

## **10th Grade Reading List**

### Summer Reading List

#### Incoming Sophomores/American Literature

#### ***In The Time of Butterflies*** by Julia Alvarez

Set during the waning days of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in 1960, this extraordinary novel tells the story of the Mirabel sisters, three young wives and mothers who are assassinated after visiting their jailed husbands.

#### ***I, Robot*** by Isaac Asimov

In this classic science fiction collection, Asimov sets out the principles of robot behavior that we know as the Three Laws of Robotics. Here are stories of robots gone mad, mind-reading robots, robots with a sense of humor, robot politicians, and robots who secretly run the world.

#### ***Black Ice*** by Lorene Carey

In 1972, Lorene Cary, a bright, ambitious black teenager from Philadelphia was transplanted into the formerly all-white, all male environs of the elite St. Paul's School in New Hampshire, where she became a scholarship student in a 'boot camp' for future American leaders. Like any good student, she was determined to succeed. But Cary was also determined to succeed without selling out. This wonderfully frank and perceptive memoir describes the perils and ambiguities of that double role.

#### ***My Antonia*** by Willa Cather

Jim Burden's accounting of his life with, and without, Antonia Shimerda. His recollections begin with him seeing the Shimerda family, immigrants from Bohemia, disembarking from the same train that is taking him West to live with his grandparents. At the time, he has no idea the impact they will have on his life. Nostalgically, he remembers the good and bad times they had on their respective farms and creates his portrait of Antonia as an independent and tough survivor.

#### ***River, Cross My Heart*** by Breena Clarke

This first novel takes place in Georgetown in 1925, where a large and close-knit African American community took shape beneath the shadow of segregation. At the center of the story is baby Clara, who is swallowed by the Potomac as her sister, Johnnie Mae, cools in the river. It's the only place the girls can find relief- they are banned from the new, clean swimming pool the white kids use.

***The Terrorist*** by Caroline B. Cooney

Sixteen-year-old Laura, an American living in London, tries to find the person responsible for the death of her younger brother Billy, who has been killed by a terrorist bomb.

***Flight of the Intruder*** by Stephen Coonts

After too many senseless missions and deaths, Jack "Cool Hand" Grafton is a man ready to explode. Now, with a renegade bombardier named Tiger, Jack's flying his A-6 Intruder jet deep into North Vietnam, on one last hell-bent strike for honor and victory.

***Tenderness*** by Robert Cormier

A psychological thriller told from the points of view of a teenage serial killer and the runaway girl who falls in love with him.

***Deliverance*** by James Dickey

This is the classic tale of four men caught in a primitive and violent test of manhood.

***Ragtime*** by E.L. Doctorow

Ragtime captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War. Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, J. P. Morgan, Evelyn Nesbit, Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata slip in and out of the tale, crossing paths with Doctorow's imagined family and other fictional characters, including an immigrant peddler and a ragtime musician from Harlem whose insistence on a point of justice drives him to revolutionary violence.

***U.S.A.*** (trilogy) by John Dos Passos

This trio of novels comprised of *The 42nd Parallel*, *1919*, and *The Big Money* presents readers with a novelistic view of America, from the robber barons to the labor radicals to the great American artists of the early twentieth century.

***An American Tragedy*** by Theodore Dreiser

Griffiths is just a Midwest kid, the son of a preacher in Kansas City, who tastes a little sophistication and then hits the road seeking pleasure and success. He has his moments, conducting more than one romantic affair, until that ill-advised pursuit ensnares him.

***Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*** by Barbara Ehrenreich

With some 12 million women being pushed into the labor market by welfare reform, the author decided to do some good old-fashioned journalism and find out just how they were going to survive on the wages of the unskilled - - at \$6 to \$7 an hour - - so she did what millions of Americans do: she looked for a job and a place to live, worked that job, and tried to make ends meet.

***Charms for the Easy Life*** by Kaye Gibbons

Gibbons humorously describes three generations of Southern women living together during World War II. Unworthy men marry into this formidable tribe, but they cannot break the women's circle of strength and grace.

