English 12 AP: Literature and Composition

2019 Summer Reading Assignment

The list below represents a wide array of authors, mostly contemporary. Explore the list until you find two (2) books that you think you will enjoy reading over the summer. Then read both books. It will be to your advantage (although not required) to identify thematically seminal quotes and to provide commentary that explains their significance. Remember that the best literature sheds light on the human condition and what it means to be alive. That’s not a bad focus for your commentary.

These notes / quotes will not be checked for a grade; **however**, you will be exploring new concepts and interpretive strategies in the first month and will be required to dip into your notes to extract your insights and into the books to extract quotes. Very likely you will be required to write an essay, engage in a seminar, and / or apply newly introduced concepts to the novels. There is a high likelihood (if not a certainty) that if you do not have these materials to use, your grades for September will suffer.

*Pride and Prejudice* (Jane Austen)

*Love and Shadows* (Isabel Allende)

*Blind Assassin* (Margaret Atwood)

*Go Tell It On the Mountain* (James Baldwin)

*Monkey Bridge* (Lan Cao)

*The Hours* (Michael Cunningham) (would pair very well with Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*)

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (Junot Diaz)

*All the Light We Cannot See* (Anthony Doerr)

*Light in August* (William Faulkner)

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* (Jamie Ford)

*Brave New World* (Aldous Huxley)

*A Long Way Down* (Nick Hornby)

*High Fidelity* (Nick Hornby)

*A Doll’s House* (Henrik Ibsen)

*The Known World* (Edward P. Jones)

*The Poisonwood Bible* (Barbara Kingsolver)

*Obasan* (Joy Kogawa)

*The Lowland* (Jhumpa Lahiri)

*On Chesil Beach* (Ian McEwan)

*Love in the Time of Cholera* (Gabriel Garcia Marquez)

*The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears* (Dinaw Mengestu)

*No Country for Old Men* (Cormac McCarthy)

*Sold* (Patricia McCormick)

*A Mercy* (Toni Morrison)

*Home* (Toni Morrison)

*Sula* (Toni Morrison)

*Going After Cacciato* (Tim O’Brien)

*The Violent Bear it Away* (Flannery O’Connor)

*Bel Canto* (Ann Patchett)

*Shipping News* (Annie Proulx)

*Goodbye, Columbus* (Philip Roth)

*Empire Falls* (Richard Russo)

*The Risk Pool* (Richard Russo)

*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* (Shaffer)

*The Color Purple* (Alice Walker)

*The Temple of My Familiar* (Alice Walker)

**Other choice ideas? Email Mr. Burns or Mr. Lutz to get permission (cf. above for emails).**