

Mrs. Doyle

Reading High School  
2019 Summer Reading  
**English 11**

For students taking English 11, choose ONE of the following *Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout* books to read.

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1. - **Dr. Rick Grigsby** (nonfiction)

After his wife died, Rick Rigsby was ready to give up. The bare minimum was good enough. Rigsby was content to go through the motions, living out his life as a shell of himself. But then he remembered the lessons his father taught him years before - something insanely simple, yet incredibly profound.

These lessons weren't in advanced mathematics or the secrets of the stock market. They were quite straightforward, in fact, for Rigsby's father never made it through third grade. But if this uneducated man's instructions were powerful enough to produce a Ph.D. and a judge – imagine what they can do for you.

Join Rigsby as he dusts off time-tested beliefs and finds brilliantly simple answers to modern society's questions. In a magnificent testament to the "Greatest Generation" which gave so much and asked so little in return, *Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout* will challenge you while reigniting your passion to lead a truly fulfilling life.

After all, it's never too late to learn a little bit more about life – just ask the third-grade dropout.

2. ***Hillbilly Elegy*** - **J. D. Vance** (nonfiction)

The Vance family story began with hope in postwar America. J.D.'s grandparents were "dirt poor and in love" and moved north from Kentucky's Appalachian region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. *Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of poor, white Americans. The disintegration of this group, a process that has been slowly occurring now for over forty years, has been reported with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. In *Hillbilly Elegy*, J.D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hanging around your neck.

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**For a successful experience with your summer reading assignment:**

1. ***Finding the book(s)*** -- Check your local library first. The Cincinnati Public Library will help locate a copy for you if your branch does not have it. ***Amazon.com*** seems to have everything. Ask your parents about ordering a used copy of the novel from that site. Check ***Half Price Books***, too.

2. In order to be ***actively engaged*** you ***must take NOTES on what you read!!!*** I suggest for EACH chapter you note:

- MAIN EVENTS, causes, reactions, details, characters, developing themes,
- LESSON or LESSONS taught and learned, and HOW those were taught and learned.
- YOUR OWN REACTIONS and CONNECTIONS to EVENTS or LESSONS LEARNED.

3. WE WILL TAKE A 75 pt. TEST OVER YOUR SELECTED NOVEL ON THE 3RD DAY OF CLASS.

If you have written any NOTES--NOT PRINTED MATERIAL OFF OF THE INTERNET--then you will be allowed to use those WRITTEN NOTES on the day of the test. I will collect those notes from you as well.

4. AGAIN, NO PRINTED MATERIALS FROM ANY WEBSITE WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE USED ON THE TEST.

5. And on the day of the test, you will only be allowed to use those notes for 15 MINUTES.

***And finally,*** come see me if you have any questions. You can email me throughout the summer; I check school email a couple times during the week, and I'll get back to you as soon as possible. [bdoyle@readingschools.org](mailto:bdoyle@readingschools.org)