***I Never Promise You a Rose Garden*** by Joanne Greenberg

The strange and seductive world of insanity is charted clearly, explicitly, and beautifully as a young girl spends three years in a mental hospital.

***Stranger in a Strange Land*** by Robert Heinlein

This is the story of Valentine Michael Smith, born during, and the only survivor of, the first manned mission to Mars. Michael is raised by Martians, and he arrives on Earth as a true innocent. He has never seen a woman and has no knowledge of Earth's cultures or religions. His appearance on Earth also creates turmoil on the planet for he is the legal heir to an enormous financial empire, not to mention de facto owner of the planet Mars.

***Catch - 22*** by Joseph Heller

Described as "A comic, satirical, surreal, and apocalyptic novel..." by the Oxford Companion to English Literature, *Catch-22* is set in the closing months of World War II in an American bomber squadron off Italy. It is story of a bombardier named Yossarian. He is frantic and furious because thousands of people he hasn't even met keep trying to kill him. This famous Heller novel is a microcosm of the twentieth-century world as it might look to someone dangerously sane.

***A Farewell to Arms*** by Ernest Hemingway

This is the story of Lieutenant Henry, an American, and Catherine Barkley, a British nurse. The two meet in Italy, and almost immediately Hemingway sets up the central tension of the novel: the tenuous nature of love in a time of war.

***Dune*** by Frank Herbert

Set on the desert planet Arakis, *Dune* is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who would become the mysterious man known as Muad'Dib. He would avenge the traitorous plot against his noble family - and would bring to fruition humankind's most ancient and unattainable dream. A blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism and politics, *Dune* won the first Nebula Award, shared the Hugo Award, and formed the basis of what is undoubtedly the grandest epic in science fiction. This novel is to science fiction what *The Lord of the Rings* is to fantasy.

***Wasted: A Memoir of Anorexia and Bulimia*** by Mayra Hornbacher

Based on research and her own battle with anorexia and bulimia, which left her with permanent physical ailments and nearly killed her, Hornbacher's book explores the mysterious and ruthless realm of self-starvation, which has its grip firmly around the minds and bodies of adolescents all across the country.

***Farewell to Manzanar*** by Jeanne W. Houston and James D. Houston

Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942 when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp--with 10,000 other Japanese Americans.

***A Prayer for Owen Meany*** by John Irving

Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with a strange voice. He accidentally kills his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes--accurately--that he is an instrument of God, to be redeemed by martyrdom. This John Irving's novel is the inspiration of the 1998 Jim Carrey movie *Simon Birch*.

***My Brother*** by Jamaica Kincaid

Compassion only occasionally lightens the grim tone of Jamaica Kincaid's searing account of her younger brother Devon's 1996 death from AIDS.

***The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*** by Stephen King

Nine-year-old Trisha McFarland is hiking in the Maine woods with her mother and older brother. Tired of listening to the two of them fight, Trisha slips off the path for a moment to rest. When she comes back to the path, she can no longer see or hear her mother and brother. Although she carefully attempts to retrace her steps, eventually she must admit that she is hopelessly lost. Her one source of comfort is her Walkman radio over which she can still receive the play-by-play for the Boston Red Sox game and hear the exploits of pitcher Tom Gordon.

***Shoeless Joe*** by W.P. Kinsella

"If you build it, he will come." These mysterious words of an Iowa baseball announcer lead Ray Kinsella to carve a baseball diamond in his cornfield to honor of his hero, the baseball legend Shoeless Joe Jackson. This is a book "not

so much about baseball as it is about dreams, magic, life, and what is quintessentially American," said the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

***The Fixer*** by Bernard Malamud

Set in Kiev in 1911 during a period of heightened anti-Semitism, the novel tells the story of Yakov Bok, a Jewish handyman blamed for the brutal murder of a young Russian boy. Bok leaves his village to try his luck in Kiev, and after denying his Jewish identity, finds himself working for a member of the anti-Semitic Black Hundreds Society. When the boy is found nearly drained of blood in a cave, the Black Hundreds accuse the Jews of ritual murder. Arrested and imprisoned, Bok refuses to confess to a crime that he did not commit.

