



Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading
Students Entering Grade 12
Summer 2018

(Note: Students in AP English Literature have a separate list.)

Instructions: All students entering grade 12 are expected to read the required text and one selection from the list of choices.

Essential Questions: Use these questions to guide your reading. See the Grade 12 Note Template on the website.

1. How do individuals in these works solve or avoid problems? How does the way in which an individual responds to problems develop his/her character?
2. How do individuals in these works cope with or respond to social, political, or cultural values in their environment?
3. What prompts individuals to become an advocate for change in their environments?
4. What strong emotions are experienced by the individuals in these works and how do these emotions lead an individual to a powerful realization about him/herself or the society as a whole?
5. Do the individuals in these works experience greater internal or external conflict? Are the changes resulting from these conflicts reflected internally, externally, or both?

Required Text for Grade 12			
The senior reading list contains numerous memoirs so that students have an opportunity to study and appreciate the personal narrative, a writing style suitable to the college essay.			
Author	Title	Synopsis	Required for
Walls	<i>The Glass Castle: A Memoir</i>	Walls opens her memoir with a recollection of riding in a taxi and spotting her mother "rooting through a dumpster." Walls' parents were eccentric, and raising four children didn't conventionalize either of them. Living with a mom who thought that "being homeless is an adventure," the Walls children learned to support themselves in a variety of creative ways. From Publishers Weekly	All Senior Seminars
Grade 12 Choices (Select 1)			
Author	Title	Synopsis	Recommended (not required) for
Connelly	<i>The Black Ice</i>	In <i>Black Ice</i> detective Harry Bosch is cut out of an investigation of an apparent suicide of narcotics officer Calexico Moore his superiors. At the same time Bosch's supervisor Pound wants to increase the percentages of his homicides solved so Bosch is elected to solve some cases of a detective out on leave. Harry realizes that the cases are all tied together, and, as usual cuts corners and goes out on his own to make the pieces fit. Amazon.com Review	Detectives in Lit
Eggers	<i>What is the What</i>	<i>What Is the What</i> is the epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children—the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, <i>What Is the What</i> is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man. Amazon.com	Global Issue
Gilmour	<i>The Film Club</i>	Canadian film critic Gilmour tells of the deal he struck with his son Jessie, allowing him to drop out of school if he would agree to watch three movies a week with his dad. Over the course of three years, as they dissect movies, Jesse deals with serious heartbreak while his father struggles to find work and worries whether he made the right decision for his son. From Booklist	Film

Author	Title	Synopsis	Recommended (not required) for
Goldman	<i>Which Lie Did I Tell?</i>	If you want to know why an unknown like Kathy Bates was cast in <i>Misery</i> or why Linda Hunt's brilliant work in <i>Maverick</i> didn't make the final cut, why Clint Eastwood loves working with Gene Hackman or how MTV has changed movies – this book is indispensable reading, a must for anyone interested in the process of how a movie gets made. Amazon.com product description	Film
Hosseini	<i>The Kite Runner</i>	The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, <i>The Kite Runner</i> is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons...a story told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years, Amazon.com product description	Global Issues
Kingsolver, Kingsolver, Hopp	<i>Animal, Vegetable, Miracle</i>	Novelist Kingsolver recounts a year spent eating home-grown and local food as the family grows a large garden in southern Appalachia and spends summers "putting food by." Along the way, having given up industrial meat years before, the family abandons its vegetarian ways and discovers the pleasures of conscientious carnivory. From Publishers Weekly	Dilemmas
McCarthy	<i>McCarthy's Bar: A Journey of Discovery in Ireland</i>	While most travel writers seek out opportunities to meet the famous or infamous, McCarthy has a knack for bumping into them, which is how he met a former member of Jimi Hendrix's band and the author Frank McCourt. He discovers that "In Ireland, the unexpected happens more than you expect," which makes for a hilarious tour through one of the most beautiful, friendly, and quirky places on earth. Amazon.com Review	Global Issues Satire
Moore	<i>The Other Wes Moore: One Name Two Fates</i>	Two kids with the same name lived in the same decaying city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Here is the story of two boys and the journey of a generation. Goodreads.com product description	Dilemmas
Noah	<i>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i>	The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime New York Times bestseller about one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed. Goodreads.com product description	Global Issues Satire
Picoult	<i>Mercy</i>	Police chief of a small MA town, Cameron McDonald makes the toughest arrest of his life when his cousin confesses that he has killed his terminally ill wife out of mercy. A heated murder trial plunges the town into upheaval and drives a wedge into a contented marriage. Cameron's wife Allie faces the hardest questions of the heart: when does love cross the line of moral obligation? And what does it mean to truly love another? Amazon.com product description	Dilemmas Detectives in Lit
Twain	<i>Pudd'nhead Wilson</i>	Switched at birth, a light-skinned infant changes places with the master's son. With this simple premise <i>Pudd'nhead Wilson</i> contains all the elements of a classic 19th-century mystery: reversed identities, a ghastly crime, an eccentric detective, and a tense courtroom scene, while fiercely condemning racial prejudice and a society that condoned slavery. Amazon.com product description	Satire Detectives in Lit
Vonnegut	<i>Mother Night</i>	<i>Mother Night</i> is a daring challenge to our moral sense. American Howard W. Campbell, Jr., a spy during World War II, is now on trial in Israel as a Nazi war criminal. But is he really guilty? In this brilliant book rife with true gallows humor, Vonnegut turns black and white into a chilling shade of gray with a verdict that will haunt us all. Amazon.com product description	Satire