

Summer Reading for Students Entering English 11/11R/11H

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay by Michael Chabon. Joe Kavalier, a refugee from Nazi-invaded Prague, and his cousin Sammy Clay make it big creating superhero comic books. 2

The Big Money by John Dos Passos. This novel employs several narrative techniques as it tells the story of America's march toward the Crash of 1929. 2

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath. A largely autobiographical novel, *The Bell Jar* tells the story of a gifted young woman's mental breakdown beginning during a summer internship as a junior editor at a magazine in New York City in the early 1950s. 2

The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis. This biography of an University of Mississippi football player, Michael Oher, details how he was raised by a crack-addicted mother and adopted at the age of sixteen by a wealthy family. It explores the rising importance and salary of the offensive left tackle in the game of football. 2

Breaking the Ice: The Black Experience in Professional Hockey by Cecil Harris. This is the first book to tell the unique stories of black hockey players including Herb Carnegie, Anson Carter, Mike Grier, Grant Fuhr, Mike Marson, Jarome Iginla, Willie O'Ree and many more. 1

Double Bind by Chris Bohjalian. What if *The Great Gatsby* were not a novel but a true story? Join Laurel as she seeks to discover if a homeless man's photos provide hints about its truth? 2

Duma Key by Stephen King. King's newest novel takes place in Duma, Florida, a deceptively idyllic place. Unfortunately, its newest resident soon discovers some supernatural powers among its residents. 2

The Eye of the World by Robert Jordan. A coming of age tale in which Rand al'Thor and his friends are whisked from their village into a world of hidden wars and fragile alliances. Their only guide through this treacherous land, an Aes Sedai named Moiraine, may turn out to be the woman they most need to fear. In the fashion of *Lord of the Rings*, Jordan spins a timeless tale of the struggle between good and evil. 2

The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde. Takes place in an alternate version of late-20th-century England where cloning has reintroduced extinct creatures and classic literature is part of popular culture. Literary detective Thursday Next must protect the manuscripts of great works from being rewritten by the evil Acheron Hades. 2

A Gathering of Old Men by Ernest Gaines - One dead racist farmer, eighteen old men willing to take the blame. Will the sheriff uncover the truth? 2

Girl in Hyacinth Blue by Susan Vreeland. The reasons that a painting has been hidden for decades unfolds in a series of stories that trace the ownership of the painting back to the moment of the work's inspiration. As the painting moves through each owner's hands, not only are secrets illuminated but lives are revealed. An unforgettable story. 1

Goldengrove by Francine Prose. When Nico's 17-year-old sister dies, she finds her parents unable to comfort her. Will having a relationship with Margaret's boyfriend help soothe her loss? 1

Growing Up by Russell Baker. This Pulitzer Prize winning memoir of growing up in American between the two World Wars. It takes you through his experiences in the mountains of Virginia all the way to a suburb of New Jersey. 2

Happy Birthday or Whatever by Annie Choi. The narrator and her Korean born parents don't always understand each other. This hilarious memoir explores family dynamics. 1

The Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent. Sarah Carrier, the narrator, is the daughter of Martha Carrier, an accused witch in 1692 Salem. Join her as she and her family experience the horrors of that period in American History. 1

The History of Love by Nicole Krauss. Leo Gursky, an elderly Holocaust survivor, is lonely and isolated. But he wasn't always. Long ago he fell in love and wrote a book. The book reappears and serves to introduce Leo to family he never knew. 1

