



2019 High School Summer Reading Rising Grades 9 - 12

Plainfield Public School District

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Students entering grades nine through twelve should read at least **two** books over the summer.

- Choose two books based on your personal interests, parent or teacher recommendations, and reading ability. You may use the recommended reading list for ideas.
- For each book, complete one of the options listed below to help you reflect on what you have read.
- Be prepared to discuss and/or write about your summer reading experiences.

NOTE: AP English students should follow guidelines on separate documents.

Option 1: Literary Essay (fiction).- Select one of the topics listed below:

- Character analysis (Select one):
 - Write an essay in which you analyze how the main character's thoughts and actions reveal aspects of his/her personality. As part of your analysis, consider how the character reacts to events in the story and include strong textual evidence to support your ideas.
 - Write an essay in which you analyze and compare two important characters. Show how each character's thoughts and actions reveal aspects of their personalities. Be sure to consider how the characters react to events in the text, and use evidence to support your analysis.
- Thematic analysis: Write an essay in which you discuss an important theme found in the story. Trace the development of the theme throughout the text. Explain in detail how the theme is revealed and how it is shaped and refined through specific details, such as character, setting, conflict, etc.

Option 2: Book Review (non-fiction) -Write a one-page summary of the book explaining the main idea of the text. Add a personal response in which you reflect on the author's point of view and connect it to your own experiences, knowledge, or beliefs.

Option 3: Video Project (3 - 7 minutes)- Create a video that might encourage another student to read the book. The video could take the form of a movie trailer, report, Q & A, "author" interview, or another format of your choosing. It should provide viewers with information about the main ideas or themes of the book, the important characters, and the main conflict of the story. Be sure to provide important details that illustrate what the book is about.



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RECOMMENDED READING LIST

- Adeyemi, Tomi. ***Children of Blood and Bone***. Henry Holt and Co., 2018. A West-African inspired fantasy that conjures a world of magic and danger.
- Bertozzi, Nick. ***Shackleton: Antarctic Odyssey***. (Graphic Novel). First Second Books, 2014. Can Ernest Shackleton and his crew brave the icy wilderness and become the first to reach the South Pole?
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi. ***Between the World and Me***. Spiegel & Grau, 2015. Through a letter to his adolescent son, Coates addresses the question: What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? The author takes readers on a journey through America's history of race and the moments of his awakening to the truth.
- Cushway, Smith, and Warr (Editors). ***Of Poetry and Protest: From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin***. Norton & Co., 2016. This collection of poems and personal essays by African-American writers gives voice to the current conversation about race in America while providing historical and cultural context.
- Danticat, Edwidge. ***Krik? Krak!*** (1996). Soho Press, 2015. This is a collection of ten short stories that examine the lives of ordinary Haitians, particularly women, under the brutal Duvalier regime.
- de la Peña, Matt. ***The Living***. Delacorte, 2013. While Shy is working on a cruise ship, a massive earthquake hits California and sends a tsunami out to sea with disastrous consequences. What started out as a fun, summer job suddenly becomes a fight to survive.
- Doctorow, Cory. ***Pirate Cinema***. Tor Books, 2012. Trent McCauley is sixteen, brilliant, and obsessed with one thing: making movies on his computer by reassembling footage from popular films he downloads from the Net. In the dystopian near-future Britain where Trent is growing up, this is more illegal than ever; the punishment for being caught three times is that your entire household's access to the Internet is cut off for a year, with no appeal. Trent thinks he is too clever for that to happen - except it does, and it nearly destroys his family. Shamed and shattered, Trent runs away to London, where he slowly learns the ways of staying alive on the streets.
- Gutman, Matt. ***The Boys in the Cave: Deep Inside the Impossible Rescue in Thailand***. William Morrow, 2018. The true story of twelve boys and their soccer coach who were trapped in a flooded, underground cave for weeks and their miracle rescue.



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Luen Yang, Gene. ***The Shadow Hero***. (Graphic Novel). First Second, 2014. When gangsters threaten his family in 1930s Chinatown, Hank Chu fights back by becoming a new hero.

