



**Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading
Students Entering Grade 11
Summer 2018**

(Note: Students in AP Language have a separate list)

Instructions: All students entering grade 11 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 11 Note Template on the Summer Reading link on the HHS website.

- What is the nature of the American story - its past, present, and future?
- How does a work of literature give insight into American values in terms of the following ideas: the desire for freedom; the search for identity; and the conflict between the individual and society?
- How do these American values change for different people in different time periods and regions?
- What is the American Dream?

Required Text for Grade 11		
Author	Title	Synopsis
Krakauer	<i>Into the Wild</i> Required for all students entering grade 11	In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of <i>Into the Wild</i> .
Grade 11 Choices (Select 1)		
Brown	<i>Boys in the Boat</i>	With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Amazon.com Description
Brooks	<i>March</i>	Geraldine Brooks has animated the character of the absent father, March, from Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic <i>Little Women</i> . Brooks follows March as he leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs. A lushly written, wholly original tale steeped in the details of another time, <i>March</i> secures Geraldine Brooks' place as a renowned author of historical fiction. Amazon.com
Cash	<i>A Land More Kind Than Home</i>	A mesmerizing literary thriller about the bond between two brothers and the evil they face in a small North Carolina town... <i>A Land More Kind than Home</i> is a modern masterwork of Southern fiction, one that is likely to be held in the same enduring esteem as such American classics as <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , <i>Of Mice and Men</i> , and <i>A Separate Peace</i> . Cash offers a brilliant evocation of a place, a heart-rending family story, and a gripping and suspenseful mystery. Amazon.com

Author	Title	Synopsis
Enger	<i>Peace Like a River</i>	Reuben "Rube" Land, an asthmatic 11-year-old recalls the events of his childhood in small-town Minnesota circa 1962. Rube's brother Davy guns down two schoolyard bullies who break into the Lands' house. After Davy's escape from jail, Rube, his younger sister Swede, and their father hit the road, determined to find Davy. In the end it's in Rube's father that Enger finds something quietly heroic in the bred-in-the-bone Minnesota decency of America's heartland. Amazon.com Review
Haruf	<i>Plainsong</i>	In this novel Kent Haruf reveals a whole community as he interweaves the stories of a pregnant high school girl, a lonely teacher, a pair of boys abandoned by their mother, and a couple of crusty bachelor farmers. From simple elements, Haruf achieves a novel of wisdom and grace--a narrative that builds in strength and feeling until, as in an oral chant, the voices in the book surround, transport, and lift the reader off the ground. Amazon.com
Lahiri	<i>The Namesake</i>	On the heels of an arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Ashoke does his best to adapt while his wife pines for home. When their son Gogol is born, the task of naming him reflects their hope of respecting old ways in a new world. With empathy and penetrating insight, Lahiri explores how we respond to parental expectations and how we come to define who we are. Amazon.com (product description)
Lehane	<i>The Given Day</i>	Lehane's family epic captures the political unrest of a nation caught between a well-patterned past and an unpredictable future. This novel of American history tells the story of two families—one black, one white—swept up in a maelstrom of revolutionaries and anarchists, immigrants and ward bosses, Brahmins and ordinary citizens, all engaged in a battle for survival and power at the end of World War I. Amazon.com (product description)
McCullough	1776	Esteemed historian David McCullough covers the military side of the momentous year of 1776 with characteristic insight and a gripping narrative. McCullough writes vividly about the dismal conditions that troops on both sides had to endure and also explores the importance of motivation and troop morale. <i>1776</i> is the work of a master historian. Amazon.com Review
Stegner	<i>Crossing to Safety</i>	<i>Crossing to Safety</i> is about loyalty and survival in its most everyday form--the need to create bonds and the urge to tear them apart. Thirty-four years after their first meeting, when Larry and Sally are called back to the Langs' summer home in Vermont, it's as if for a final showdown. How has this friendship defined them? What is its legacy? Stegner offer answers in those small, perfectly rendered moments that make up lives "as quiet as these"--and as familiar as our own. Amazon.com (product description)
Vance	<i>Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis</i>	<i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis. J. D. Vance, a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck. A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country. Amazon.com (product description)
Whitehead	<i>The Underground Railroad</i>	Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, the #1 <i>New York Times</i> bestseller from Colson Whitehead, a magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. Amazon.com (product description)