<p>I Am Charlotte Simmons by Tom Wolfe. Wondering what college is really like? Wolfe's novel based on trips to over 700 campuses exposes college as it really is. 2</p>
<p>Into the Wild by John Krakauer. In 1992, a man from a well-to-do family hitchhikes to Alaska and walks alone in the wilderness. Months later, a moose hunter finds his body. Read this captivating tale about how he got there and the challenges he faced along the way. 1</p>
<p>Joe Torre: The Yankee Years by Joe Torre and Tom Verducci. Twelve straight playoffs, six pennants, and four world series titles: this is the definitive story of the Yankees with Torre at the helm. 1</p>
<p>The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara. In the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation's history, two armies fought at Gettysburg for two dreams. One dreamed of freedom, the other a way of life. This is a re-creation of that battle that gives significant insight into what the war was about and what it meant. 2</p>
<p>The Loop by Nicholas Evans. A pack of wolves makes a sudden savage return to the Rocky Mountain town of Hope, Montana. Shielded by the law as an endangered species, the wolves reawaken an ancient hatred that will tear a family and a town apart. 1</p>
<p>Manhunt by James L. Swanson - A non-fiction account of the pursuit of John Wilkes Booth in the days after Lincoln's assassination. 1</p>
<p>Maximum Ride: Max by James Patterson. Max and her team "The Flock" are asked to investigate the cause of dying fish and disappearing ships off the coast of Hawaii. 1</p>
<p>Miles from Nowhere by Nami Mun. In 1980s New York, Joon-Mee, a 12-year-old South Korean immigrant, leaves her dysfunctional Bronx home—including a mentally ill mother and a philandering, alcoholic father—for life on the streets. When she is finally arrested for stealing food, Joon tries to clean herself up. 2</p>
<p>Mother Night by Kurt Vonnegut. American Howard W. Campbell, Jr., a spy during WWII, is now on trial in Israel as a Nazi war criminal. But is he really guilty? 3</p>
<p>My Jim by Nancy Rawles. In her moving retelling of the story of escaped slave Jim from Mark Twain's <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>, Rawles shifts the focus to Jim's wife, Sadie, whose unspeakable losses set the tone for Jim's flight. 2</p>
<p>No Longer At Ease by Chinua Achebe. This is the sequel to Achebe's <i>Things Fall Apart</i>. It tells the story of Okonkwo's grandson, Obi Okonkwo, who struggles with adapting to the Western culture and way of life after leaving his village for a British education and a job in the Nigerian colonial civil service. 2</p>
<p>One L by Scott Turow - Thinking of law school? Join the author in his first year at Harvard Law. 2</p>
<p>The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids by Alexandra Robbins - The college chase dominates the lives of eight high school students from Bethesda, Maryland. Read their stories and experience the ups and downs of high school life. 2</p>
<p>The Pact by Jodi Piccolt. Until the phone calls came at three o'clock on a November morning, the Golds and their neighbors, the Hartes, had been inseparable. It was no surprise to anyone when their teenage children, Chris and Emily, began showing signs that their relationship was moving beyond that of lifelong friends. But now seventeen-year-old Emily is dead—shot with a gun her beloved and devoted Chris pilfered from his father's cabinet as part of an apparent suicide pact—leaving two devastated families stranded in the dark and dense predawn, desperate for answers about an unthinkable act and the children they never really knew. 2</p>
<p>Playing for Pizza by John Grisham. When third-string quarterback, Rick Dockery finds himself unable to play football in the USA, he begs his manager to find him a team anywhere . . . anywhere. He manager does, and Dockery soon finds himself playing for the Panthers, the Parma Panthers. That's Parma, the city in Italy. Join Dockery on his adventures in his unfamiliar surroundings. 1</p>
<p>Pretty Good for a Girl by Leslie Haywood. This is an autobiography about Leslie Haywood's adolescence. As a teen, she wants to be seen for who she is by her parents, her coach, and the boys in her new high school. She writes, "They don't see me. They see some blank girl instead,</p>

