



## Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading AP English Literature & Composition (12th grade)

*Summer 2020*

(Note: Students in 12th grade English seminars have a separate list.)

- All students entering AP English Literature & Composition are expected to read the required text.
- Students must also read one additional text from the “choice list”.
- Students must enroll in this class’ section of Turnitin.com with code **24982594** and password **Roth**
- Enroll in our Google Classroom with Code **2gwa6tc**.
- Complete two [Major Work Review assignments](#) (one for *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and one for your choice book).
- These assignments must be submitted to turnitin.com BEFORE **Wednesday, August 26**.
- Students are encouraged to read additional books over the summer; they may wish to consider additional titles on list.

Note: In light of unprecedented circumstances due to Covid-19, if a student has difficulty acquiring a print copy of the required books, they are encouraged to visit the website of the [Hingham Public Library](#). The HPL’s website allows you to check out an e-book or [access other electronic resources](#). If you still have trouble acquiring the required books, email Ms. Roth, the AP English Literature teacher, at [kroth@hinghamschools.org](mailto:kroth@hinghamschools.org).

Required Text for Grade 12 AP Literature		
Title	Author	Synopsis
<i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i> (Required)	Irving	A compelling plot line traces the friendship of two boys from childhood through college, grapples with the effect of the Vietnam conflict on the characters and the town, and begs the reader to believe in a miracle.
Grade 12 AP Literature Choices (Select 1)		
<i>Ragtime</i>	Doctorow	<i>Ragtime</i> captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War. The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, New York, at the home of an affluent American family. One Sunday afternoon, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house. And almost magically, the line between fantasy and historical fact, between real and imaginary characters, disappears.
<i>Invisible Man</i>	Ellison	A classic from the moment it first appeared in 1952, <i>Invisible Man</i> chronicles the travels of its narrator, a young, nameless black man, as he moves through the levels of intolerance and cultural blindness. Searching for a context in which to know himself, he discovers how elusive and unknowable truth really is.
<i>Middlesex</i>	Eugenides	<i>"I was born twice: first, as a baby girl...and then again, as a teenage boy, in August of 1974. . . My birth certificate lists my name as Calliope Helen Stephanides. My most recent driver's license...records my first name simply as Cal."</i> So begins the breathtaking story of Calliope Stephanides and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family. To understand why Calliope is not like other girls, she has to uncover a guilty family secret and the astonishing genetic history that turns Callie into Cal, one of the most audacious and wondrous narrators in contemporary fiction.
<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i>	Kingsolver	<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical minister who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them all they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. This tale of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction, over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa, is set against history's most dramatic political parables.
<i>Beloved</i>	Morrison	This Pulitzer Prize winning-novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison stares into the abyss of slavery and transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later

		she is still not free. She has too many memories of the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died namelessly and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.
<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>	Ng	In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned - from the layout of the winding roads to the colors of the houses to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren - an enigmatic artist and single mother - who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter, Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants - all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town - and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. <i>Little Fires Everywhere</i> explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood - and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.
<i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i>	Owens	For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.
<i>State of Wonder</i>	Patchet	Dr. Marina Singh, a research scientist with a Minnesota pharmaceutical company, is sent to Brazil to track down her former mentor, Dr. Annick Swenson, who seems to have all but disappeared in the Amazon while working on what is destined to be an extremely valuable new drug, the development of which has already cost the company a fortune. Nothing about Marina's assignment is easy: not only does no one know where Dr. Swenson is, but the last person who was sent to find her, Marina's research partner Anders Eckman, died before he could complete his mission. Plagued by trepidation, Marina embarks on an odyssey into the insect-infested jungle in hopes of finding her former mentor as well as answers to several troubling questions about her friend's death, the state of her company's future, and her own past.
<i>White Teeth</i>	Smith	Zadie Smith takes on race, sex, class, history, and the minefield of gender politics, and such is her wit and inventiveness that these weighty subjects seem effortlessly light. She also has an impressive geographical range, guiding the reader from Jamaica to Turkey to Bangladesh and back again. The book's home base is a scrubby North London borough, where we encounter Smith's unlikely heroes: prevaricating Archie Jones and intemperate Samad Iqbal, who served together in the so-called Bugged Battalion during World War II. In the ensuing decades, both have gone forth and multiplied. The mixed blessings of assimilation are an ongoing torture for Samad as he watches his sons grow up. These classic immigrant fears--of dilution and disappearance--are no laughing matter. Zadie Smith's characters aren't heroic, just real: warm, funny, misguided, and entirely familiar.
<i>The Confederacy of Dunces</i>	Toole	The hero of this tragicomic classic that won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981 is Ignatius J. Reilly, an absurdly self-absorbed "Don Quixote" of the French Quarter whose romp through New Orleans and oddball encounters make for one of the funniest spot-on satires in American Literature.