

11th Grade English Summer Reading

Directions: Select **one** of the following books to read over the course of the summer. Complete the assignment that follows as you read.

Honors Students: Select **two** of the following books to read over the course of the summer. One book must be selected from the fiction section and one book must be selected from the non-fiction section. Complete the assignment that follows for *each* book as you read. However, you do not need 10 entries per book; you only need to complete 7 entries per book.

Note: You may not select your assigned community book if it appears on this list.

Assignments

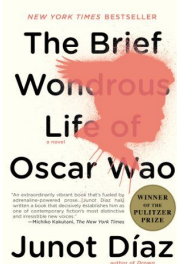
1. QCQ Journal- due at class time on the first day of school. See guidelines below.

Note: You will participate in a Socratic Seminar using your QCQ journal to guide you

2. Performance Based Assessment- a book-based project. Guidelines will be distributed on the first day of school with additional information.

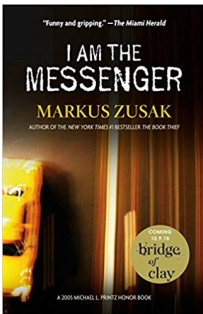
Fiction:

Title and Cover	Description
 <p><i>Little Fires Everywhere</i> by Celeste Ng</p>	<p>“In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.</p> <p>Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.</p> <p>When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.”</p>
 <p><i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i> by Arthur Golden</p>	<p>“Speaking to us with the wisdom of age and in a voice at once haunting and startlingly immediate, Nitta Sayuri tells the story of her life as a geisha. It begins in a poor fishing village in 1929, when, as a nine-year-old girl with unusual blue-gray eyes, she is taken from her home and sold into slavery to a renowned geisha house. We witness her transformation as she learns the rigorous arts of the geisha: dance and music; wearing kimono, elaborate makeup, and hair; pouring sake to reveal just a touch of inner wrist; competing with a jealous rival for men's solicitude and the money that goes with it.</p> <p>In Memoirs of a Geisha, we enter a world where appearances are paramount; where a girl's virginity is auctioned to the highest bidder; where women are trained to beguile the most powerful men; and where love is scorned as illusion. It is a unique and triumphant work of fiction—at once romantic, erotic, suspenseful—and completely unforgettable.”</p>



The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
By Junot Diaz

“Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar’s family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. Encapsulating Dominican-American history, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* opens our eyes to an astonishing vision of the contemporary American experience and explores the endless human capacity to persevere—and risk it all—in the name of love.”

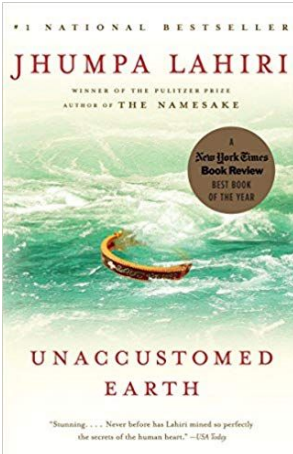


I Am The Messenger
By Markus Zusak

“Ed Kennedy is an underage cabdriver without much of a future. He's pathetic at playing cards, hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey, and utterly devoted to his coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence, until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first ace arrives in the mail.

That's when Ed becomes the messenger.

Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary), until only one question remains: Who's behind Ed's mission?”



Unaccustomed Earth
By Jhumpa Lahiri

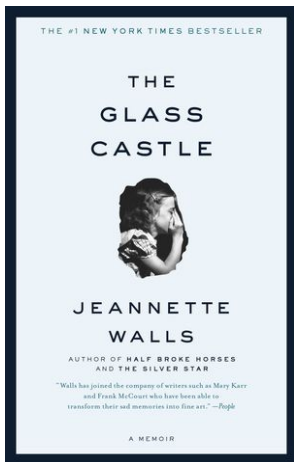
“From the internationally best-selling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, a superbly crafted new work of fiction: eight stories that take us from Cambridge and Seattle to India and Thailand. In the stunning title story, Ruma, a young mother in a new city, is visited by her father, who carefully tends the earth of her garden, where he and his grandson form a special bond. But he's harboring a secret from his daughter, a love affair he's keeping all to himself.

In "A Choice of Accommodations", a husband's attempt to turn an old friend's wedding into a romantic getaway weekend with his wife takes a dark, revealing turn as the party lasts deep into the night.

In "Only Goodness", a sister eager to give her younger brother the perfect childhood she never had is overwhelmed by guilt, anguish, and anger when his alcoholism threatens her family.

And in "Hema and Kaushik" - a trio of linked stories and a luminous, intensely compelling elegy of life, death, love, and fate - we follow the lives of a girl and boy who, one winter, share a house in Massachusetts. They travel from innocence to experience on separate, sometimes painful paths, until destiny brings them together again years later in Rome.”

Non-fiction

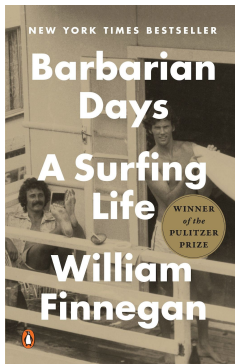


The Glass Castle
By Jeannette Walls

“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. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly.

Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict". Cooking a meal that would be consumed in 15 minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever.

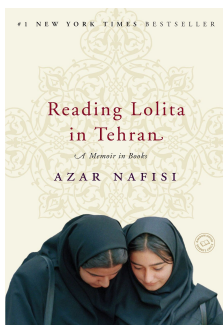
Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town - and the family - Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.”



Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life
By William Finnegan

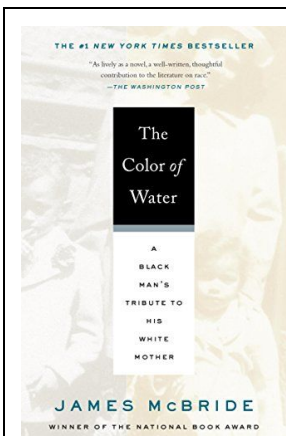
“*Barbarian Days* is William Finnegan's memoir of an obsession, a complex enchantment. Surfing only looks like a sport. To initiate it is something else entirely: a beautiful addiction, a demanding course of study, a morally dangerous pastime, a way of life. Raised in California and Hawaii, Finnegan started surfing as a child. He has chased waves all over the world, wandering for years through the South Pacific, Australia, Asia, Africa. A bookish boy and then an excessively adventurous young man, he went on to become a distinguished writer and war reporter.

Barbarian Days takes us deep into unfamiliar worlds, some of them right under our noses - off the coasts of New York and San Francisco. It immerses the listener in the edgy camaraderie of close male friendships annealed in challenging waves. Finnegan shares stories of life in a whites-only gang in a tough school in Honolulu even while his closest friend was a Hawaiian surfer. He shows us a world turned upside down for kids and adults alike by the social upheavals of the 1960s. He details the intricacies of famous waves and his own apprenticeships to them. Youthful folly - he drops LSD while riding huge Honolua Bay on Maui - is served up with rueful humor. He and a buddy, their knapsacks crammed with reef charts, bushwhack through Polynesia. They discover, while camping on an uninhabited island in Fiji, one of the world's greatest waves.”



Reading Lolita in Tehran
By Azar Nafisi

“Every Thursday morning for two years in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a bold and inspired teacher named Azar Nafisi secretly gathered seven of her most committed female students to read forbidden Western classics. As Islamic morality squads staged arbitrary raids in Tehran, fundamentalists seized hold of the universities, and a blind censor stifled artistic expression, the girls in Azar Nafisi's living room risked removing their veils and immersed themselves in the worlds of Jane Austen, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Henry James, and Vladimir Nabokov. In this extraordinary memoir, their stories become intertwined with the ones they are reading. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* is a remarkable exploration of resilience in the face of tyranny and a celebration of the liberating power of literature.”



The Color of Water
By James McBride

“Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared "light-skinned" woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful debut, *The Color Of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*.

The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in "orchestrated chaos" with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. "Mommy," a fiercely protective woman with "dark eyes full of pep and fire," herded her brood to Manhattan's free cultural events, sent them off on buses to the best (and mainly Jewish) schools, demanded good grades, and commanded respect. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, worry, and confusion—and reached thirty before he began to discover the truth about her early life and long-buried pain.”

QCQ Journal Overview: Use the QCQ (Questions, Connections, Quotations) sheets provided to you to engage with the text. You are expected to complete 10 sheets for your book. Therefore, you should split your book into 10 chunks (For example, if your book is 200 pages, split the book into 20 page chunks).

Guidelines: The following are guidelines, not commandments. You don't have to answer every question in every journal. You must have a minimum of TEN (10) journal entries. Don't rely on SparkNotes, Cliffs Notes, or any other stale, safe, canned analysis. We are interested in your response, uncontaminated by those who produce these “study aids.” You may type your entries or hand write them on the sheets provided. However, a **physical copy is due on the first day of school**. If you are typing your responses, they need to be **printed** and handed in.

Questions

- Any confusing words or comments
- Concerns about character's actions
- Things you are unfamiliar with, such as the setting
- Technical questions (Why did the author choose to...?)

Connections

- Text to self: How can you personally relate to an event or character?
- Text to text: How is something about this book similar to something else that you have read?
- Text to world: How are the ideas in the book similar or different from what is happening in real life, such as in the news?

Quotations

- Select quotes that are important or interesting to you for any reason
- Explain why you selected this exact quote
- Remember to cite!

CRITERIA FOR A SUCCESSFUL QCQ JOURNAL (i.e. “How to earn an A!”)

- Quotations utilized are detailed, meaningful and attributed to a page number
- Interpretations of the text are thoughtful, in-depth, and avoid clichés
- Personal and cultural connections are insightful and thought-provoking
- Entries span throughout the novel
- The journal discusses how literary elements and figurative language contribute to the theme
- The journal is neat, organized, looks professional and follows the directions above

Example QCQ Journal Entry

Name: _____

Date: _____

Ch 1-3 (page 13-57)

I. Questions:

1. (p.) _____

2. (p.) _____

3. (p.) _____

II. Connections (text to self, text to world, text to text)

1. (p.) _____

2. (p.) _____

III. Quotation that you find remarkable and your reason for selection:

(p.) _____