some chick." Leslie is a talented runner and finds success, surprising friendships, and a sense of purpose by running for the cross country team. Faced with family troubles and sexism, her drive to conquer the sport becomes insatiable, to the point of danger. 1
Prey by Michael Crichton. This is a story of a scientific experiment gone wrong and threatens the entire world population. Few weave science and fiction together as well as Michael Crichton, the author of Jurassic Park and other similar thrilling adventures. 1
Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi. In 1995, a female professor in Iran forms a book club to discuss great Western literature in her home. This memoir of this secret book club is an engaging novel about the prejudices women have to face in other parts of the world. 2
Salem Falls by Jodi Picoult. In this novel, which parallels the events of the Salem witch trial, four teenage girls make allegations against a former teacher. 1
Songcatcher by Sharyn McCrumb. A young, successful folk song writer goes back home for a last chance to reconcile with her stubborn and difficult father and her own family history. 2
Songs for the Missing by Stewart O’Nan. Kim Larsen suddenly disappears from her small town one afternoon on her way to work. How will her family cope? How long should they continue to search for her? 1
State of Fear by Michael Crichton. Forbes magazine calls this a “can’t-put-it-down novel,” “a first-of-a-kind thriller.” Crichton attacks the notion of global warming in this blend of science and suspense. 2
Stones from the River by Ursula Hegi. Trudi Montag is born during World War I in Burgdorf, Germany. Being a dwarf, Trudi yearns to grow up to be like others. Being a purveyor of secrets, Trudi chooses to keep some secrets and reveal others, but most of all she becomes the collective voice of those who have always tried to fit in. 2
Stranger in a Strange Land by Robert Heinlein. After his arrival on Earth from his home on Mars, Valentine Michael Smith becomes the founder and pastor of a new religious sect. 2
The Thirteenth Tale by Dianne Setterfield - A mysterious writer hires a woman to write her biography and an odd story it is. If you like twists and turns, this is for you. 2
The Three Miss Margarets by Louise Shaffer - Thirty years ago the three Miss Margarets did something extraordinary, clandestine, and controversial. Little does the rest of the Georgia town know that beneath the irreproachable facades of these three honorable women lies an explosive decades-old secret that is about to be revealed. An irresistible, page-turning exploration of the past and present. 2
Wish You Well by David Baldacci. A story of a young New York City girl and her brother who tragically and suddenly lose their parents and must go to live with their only living relative, their great-grandmother, a tough mountain woman who lives in the hills of Virginia. 1
The Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula LeGuin. A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the master wizard. 2

Teacher Recommendations:

Miss Stein:

Franny and Zooey by JD Salinger

The story of two siblings, a sister (Franny) and brother (Zooey), the two youngest children of the Glass family, which explores who they are and how they came to be that way. Salinger utilizes eastern philosophy (like Buddhism) to achieve his goals. 2

Nine Stories by JD Salinger

Would you rather read a collection of short stories? Salinger’s Nine Stories deals with topics like post-traumatic stress disorder, love, guilt, relationships, war, religion and philosophy, and Salinger intertwines characters from his novel, Franny and Zooey. 2

Little Women Louisa May Alcott

The classic story of the March family-4 daughters who come of age in Civil War-era New England.
2

Laughter on the 23rd Floor by Neil Simon

Would you rather read a play? Do you like comedy? Laughter on the 23rd Floor is based on Neil Simon's early career as a television comedy writer for Your Show of Shows. The play focuses on the writing room, and Neil drew inspiration from his fellow writing room colleagues Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, and Woody Allen. 1

Mrs. Rothstein:

Second Heaven by Judith Guest. It is Judith Guest's second novel which was published in 1982 and deals with some of the same themes as her first novel, Ordinary People. At the heart of the book is a troubled teenager who is struggling to escape his abusive father with the help of his lawyer and a recently divorced woman who takes him in. This novel has mature themes. 2

Miss Connelly:

The Body of Christopher Creed by Carol Plum-Ucci

Is it possible that someone goes missing and nobody notices? A mystery, a murder, the search for truth. Written from the recollections of Tory Adams' experience, two years after a disappearance of Christopher Creed, he becomes fascinated by the missing boy and with the help of two friends they investigate the mysterious disappearance. 1

Ms. Brand:

The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand. Not only does this novel suck you in with its excellent characters and engaging story line, it really leaves an impression with its original and thoughtful philosophies. Howard Roark is an architect that is determined to follow his own vision whether or not anyone else thinks he should build buildings the way he does. Of course, this leads to many conflicts, but Roark is not someone who easily gives into pressure. (Note: Reading this novel may also help make you eligible for a college scholarship in the future). 2