

AP LANG/ IB English Lit SENIORS SUMMER READING 2019-2020

Welcome to your senior year; we look forward to traversing the globe with you through the eyes of some of the best writers of all time. Students enrolled in AP Lang or Senior IB will be required to read two (2) selections over the summer: one fiction and one nonfiction. We would like to see you bring these books to class on the first day of school.

Be prepared to be assessed over these books immediately upon school starting. It would benefit you to annotate in your book (if you own it) while you read. The only assignment you have this summer is to immerse yourself in the splendor of these books and enjoy some fine summer reading!

NOVEL CHOICES

FICTION (choose one)

The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner: The novel centers on the Compson family, former Southern aristocrats who are struggling to deal with the dissolution of their family and its reputation. Over the course of the 30 years or so related in the novel, the family falls into financial ruin, loses its religious faith and the respect of the town of Jefferson, and many of them die tragically.

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway: A 1926 modernist novel about a group of American and British expatriates who travel from Paris to the Festival of San Fernan in Pamplona to watch the running of the bulls and the bullfights.

The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker: *The Age of Miracles* tells the haunting and beautiful story of Julia and her family as they struggle to live in a time of extraordinary change as days and nights are growing longer and longer; gravity is affected; the birds, the tides, human behavior, and cosmic rhythms are thrown into disarray.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley: Written in 1931 and set in London in the year AD 2540, the novel anticipates developments in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation, and classical conditioning that are combined to profoundly change society.

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline: In the year 2044, the world has been gripped by an energy crisis from the depletion of fossil fuels and the consequences of global warming, causing widespread social problems and economic stagnation. To escape the decline their world is facing, people turn to the OASIS, a virtual reality simulator accessible by players using visors and haptic technology such as gloves. It functions both as an MMORPG and as a virtual society, with its currency being the most stable in the real world. It was created by James Halliday who, when he died, had announced in his will to the public that he had left an Easter egg inside OASIS, and the first person to find it would inherit his entire fortune and the corporation. The story follows the adventures of Wade Watts, starting about five years after the announcement, when he discovers one of the three keys pointing to the treasure.

Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens It was the time of the French Revolution — a time of great change and great danger. It was a time when injustice was met by a lust for vengeance, and rarely was a distinction made between the innocent and the guilty. Against this tumultuous historical backdrop, Dickens' great story of unsurpassed adventure and courage unfolds. Unjustly imprisoned for 18 years in the Bastille, Dr. Alexandre Manette is reunited with his daughter, Lucie, and safely transported from France to England. It would seem that they could take up the threads of their lives in peace. As fate would have it though, the pair are summoned to the Old Bailey to testify against a young Frenchman — Charles Darnay — falsely accused of treason. Strangely enough, Darnay bears an uncanny resemblance to another man in the courtroom, the dissolute lawyer's clerk Sydney Carton. It is a coincidence that saves Darnay from certain doom more than once. Brilliantly plotted, the novel is rich in drama, romance, and heroics that culminate in a daring prison escape in the shadow of the guillotine.

NONFICTION (choose one)

Devil at My Heels by Louis Zamperini and David Rensin: The personal memoir of Louis Zamperini, a U.S. Olympian, World War II bombardier, and POW survivor.

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote: This book details the 1959 murders of four members of the Herbert Clutter family in the small farming community of Holcomb, Kansas. It has been especially lauded for its eloquent prose, extensive detail, and simultaneous triple narrative, which describes the lives of the murderers, the victims, and other members of the rural community in alternating sequences.

***Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee* by Casey Cep** Reverend Willie Maxwell was a rural preacher accused of murdering five of his family members for insurance money in the 1970s. With the help of a savvy lawyer, he escaped justice for years until a relative shot him dead at the funeral of his last victim. Despite hundreds of witnesses, Maxwell's murderer was acquitted--thanks to the same attorney who had previously defended the Reverend. Sitting in the audience during the vigilante's trial was Harper Lee, who had traveled from New York City to her native Alabama with the idea of writing her own *In Cold Blood*, the true-crime classic she had helped her friend Truman Capote research seventeen years earlier. Lee spent a year in town reporting, and many more years working on her own version of the case.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls: A 2005 memoir, the book recounts the unconventional, poverty-stricken upbringing Walls and her siblings had at the hands of their deeply dysfunctional parents.

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah: By turns alarming, sad and funny, this book provides a harrowing look, through the prism of Mr. Noah's family, at life in South Africa under apartheid and the country's lurching entry into a post apartheid era in the 1990s. He recounts raw, deeply personal reminiscences about being "half-white, half-black" in a country where his birth "violated any number of laws, statutes and regulations."

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore tells the story of young women who were drawn to glamorous work with radium in the 1910s and 20s, only to have their lives taken — painfully, horrendously, and very early — by the lethal substance.

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann: A twisting, haunting true-life murder mystery about one of the most monstrous crimes in American history

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

Recommended for its insightful tips – *How to Read Literature like a Professor* by Thomas Foster.

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