The English Department of Glen Ridge High School believes that summer reading is the best way for a student to continue the learning process, make transitions to new classes and enjoy great books. Current research on summer reading reveals the extent to which a several-month gap in literacy activities can hinder reading growth. Now, more than ever, reading is important. To this end, we are requiring that you read at least one book over the course of this summer.

Below is a chart of summer reading assignments for each English course offered at GRHS. Students are expected to read the assigned books before the start of school, and they should expect to be assessed on their reading at the beginning of the school year. Only the AP classes are responsible for writing assignments over the summer.

Following this required reading list, we have provided additional reading suggestions. We are hopeful that the lists will encourage students to read more as they look forward to the luxury of time that summer will provide.

We’d like to kick off the summer with a thought by the talented and inspirational author, Maya Angelou, who encapsulates the philosophy of the Glen Ridge English Department. In discussing the importance of reading, Angelou once said, “When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.” Given the challenging times we’ve all been grappling with, let’s embrace the “life-giving power of literature.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade and Course for 2020-2021 school year</th>
<th>Required Summer Reading Books</th>
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<tr>
<td>English 7</td>
<td><em>The Outsiders</em> by S.E. Hinton</td>
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<td>Audible Link: <em>The Outsiders</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>English 7 Resource</td>
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<tr>
<td>English 8</td>
<td><em>Of Mice &amp; Men</em> by John Steinbeck</td>
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</table>
| English 9 CP | Choose **one**:  
|             | - *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou  
|             | - *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson  
|             | - *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand                                     |
| English 9 Resource | *Unbroken: An Olympian’s Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* by Lauren Hillenbrand (The Young Adult Adaptation)  
|             | **Audible Link:** *Unbroken* (The Young Adult Adaptation)*             |
| English 9 Honors | Choose **one** from **each** category:  
|             | **FICTION**  
|             | - *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern  
|             | - *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams  
|             | - *Kindred* by Octavia Butler  
|             | - *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman  
|             | **NONFICTION**  
|             | - *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand  
|             | - *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer  
|             | - *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson  
|             | - *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren                                         |
| English 10 CP | *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri                                      |
| English 10 Resource | *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom                   |
| English 10 Honors | Read **both**:  
|             | - *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston  
|             | - *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri                                    |
| English 11 CP | *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr                       |
| English 11 Resource | *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson |
| English 11 Honors | Read **both**:  
|             | - *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
|             | - *Educated* by Tara Westover                                        |
| English 12 CP | Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah  
| Audible Link: Born a Crime |
| English 12 Resource | The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore  
| Audible Link: The Other Wes Moore |
| AP Language and Composition | The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot.  
Students are also required to do the following:  
- Respond to Op-eds  
- Watch and respond to a documentary  
The full summer AP Language reading assignment can be found here. |
| AP Literature and Composition | Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë.  
All students must choose one from the following list to read in addition to Jane Eyre.  
- The Idiot by Elif Batuman  
- The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead  
- Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders  
- Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward  
- The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen  
The full assignment, including instructions for the required notes can be found here and on my school webpage. |

**English Department Summer Reading Suggestions**

We encourage you to read as much as possible this summer! Here are a few lists to inspire you.

**Middle School**  
- For MS Books recommended by the American Library Association try “Summer Reading List Grades 6-8”.  
- Do you enjoy YA books? How about selecting from these fun titles: “Best YA Books of the Decade, According to the Best YA Authors of the Year”.  
- Fans of graphic novels, find some recommendations here: “20 of the Best Graphic Novels for Teens” and “ALA’s 20 Great Graphic Novels for Teens”.  

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**AP Language and Composition**  
The full summer AP Language reading assignment can be found [here](#).  
Please visit my school webpage for additional instructions.

**AP Literature and Composition**  
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë.  
All students must choose one from the following list to read in addition to Jane Eyre:  
- The Idiot by Elif Batuman  
- The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead  
- Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders  
- Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward  
- The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen  

The full assignment, including instructions for the required notes can be found [here](#) and on my school webpage.
High School

- Consider this resource which includes new books, separated by genre: “The New York Times Book Review Guide to Summer Reading”.
- If you like contemporary novels, consider these books: “A Century of Reading: The 10 Books That Have Defined the 2010s (So Far)”.
- Stuck at home? Travel in your imagination with these books: “50 states, 50 love stories”.
- If you’re a fan of science fiction, consider this list of “22 Science Fiction books everyone should read”.
- Are you a fan of being scared? Then try one of these: “Best horror books: the 32 scariest books of all time”.
- Looking for books to broaden your horizons or deepen your understanding of the world? Choose something from “ALA’s list of Outstanding Books for the College Bound”.

To take advantage of free ebooks and audiobooks available through our school library, visit our FolletShelf Virtual Library collection. (User name: glen / Password: ridge)

Please email kbalaschak@glenridge.org if you have any difficulty obtaining a required summer reading book. Thanks, and happy reading!