***The Tenants*** by Bernard Malamud

The sole tenant in a rundown tenement, Henry Lesser is struggling to finish a novel, but his solitary pursuit of the sublime grows complicated when Willie Spearmint, a black writer ambivalent toward Jews, moves into the building.

***The Natural*** by Bernard Malamud

Bernard Malamud's *The Natural* is widely considered to be the premier baseball novel of all time. It tells the story of Roy Hobbs—an athlete born with rare and wondrous gifts—who is robbed of his prime playing years by a youthful indiscretion that nearly costs him his life. But at an age when most players are considering retirement, Roy reenters the game, lifting the lowly New York Knights from last place into pennant contention and becoming an instant hero in the process. Now all he has to worry about is the fixers, the boss, the slump, the jinx, the fans...and the dangerously seductive Memo Paris, the one woman Roy can't seem to get out of his mind.

***The Member of the Wedding*** by Carson McCullers

Twelve-year-old Frankie Adams, longing at once for escape and belonging, takes her role as "member of the wedding" to mean that when her older brother marries she will join the happy couple in their new life together. But Frankie is unlucky in love; her mother is dead, and Frankie narrowly escapes being raped by a drunken soldier during a farewell tour of the town. Worst of all, "member of the wedding" doesn't mean what she thinks.

***Moby Dick*** by Herman Melville

*Moby Dick* is an epic tale of the conflict between man and his fate. Captain Ahab's obsessive quest to destroy the great white whale that tore off his leg leads the *Pequod* and its crew to disaster.

***Billy Budd*** by Herman Melville

Called the "Handsome Sailor" by the other sailors aboard the warship, *Bellipotent*, Billy Budd is admired by all men with the exception of Master-at-Arms Claggart, an envious man who plots to frame Billy for treason.

***Gone with the Wind*** by Margaret Mitchell

It is a sweeping story of tangled passions and the rare courage of a group of people in Atlanta during the time of Civil War. The story centers on Scarlett O'Hara, her marriages, and her determination to restore Tara, the family estate after it is destroyed in the war.

***House Made of Dawn*** by N. Scott Momaday

This is the story of a young American Indian named Abel, who is home from a foreign war and caught between two worlds. There is the world of his father which weds him to the rhythm of the seasons and the harsh beauty of the land; the other of industrial America, a goading him into a compulsive cycle of dissipation and disgust.

***Shizuko's Daughter*** by Kyoko Mori

Shizuko kills herself, escaping a soured marriage, leaving her husband free to marry his mistress of eight years, and having vague ideas about making her daughter's life better. Yuki, 12, now faces a bleak world with a stepmother who tries to eradicate all traces of her predecessor and curtail the girl's visits to her mother's family. Her father is distant, taciturn, and guilt ridden, providing neither the support Yuki needs nor the discipline the stepmother wants him to exercise.

***Song of Solomon*** by Toni Morrison

In an effort to hide his Southern, working class roots, Macon Dead, an upper-class Northern black businessman, tries to insulate his family from the danger and despair of the rank and file blacks with whom he shares the neighborhood. The plan leads his son onto a path exactly opposite of the one his father had hoped.

***Fallen Angels*** by Walter Dean Myers

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

***The Women of Brewster Place*** by Gloria Naylor

Naylor chronicles the communal strength of seven diverse black women who live in decaying rented houses on a walled-off street of an urban neighborhood. She is concerned with the distance between their dreams and realities, problems and solutions; these women are of different ages, come from different backgrounds, react differently to

their blackness and to men, and have different notions of personal accomplishment, but all are burdened by being both black and female.

