

Norristown Area High School Summer Reading- 2019

The teachers of Norristown Area High School feel that it is important for students to continue to work on acquiring, maintaining and improving reading and analysis skills through the summer months as well as appreciating literature and reading for personal enjoyment. The English and English Weighted Honors courses require students to complete several independent reading assignments throughout the year. Summer should be a time when students can continue to hone their independent reading skills. When students return to school in the fall, they should be prepared to participate in a variety of analytic discussions to enhance their understanding and interpretation of the texts.

9th Grade WEIGHTED HONORS STUDENTS will be **required** to read the book *NIGHT* by Elie Weisel and be prepared to analyze themes in writing and through discussions the first week of school in the Fall. You can take notes in your novels or in a readers' notebook to use during the discussions and writing assignments in class, however these are optional and will not be graded.

Summer Reading for 9th Grade Fall 2019:

Required Reading for 9th Grade WH students: *Night* by Elie Weisel

Suggested reading for Regular Ed. English I Students.

1. ***The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*** – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (fiction)

A colonel receives five seeds in the mail--and dies within weeks. A young bride disappears immediately after her wedding. An old hat and a Christmas goose are the only clues to a stolen jewel. A son is accused of his father's murder. These mysteries--and many more--are brought to the house on Baker Street where detective Sherlock Holmes resides. No case is too tricky for the world's most famous sleuth and his incredible powers of deduction.

2. ***The Burn Journals***--Brent Runyon (nonfiction)

On the sixteenth page of this incisive memoir, eighth-grader Brent Runyon drenches his bathrobe with gasoline and sets himself on fire. The burns cover 85 percent of his body and require six months of painful skin grafts and equally invasive mental-health rehabilitation. From the beginning, readers are immersed in the mind of 14-year-old Brent as he struggles to heal body and mind.

1. ***The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives***--Neil Swidey (nonfiction)

This book introduces us to Jack O'Brien, the near-legendary coach at Charlestown High School in Boston, whose life "seemed to begin and end with basketball." His devotion to his players' well-being helped keep them off the streets and, in many cases, secured them college scholarships. His successes, including four state championships in a row, derived in great part from a "tough love" approach.

1. ***All But My Life: A Memoir***--Barbara Rosenblatt (nonfiction) Gerda Weissmann Klein tells us the story of a young girl forced into the events of the Nazi Holocaust. The story is of a family torn apart, and never to see one another again.

1. ***The Hate You Give***-- by Angie Thomas

The Hate U Give is a 2017 young adult novel by Angie Thomas. It is expanded from a short story she wrote in college in reaction to the police shooting of Oscar Grant. The book is narrated by Starr Carter, a 16-year-old black girl from a poor neighborhood who attends an elite private school in an affluent white part of the city. Starr becomes entangled in a national news story after she witnesses a white police officer shoot and kill her childhood friend, Khalil, who is black.

She speaks up about the shooting in increasingly public ways, and social tensions culminate in a riot after a grand jury decides not to indict the police officer for the shooting.

English II-10th grade--Weighted honor students only! Read **EVERYTHING I NEVER TOLD YOU** by Celeste Ng and **HOTZONE** by Richard Preston. Make annotations in the book and expect a test in September.

Non-Weighted Honors English II—suggested—any one book below.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins

Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins

Twilight by Stephanie Meyers

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Rot & Ruin by Jonathan Maberry

The First Part Last by Angela Johnson

Crackback by John Coy

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

The Color of Water by James McBride

English III-11th grade--Weighted honor students only. Read **A LESSON BEFORE DYING** by Ernest J. Gaines. Make annotations in the book and expect a test in September.

Non-Weighted Honors English III—suggested—any one book below.

***American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang (Graphic Novel)**-- *American Born Chinese* is the first graphic novel to be nominated for a National Book Award and the first to win the American Library Association's Michael L. Printz Award. An intentionally over-the-top stereotypical Chinese character make this a better fit for teen readers who have the sophistication to understand the author's intent. Three parallel stories interlock in this graphic novel. In the first, the American-born Chinese boy of the title, Jin, moves with his family from San Francisco's Chinatown to a mostly white suburb. There he's exposed to racism, bullying, and taunts. The second story is a retelling of the story of the Monkey King, a fabled Chinese character who develops extraordinary powers in his quest to be accepted as a god. The third concerns Danny, a popular Anglo boy who's visited by his cousin, Chin-Kee, a walking, talking example of the most pernicious Asian stereotypes.

***Bossypants* by Tina Fey (Non-fiction/Autobiography)** --From her youthful days as a vicious nerd to her tour of duty on *Saturday Night Live*; from her passionately halfhearted pursuit of physical beauty to her life as a mother eating things off the floor; from her one-sided college romance to her nearly fatal

honeymoon -- from the beginning of this paragraph to this final sentence. Tina Fey reveals all, and proves what we've all suspected: you're no one until someone calls you bossy.

***Crank* by Ellen Hopkins (Young Adult)**--Kristina Snow is the perfect daughter, until she meets a boy who introduces her to drugs. She becomes a very different person, struggling to control her life and her mind, as she grows up and has children of her own.

***The Essential Neruda (Bilingual edition)* by Pablo Neruda (Poetry)**-- This collection of Neruda's most essential poems, selected by a team of poets and prominent Neruda scholars in both Chile and the U.S., is a definitive selection that draws from the entire breadth and width of Neruda's various styles and themes. An impressive group of translators have come together to revisit or completely retranslate the poems; and a handful of previously untranslated works are included as well.

