

## ENGLISH SUMMER READING 2020: MASTER LIST

### English 9 (Freshmen)

Choose **one** of the following books to read, and be ready to discuss when we work together this fall:

*The Tenth Man* by Graham Greene

*The Color of Water* by James McBride

*Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri

*Kitchen* by Banana Yoshimoto

### English 10: The Human Condition (Sophomores)

#### Required Text:

**Noah, Trevor. *Born A Crime*.** Spiegel & Grau; Reprint edition (February 12, 2019), **ISBN-13:** 978-0399588198

#### Pre- and Post-Reading Activities

- 1. Pre-Reading: Who is Trevor Noah?** Born in *apartheid* South Africa, Trevor Noah has become a household name on the comedy circuit in the United States (and is currently the host of The Daily Show). What can you learn about Noah before beginning his memoir?
- 2. Pre-Reading: Apartheid.** You have learned about slavery and segregation in the American south, and racism today, but the country, South Africa wrote into law the policy of *apartheid*, in 1948, and violating its laws would mean imprisonment (and sometimes death). What were some of its inhumane rules and laws?
- 3. Post-Reading (short notes required): The role of crime and poverty.** “The hood made me realize that crime succeeds because crime does the one thing the government doesn’t do: crime cares. Crime is grassroots. Crime looks for young

kids who need support and a lifting hand. Crime offers internship programs and summer jobs and opportunities for advancement. Crime gets involved in the community. Crime doesn't discriminate" Do you agree with Noah's argument? Is his argument valid in the United States? Be prepared to share your thoughts.

\*\* ***Born A Crime*** will be incorporated into our first reading unit at the beginning of the year.

**Additional (optional): Students are strongly encouraged to read at least two books from the list below.**

- Coelho, Paul. *The Alchemist*
- Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit, 451*
- Krakauer, John. *Into Thin Air*
- Zusak, Marcus. *The Book Thief*
- Cisneros, Sandra. *The House on Mango Street*
- Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*
- McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*
- Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*
- Kass, Pnida Moed. *Real Time*
- Naidoo, Beverly. *Out of Bounds*
- Clement, Jennifer. *Prayers for the Stolen*
- Adams, Douglas. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

## **English 11: The American Experience (juniors)**

### **Suggested books (any edition)**

- Read one classic: *The Great Gatsby* (F.S. Fitzgerald) or *Raisin in the Sun* (L. Hansberry)
- Read one contemporary book: *The Poet X* (E. Acevedo) or *The Book of Unknown Americans* (C. Henríquez)

## **Class Preparation**

In our first week back after the summer break:

- 1) You will be asked to write a short book review of one of your two books (random selection.)
- 2) As a class, we will discuss what the American protagonists of these books have in common and what separates them. We will reflect on what these books show about the American experience.

## **Honors English 11: American Literature (juniors)**

### **Suggested books**

- *The Grapes of Wrath* (J. Steinbeck)
- *A Raisin in the Sun* (L. Hansberry)
- *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* (S. Smarsh)
- *The Book of Unknown Americans* (C. Henríquez)

## **Class Preparation**

Read three out of the four books suggested. Take good notes about the protagonists; in particular, pay attention to their aspirations and the obstacles they encounter. In our first week back after the summer break:

- 1) You will be asked to write a short book review of one of the three books (random selection.)
- 2) As a class, we will discuss how the themes of poverty, striving, ambition, and honor are represented in these narratives.

## **AP English (Seniors)**

All work is available in Google Classroom; please email Ms. Buecheler ([cbuecheler@rockyhill.org](mailto:cbuecheler@rockyhill.org)) for access. Attach your work to the assignment but do not turn it in so you can keep editing access. You may unsubmit if you submitted by mistake.

## Required texts

The following editions are strongly recommended, as we will further study these texts in class together:

- 1) *Crime and Punishment*, by F. Dostoevsky, trans. Pevear & Volokhonsky, Vintage Classics; ISBN 9780679734505
- 2) *Beloved*, by T. Morrison, Vintage; ISBN 978-1400033416
- 3) *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, ed. K. Mays, Norton; ISBN 978-0393938937 (note that we use the Portable 12th edition, NOT the recent 13th edition)

## Class Preparation

- Read both novels. For each, create a "Rap Sheet" on the model provided in Google Classroom. If you are not sure how to answer some of the questions, just try your best - we will work together in class.
- Read the following texts in *The Norton Introduction to Literature* and answer the associated questions in Google Classroom:
  - "Introduction" (pages 1-10)
  - "The Lesson" by Toni Cade Bambara (279-86)
  - "Hills Like White Elephants" by Ernest Hemingway (122-26)
  - "Good People" by David Foster Wallace (156-62)
  - "A Pair of Tickets" by Amy Tan (186-202)

## All Non-AP English Seniors (includes all seniors taking any of the English electives)

**Required:** Please choose **two** books from the selection of fiction and non-fiction texts below. As you read, write three journal-style entries for each book; each entry should explore your personal thoughts and questions in response to the subject matter, setting, and major theme(s). In the first week after summer break, you will join fellow readers in online book club groups. (Hot Tip! Selected quotations and textual references will strengthen your participation.)

*The Murderess* (Alexandros Papadiamantis, translated by Peter Levi)

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (Mohsin Hamid) or *Exit West* (Mohsin Hamid)

*Another Country* (James Baldwin)

*Kindred* (Octavia E. Butler)  
*Light Between Oceans* (M.L. Stedman)  
*There There* (Tommy Orange)  
*Disappearing Earth* (Julia Phillips)  
*Reading Lolita in Tehran* (Azar Nafisi)  
*All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir* (Nicole Chung)  
*After the Shot Drops* (Randy Ribay)  
*Blindness* (Jose Saramago)  
*The Hate U Give* (Angie Thomas)  
*Cat's Cradle* (Kurt Vonnegut Jr.)  
*The Underground Railroad* (Colson Whitehead)  
*Tenth of December* (George Saunders)  
*Just Mercy*  
*They Called Us Enemies* (George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott, & Harmony Becker)  
*The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* (Jonathan Haidt)  
*Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* (Katherine Boo)  
*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (Bryan Stevenson)  
*How to Be an Antiracist* (Ibram X. Kendi)

**ENJOY THE SUMMER!**