Luttrell, Marcus. ***Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10***. Little, Brown, 2007. American Navy SEAL and team leader Marcus Luttrell tells his story of the loss of his teammates in July 2005 along the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border to al-Qaida insurgents.

Moore, Wes. ***The Other Wes Moore***. Random House, 2010. Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of young men trying to find their way in a hostile world.

Paton, Alan. ***Cry, the Beloved Country*** (1948). Scribner, 2003. This impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law in South Africa tells the deeply moving story of Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of racial injustice. It is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

Shabazz, Ilyasah. ***X: A Novel***. Candlewick, 2015. Co-written by Malcolm X's daughter, this riveting and revealing novel follows the formative years of the man whose words and actions shook the world. X follows Malcolm from his childhood to his imprisonment for theft at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him to forge a new path and command a voice that still resonates today.

Sheinkin, Steve. ***Port Chicago 50***. Roaring Brook Press, 2014. On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks, critically injuring off-duty men in their bunks, and shattering windows up to a mile away. On August 9th, 244 men refused to go back to work until unsafe and unfair conditions at the docks were addressed. When the dust settled, fifty were charged with mutiny, facing decades in jail and even execution.



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Stone, Nic. ***Dear Martin***. Crown, 2017. Justyce is an Ivy League-bound African-American student in a predominantly white prep school who becomes the victim of racial profiling and a witness to violence. Through reading and responding to letters written by Martin Luther King, Jr., Justyce works to make sense of these traumatizing experiences on both a personal and societal level.

Stevenson, Bryan. ***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption***. Spiegel & Grau, 2014. A memoir that recounts Stevenson's work to provide legal defense for those most in need. His efforts, including five arguments before the Supreme Court, have addressed the errors and injustices of the American criminal justice system and have freed numerous people from wrongful or excessive punishment.

Volponi, Paul. ***Game Seven***. Viking, 2015. Since he was ten, Julio has lived in the shadow of his famous father. Not just because Julio Senior is a pitcher for the Miami Marlins, but because he fled Cuba to play professional baseball, leaving his Julio and his mother and sister branded as the family of a traitor. Now sixteen, Julio dreams of playing for Cuba's national team—until he finds out his father's defection may destroy his chances.

Walker, Sam. ***The Captain Class: A New Theory of Leadership***. Random House, 2018. A new theory of leadership explained through true accounts of pivotal moments in sports history.

Weir, Andy. ***The Martian***. Crown/Archetype, 2014. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, astronaut Mark Watney finds himself stranded and completely alone on Mars with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive. 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?

Zoboi, Ibi. ***Pride***. Balzer & Bray, 2018. A remix of Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, featuring an Afro-Latino family living in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Zuri and her four sisters deal with their gentrifying neighborhood and the arrival of the wealthy Darcy family, including their two teenage sons.



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A LIST OF RECOMMENDED AUTHORS/SERIES

Anderson, Laurie Halse	<i>The Impossible Knife of Memory, Shout, Speak</i>
Austen, Jane	<i>Emma, Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility</i>
Crichton, Michael	<i>The Andromeda Strain, Jurassic Park</i>
Diaz, Junot	<i>Drown, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>
Gaines, Ernest J.	<i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, A Lesson before Dying, A Gathering of Old Men</i>
Green, John	<i>The Fault in Our Stars, Looking for Alaska</i>
Hurston, Zora Neale	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>
King, Stephen	<i>The Shining, Misery, 11/22/63, The Dark Tower (series), The Green Mile (series)</i>
Kirkman, Robert	<i>The Walking Dead (series)</i>
Larson, Erik	<i>Devil in the White City, Thunderstruck</i>
Morrison, Toni	<i>Beloved, The Bluest Eye, Song of Solomon</i>
Reynolds, Jason	<i>Long Way Down, When I Was the Greatest</i>
Tan, Amy	<i>The Joy Luck Club, Saving Fish from Drowning</i>
Vonnegut, Kurt	<i>Slaughterhouse-Five, Breakfast of Champions</i>
Wright, Richard	<i>Black Boy, Native Son</i>

Your teachers may also recommend other titles and authors, based on your interests.