***Wise Blood*** by Flannery O' Conner

Hazel Motes is a twenty-two-year-old caught in an unending struggle against his innate, desperate faith. He falls under the spell of a "blind" street preacher named Asa Hawks and his degenerate fifteen-year-old daughter, Lily Sabbath. In an ironic, malicious gesture of his own non-faith, and to prove himself a greater cynic than Hawks, Hazel Motes founds the The Church Without Christ, but is still thwarted in his efforts to lose God.

***We Were the Mulvaney*** by Joyce Carol Oates

Joyce Carol Oates has written a rich, complex saga about a seemingly ideal family that is suddenly rocked by the date-rape of 16-year-old Marianne Mulvaney. This shattering event touches off an extraordinary journey into 25 years of shameful secrets and despair, culminating in the unforeseen miracles that can bring a family closer together.

***Cry, the Beloved Country*** by Alan Paton

*Cry, the Beloved Country* is a beautifully told and profoundly compassionate story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom, set in the troubled and changing South Africa of the 1940s.

***Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Lives of Adolescent Girls*** by Mary Pipher

The author maintains adolescence is a time when girls are forced into roles they do not choose. Many lose their spark- - the edge they had when younger - - as they struggle to stay within society's narrow definition of what it means to be female.

***Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*** by Eric Schlosser

The author's searing portrayal of the industry is disturbingly similar to Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, written in 1906: nightmare working conditions, union busting, and unsanitary practices that introduce E. coli and other pathogens into restaurants, public schools, and homes. Almost as disturbing is his description of how the industry "both feeds and feeds off the young," insinuating itself into all aspects of children's lives, even the pages of their school books, while leaving them prone to obesity and disease. Fortunately, Schlosser offers some eminently practical remedies.

***Killer Angels*** by Michael Shaara

The novel was the basis for the 1993 film *Gettysburg*. It is a fictionalized account of four days in July, 1863 at the battle of Gettysburg. The point of view of the Southern forces is represented by Generals Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet, while Colonel Joshua L. Chamberlain and John Buford are the focus for the North.

***Ceremony*** by Leslie Silko

*Ceremony* is a novel that depicts the struggle of people to fight in order to save their culture. Set in New Mexico, in and around Laguna Pueblo, immediately after WW II, the plot concerns a young Indian war veteran who has been traumatized by his experiences as a prisoner of the Japanese.

***Biloxi Blues*** by Neil Simon

*Biloxi Blues* continues Simon's dramatization which began with *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. The sequel follows Eugene and his fellow recruits through basic training at an Army base in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1943.

***Angle of Repose*** by Wallace Stegner

Confined to a wheelchair, retired historian Lyman Ward sets out to write his grandparents' remarkable story, chronicling their days spent carving civilization into the surface of America's western frontier. But his research reveals even more about his own life than he's willing to admit. What emerges is an enthralling portrait of four generations in the life of an American family.

***Sophie's Choice*** by William Styron

Sophie Zawistowska is a Polish Catholic who has somehow survived Aushwitz and resettled in America after the war. Here in a Jewish boarding house in Flatbush, she meets two men: a young Southerner writer and a brilliant but dangerously unstable Jew who eventually becomes her lover.

***The Bone Setter's Daughter*** by Amy Tan

At the beginning of the novel, two packets of papers written in Chinese calligraphy fall into the hands of Ruth Young. One bundle is titled *Things I Know Are True* and the other, *Things I Must Not Forget*. In these documents, Ruth's mother has set down a record of her birth and family history in China, determined to keep the facts from vanishing as her mind deteriorates from Alzheimer's disease. These packets trigger a response in Ruth. She hires a translator to decipher the documents and also resolves to listen to her mother's tales.

***Saint Maybe*** by Anne Tyler

Ian Bedloe, stricken with guilt over the death of his older brother, raises three children unrelated to him by blood, strengthened in this task by the storefront Church of the Second Chance, to which he devotes himself with equal fervor.

*Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut

One of Vonnegut's most entertaining novels, *Cat's Cradle* is filled with scientists and G-men and even ordinary folks caught up in the game. These assorted characters chase each other around in search of the world's most important and dangerous substance, a new form of ice that freezes at room temperature.

*Breakfast of Champions* by Kurt Vonnegut

One of his favorite characters, aging writer Kilgore Trout, finds to his horror that a Midwest car dealer is taking his fiction as truth. The result is murderously funny satire and Vonnegut looks at war, sex, racism, success, politics, and pollution in America and reminds us how to see the truth.

*Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

Kurt Vonnegut's absurdist classic *Slaughterhouse-Five* introduces us to Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes 'unstuck in time' after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore. In a plot-scrambling display of virtuosity, we follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his (and Vonnegut's) shattering experience as an American prisoner of war who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden.

*All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren

This is the story of Willie Stark, a southern-fried politician who builds support by appealing to the common man and playing dirty politics with the best of the back-room deal-makers. Though Stark quickly sheds his idealism, his right-hand man, Jack Burden -- who narrates the story -- retains it and proves to be a thorn in the new governor's side. Stark becomes a successful leader, but at a very high price,

*The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells

The collective power of the Ya-Yas, each of them totally individual and authentic, permeates this story of a tribe of Louisiana wild women who are impossible to tame.

*Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton

Wharton's story of the upper classes of Old New York, and Newland Archer's impossible love for the disgraced Countess Olenska, is a perfectly wrought book about an era when upper-class culture in this country was still a mixture of American and European extracts, and when "society" had rules as rigid as any in history.

*Dawn* by Elie Wiesel

Two men wait through the night in British-controlled Palestine for dawn--and for death. One is a captured English officer. The other is Elisha, a young Israeli freedom fighter whose assignment is to kill the officer in reprisal for Britain's execution of a Jewish prisoner. Elisha's past is the nightmare memory of Nazi death camps. He is the only surviving member of his family. His future is a cherished dream of life in the promised homeland. But at daybreak his present will become the tortured reality of a principled man ordered to commit cold-blooded murder.

**The Right Stuff** by Thomas Wolfe

*The Right Stuff* is Tom Wolfe's deft account of a cast of heroes, introduced to America with the explosion of space exploration in the romantic heyday of the 20th century and encapsulated in Neal Armstrong's "one giant step for mankind." Beginning with the first experiments with manned space flight in the 1940s, remembering the feats of Chuck Yeager and the breaking of the sound barrier, and focusing in on the brave pilots of the Mercury Project, Wolfe's ability to marry historical fact with dramatic intensity is nowhere more evident than in *The Right Stuff*.

**Miracle Boys** by Jacqueline Woodson

If things hadn't changed, Charlie wouldn't have been arrested and sent to Rahway Correctional. Ty'ree would have gone to college instead of having to work full-time to support them. Finally, Lafayette wouldn't have all of these questions in his head: Why did their parents have to die? When did Charlie turn into such a stranger? And how are the three of them going to make it through when so much seems to be set against them?

**The Caine Mutiny** by Herman Wouk

The novel focuses on Willie Keith, a rich New Yorker assigned to the USS Caine, who gradually matures during the course of the book. However, the work is best known for its portrayal of the neurotic Captain Queeg, who becomes obsessed with petty infractions at the expense of the safety of ship and crew. Steve Maryk reluctantly relieves Queeg of command. Much of the book describes Maryk's court-martial and its aftermath.

**The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds** by Paul Zindel

Beatrice was a mother . . . and the embittered ringmaster of the circus Hunsdorfer, featuring three generations of crazy ladies living under the sloppiest big top on earth. Nanny was no problem. She sat and stared and stayed silent as a venerable vegetable should. Ruth was half-mad and easily bought with an occasional cigarette. But how in the world would Beatrice control Tillie-keeper of rabbits, dreamer of atoms, true believer in life, hope, and the effect of gamma rays on man-in-the-moon marigolds .