***Feed* by M. T. Anderson (Sci-fi)**--In the future, most people will have a Feed chip implanted in their heads that connects everyone to an evolved version of the Internet — at the cost of even basic privacy. During spring break on the moon, Titus and Violet meet and build a relationship when their Feeds are hacked.

***Flowers For Algernon* by Daniel Keyes (Literary Classic)**--When brain surgery makes a mouse into a genius, dull-witted Charlie Gordon wonders if it might also work for him. It does ... but then the mouse begins to regress.

***I Am Malala* by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai (Memoir)** -- Malala tells her own story, of her parents' love, inspiration, and encouragement and how they led her to confront Islamic fundamentalists who were trying to keep girls from going to school in her native Pakistan. Her strong Muslim faith and personal determination gain her worldwide prominence -- and make her a target.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (Non-fiction/Biography/Science)**--Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance.

***It's Kind of a Funny Story* by Ned Vizzini (Coming of Age)**--An ambitious new student at Manhattan's prestigious Executive Pre-Professional High School, Craig Gilner suddenly discovers that he has become an average kid among a group of brilliant students, a discovery that leads to increasing anxiety and a battle with clinical depression, during which he encounters a motley crew of fellow patients battling their own problems.

***Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* by Michael Lewis**—*Moneyball* is a quest for the secret of success in baseball. Following the low-budget Oakland Athletics, their larger-than-life general manager, Billy Beane, and the strange brotherhood of amateur baseball enthusiasts, Michael Lewis has written not only "the single most influential baseball book ever" (Rob Neyer, *Slate*) but also what "may be the best book ever written on business" (*Weekly Standard*).

My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor-- "This 'intimate and honest' memoir trances the incredible journey of the US Supreme Court's first Hispanic justice, from her turbulent childhood to her meteoric legal career.

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult (Fiction)--Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures, and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline (Science Fiction/Gaming)-- This thriller deals with a high-stakes online contest that mixes puzzles with video game violence. Set in a depressed future United States, where most people escape into virtual reality, it features a bunch of tough-talking teens fighting to keep their online playground out of the hands of an evil corporation.

Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers by Frank X. Walker (Nonfiction/Biography)— Around the void left by the murder of Medgar Evers in 1963, the poems in this collection speak, unleashing the strong emotions both before and after the moment of assassination. Poems take on the voices of Evers's widow, Myrlie; his brother, Charles; his assassin, Byron De La Beckwith; and each of De La Beckwith's two wives. Except for the book's title, "Turn me loose," which were his final words, Evers remains in this collection silent. Yet the poems accumulate facets of the love and hate with which others saw this man, unghosting him in a way that only imagination makes possible

Who Fears Death by Nnedi Okorafor (Magical Realism/Distopia)-- In a post-apocalyptic Africa, a woman who has survived the annihilation of her village and a terrible rape by an enemy general wanders into the desert, hoping to die. Instead, she gives birth to an angry baby girl with hair and skin the color of sand. Grippled by the certainty that her daughter is different—*special*—she names her Onyesonwu, which means "Who fears death?" in an ancient language. It doesn't take long for Onye to understand that she is physically and socially marked by the circumstances of her conception. She is *Ewu*—a child of rape who is expected to live a life of violence, a half-breed rejected by her community. But Onye is not the average *Ewu*. Even as a child, she manifests the beginnings of a remarkable and unique magic. As she grows, so do her abilities, and during an inadvertent visit to the spirit realm, she learns something terrifying: someone powerful is trying to kill her.

Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan (Coming of Age)--When two teens, one gay and one straight, meet accidentally and discover that they share the same name, their lives become intertwined as one begins dating the other's best friend, who produces a play revealing his relationship with them both.

A Wreath for Emmett Till by Marilyn NELSON (Poetry/Illustrated) -- In 1955 people all over the United States knew that Emmett Louis Till was a fourteen-year-old African American boy lynched for supposedly whistling at a white woman in Mississippi. The brutality of his murder, the open-casket funeral held by his mother, Mamie Till Mobley, and the acquittal of the men tried for the crime drew wide media attention. In a profound and chilling collection of connecting poems, award-winning poet Marilyn Nelson reminds us of the boy whose fate helped spark the civil rights movement.

Yes, Chef by Marcus Samuelsson (Non-fiction/Memoir)--chronicles Samuelsson's journey, from his grandmother's kitchen to his arrival in New York City, where his outsize talent and ambition finally come together at Aquavit, earning him a *New York Times* three-star rating at the age of twenty-four. But Samuelsson's career of chasing flavors had only just begun—in the intervening years, there have been

White House state dinners, career crises, reality show triumphs, and, most important, the opening of Red Rooster in Harlem.

English IV-12th grade--Weighted honor students only. Read two of the following books and annotate them. Expect a test in September on both books.

Non-Weighted Honors English IV—*suggested*—any one book below. This is not a requirement.

The Stranger, Albert Camus

Chronicle of a Death Foretold, Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Sarah's Key, Tatiana de Rosnay

The White Tiger, Aravind Adiga

Breath, Eyes, Memory, Edwidge Danticat

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen

The Merchant of Venice, William Shakespeare

The Hangman's Daughter, Oliver Potzsch