perspective of the antagonist, Grendel. In the novel, Grendel is portrayed as an antihero. The novel deals with finding meaning in the world, the power of literature and myth, and the nature of good and evil. (920L)

*may contain sensitive content



The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (fiction)

The Picture of Dorian Gray, published in 1891, is a tale of the moral decline of its title character, Dorian Gray. When Dorian has his portrait painted by Basil Hallward and wishes that he would stay young while his picture changes, his wish comes true. In exchange for this, Dorian gives up his soul and as he ages, the bad deeds that he commits are reflected in his painting and not him. (880L)



Dracula by Bram Stoker (fiction)

Famous for introducing the character of the vampire Count Dracula, the novel tells the story of Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England so he may find new blood and spread undead curse, and the battle between Dracula and a small group of men and women led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing. (1060L)

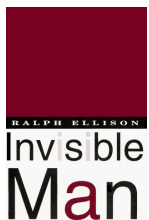
L = Lexile measure

Cluster 5

12 ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

This cluster is designated for 12 AP students ONLY.

ALL REQUIRED READS:



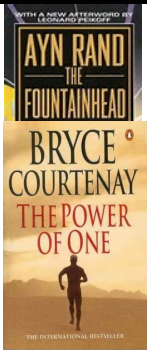
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison (fiction)*

The tale of a nightmare journey across the racial divide tells unparalleled truths about the nature of bigotry and its effects on the minds of both victims and perpetrators. As he journeys from the Deep South to the street and basements of Harlem, from a horrifying "battle royal" where black men are reduced to fighting animals, to a Communist rally where they are elevated to the status of trophies, Ralph Ellison's nameless protagonist ushers readers into a parallel universe that throws our own into harsh and even hilarious relief. (950L) *may contain sensitive content

(Continues on next page)

The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand (fiction)

This instant Objectivist classic is the story of an intransigent young architect and his violent battle against conventional standards. Here is a novel about a hero—and about those who try to destroy him. (780L)



The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay (fiction)

In 1939, as Hitler casts his enormous, cruel shadow across the world, the seeds of apartheid take root in South Africa. There, a boy called Peekay is born. His childhood is marked by humiliation and abandonment, yet he vows to survive and conceives heroic dreams—which are nothing compared to what life actually has in store for him. He embarks on an epic journey through a land of tribal superstition and modern prejudice where he will learn the power of words, the power to transform lives, and the power of one. (940L)

L = Lexile measure

12th Grade Assignment: Clusters 1-3

Formative Assessments

Students will complete written and multiple-choice assessments designed to measure reading comprehension and knowledge of literary devices during the **second week of school**. Students are strongly urged but NOT required to take notes on the recommended form while reading.

12th Grade Assignment: 12 Honors ONLY

Expository Essays (timed and written in class) and Graded Discussions (performance assessment)

Graded discussions will take place and essays will be written within the **first two weeks of school**. Students are strongly urged but NOT required to take their own notes while reading.

12th Grade Assignment: 12 AP Literature and Composition ONLY

Expository Essay (performance assessment)

The essay will be due the **first day of school**.

Prompt for essay*:

All three novels deal with the conflict of individual identity vs. collective society. Write a 1000-1500-word essay that *compares and contrasts* the way each novel *explores and presents this conflict and* *how this enhances the meaning/theme* of each novel. You may want to pay attention (but don't be limited) to the individual drive for power- how characters struggle to free themselves from the power of others or seek to gain power over others-, the topic of superiority vs. inferiority, and the search for identity. Formulate a strong thesis statement and use direct reference to the novel to support your arguments. Your essay must follow MLA guidelines: Times New Roman/ 12 point font/ Double-spaced/1 inch margins, in-text citations, Works Cited page, etc.

*For more information, contact Mrs. Burnett.

Oxford Area High School
ELA Summer Reading for Grades 9-12 / Clusters 1-3

Recommended Note-Taking Form for NONFICTION REQUIRED READ

The following graphic organizer should be used to help students stay focused while reading and can be brought to the Nonfiction multiple-choice assessment in the fall, along with the text itself. Students can print and take notes on the form below or recreate the categories on lined paper.

Title of text chosen	
Author's name and biographical info	
Author's purpose / tone	
Narration style / point of view	
Plot summary	
Setting (time, place & mood)	
Protagonist (including defining traits)	
Additional characters	
Major conflicts	
Major themes	

Oxford Area High School

ELA Summer Reading for Grades 9-12 / Clusters 1-3

Recommended Note-Taking Form for FICTION CHOICE READ

The following graphic organizer should be used to help students stay focused while reading and can be brought to the Fiction written assessment in the fall, along with the text itself. Students can print and take notes on the form below or recreate the categories on lined paper.

Title of text chosen		Author's name	
Plot summary			

Describe the SETTING and its importance to the plot:

Setting details	Importance to the plot

Describe the PROTAGONIST (including traits, major conflicts, and changes/resolutions):

Protagonist's name	
Defining traits	
Major conflicts	
Changes / resolutions of conflict	

Describe two major THEMES and supporting evidence for each:

Theme	Supporting Evidence