

Summer Reading Assignment

ENGLISH 9-12

Dear Student,

This summer reading assignment has been designed to help you strengthen the critical reading skills you'll continue to need next year in school and to introduce you to some engaging literature. We know that students who read over the summer tend to read better throughout the school year. We hope we have recommended some titles that will turn you into a life-long reader!

By the end of the summer, you must read **ONE** work of literature. The *recommended* reading list is the Connecticut High School Nutmeg Nominee list and has been put together by a group of students, public librarians, and school librarians from around Connecticut, with considerable attention to what you will enjoy reading. We strongly encourage you to choose a book from this list. Make sure you select a book that you haven't already read. The list includes books that are at a variety of reading levels, so choose one that is appropriate for you. Please be aware that some books paint realistic pictures of young adult and adult life, so evaluate your choices with the guidance of your parent or guardian.

We learn about ourselves, our world, and literature when we have the opportunity to converse with others about the texts we've read. Within the first two weeks of your return to school, your teacher will assign one of the four following options for "conversations" about texts: 1) An oral presentation demonstrating your thoughts, opinions and questions in response to the text, 2) A group discussion in which you'll converse with your peers about the books you've read, 3) Technologically-based conversation using technological tools to convey your thoughts, opinions or question in response to the text you've read, 4) Written conversation (essay) in response to an essential question you'll encounter in your coursework.

Regardless of the option your teacher assigns, your knowledge of the text you've read will be assessed using the following criteria: 1) information about the text is accurate, 2) multiple examples and text references are used to support one's opinions or arguments, and 3) the "conversation" enhances others' understanding or appreciation of the work read.

This assignment will be included in your first quarter grade.

We want you to enjoy this opportunity to become involved in some exciting reading and return to school ready to share your pleasurable and rewarding experience.

Sincerely,

Your English language arts teachers

2018 Nutmeg Book Award High School Nominees



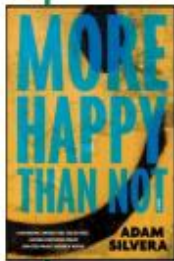
Dumplin' by Julie Murphy

Willowdean Dickson is not your typical beauty queen. Living in Clover City, a town that is home to one of the oldest beauty pageants in Texas, and with a former beauty queen for a mother, Willowdean navigates being a "fat girl" in this world with humor, confidence, and a lot of sass. When that confidence in herself is shaken, Willowdean decides participating in the pageant is the only way to get her confidence back. With help from an unlikely group of contestants and Dolly Parton, Willowdean embarks on a journey that will change how she and her town define what makes a beauty queen beautiful.



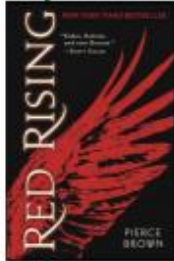
Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse

Finding and delivering hard to come by goods for friends and neighbors in 1943 German-occupied Amsterdam is the business that Hanneke is good at. Finding a missing Jewish girl becomes Hanneke's passion, putting her in the crosshairs of the Nazis.



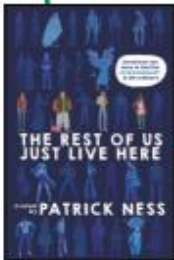
More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera

If you could erase your memories would you? What if you could change who you are. Aaron wants to change his life to become someone new, and a new medical procedure is available to allow him to do just that. But can he really escape who and what he is?



Red Rising by Pierce Brown

Darrow, a sixteen-year-old in humanity's Red caste, willingly spends his days in the mines of Mars, certain that his work is necessary to terraform the planet's surface. After being caught in a forbidden area, however, his life is torn apart, and he discovers the truth about the caste system he was forced into: the planet's surface was terraformed long ago, and the Red caste is nothing more than slave labor for the others inhabiting the surface.



The Rest of us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness

Mikey, Jared, Mel, and Henna just want to get through high school. They suffer through the usual teen experiences – jealousy, unrequited love, term papers – but they have also fought zombies and fallen in love with vampires (not your usual high school experience). Now, they have to face another challenge: one of them is "the chosen one."

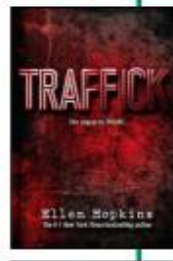
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli

Simon is a sixteen-year-old boy who is gay, but not quite ready to tell the whole world. When an email falls into the wrong hands he worries his secret may not remain a secret for long. Now Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone and tell the truth before he alienates himself from friends or loses his shot with his mysterious crush.



Traffick by Ellen Hopkins

Traffick shows the reader the world of human trafficking, prostitution, and drug addiction as experienced by five teenagers. Is there a way out?



The Way I Used to Be by Amber Smith

Eden is a quiet fourteen year old band nerd who just entered into her freshman year of high school. But everything changes the night a family friend rapes her and threatens to kill her if she tells anyone. Eden keeps it a secret and finds herself acting out to avoid dealing with the pain. The book follows Eden though four years in high school as she tries to deal with what happened and the way she used to be.



We are the Ants by Shaun David Hutchinson

The aliens have given Henry 144 days to decide whether life on earth is worth keeping around. Given the state his own life is in, he's not so sure. The love of his life has committed suicide, his clueless older brother is going to be a teen father, his grandmother is sinking deeper and deeper into a fog of Alzheimer's. But on the other hand, there's Diego...



X : a novel by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon

X is a novelized telling of the growing up years of Malcom Little/Malcom X. His father murdered and his mother put into a mental institution, young Malcom (an A student) goes to live with his sister Boston. There he takes to the world of drinking, drugs, and hustling, and eventually to prison.



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