

Wilmington High School 2017-2018 Freshman Summer Reading

Hello, incoming freshman! It is a well-known fact that people become better readers and even come to love reading with practice. The WHS English teachers would like to foster good reading habits in our students. To that end, students will participate in a summer reading program.

How to approach the reading:

1. Choose one book from the list attached that you will enjoy reading.

*****Please be aware that many of the books on this reading list contain instances of adult content and language. Before you choose a book, please read the disclaimers provided and research the book on your own to determine if it is one you will truly enjoy. If you are uncertain about the content of the novel, please select another book from the list.*****

2. Purchase the book or check it out from the library. Make sure that you come to class with the book on the first day of school. Your teacher will check.

3. Read the book one time through completely for enjoyment.

4. After completely reading the book, go back into it and focus on the following things:

A. **Plot** – think about what happened; what was the beginning, middle, and end; what was the major conflict; how was it resolved

B. **Characters** – who are the main characters; how are they described; what is their significance to the story

C. **Setting** – where and when does the story take place; why is that important

D. **Point of View** – who tells the story; are they part of the story or outside of the story; how much about the characters do they know

E. **Theme** – what did the author want you to learn from the story? Remember, a theme is not simply one word, that is the topic. A theme is a universal statement about that topic.

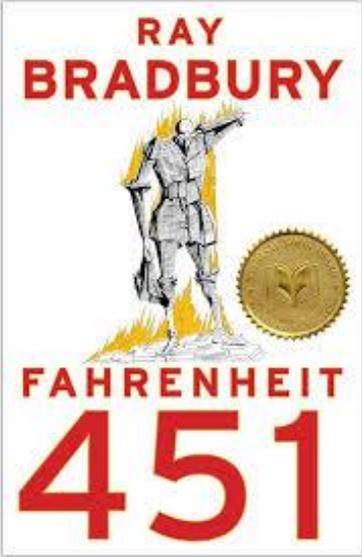
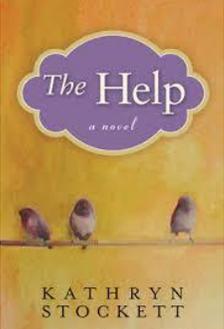
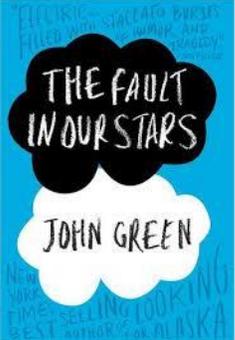
ASSIGNMENT: *This assignment will be 10% of your first quarter grade.* Actively read a novel from the attached list. Write down the answers to the above questions (A-E) on a sheet of notebook paper and bring it with your book to class on the first day of school. You will also receive an assessment over the novel that you read during the second week of school. **DO NOT copy from summary sites such as sparknotes.com. That is considered plagiarism and you will receive a ZERO on your first assignment of freshman year.**

*** We are aware that a number of these novels have corresponding movies. If you choose a novel with a movie, it is your responsibility to read the novel AND watch the film in preparation for your assessment at the start of the school year.

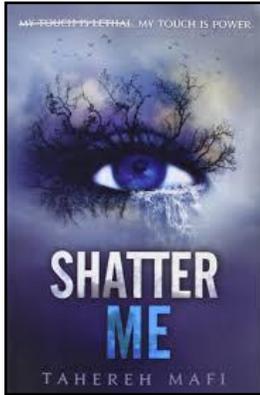
Novels with films are denoted with 

(All movies are available to rent on iTunes, Amazon or Redbox for under \$5)

**** All incoming freshmen students are required to read one novel. Many of these books are available in the high school library before summer break. ****

Book Title and Author	Synopsis
<p><i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury</p> 	<p>“Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden.</p> <p>Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television.</p> <p>When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. He starts hiding books in his home, and when his pilfering is discovered, the fireman has to run for his life.” (From Amazon.com)</p>
<p><i>The Help</i> by Kathryn Stockett</p> <p>*Focused on Civil Rights Movement themes and events, using language from that period*</p> <p>**Connects to 4th Qtr novel <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>**</p>  	<p>“Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger.</p> <p>“Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone. In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women—mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends—view one another.” (From Amazon.com)</p>
<p><i>The Fault In Our Stars</i> by John Green</p>  	<p>“The Fault in Our Stars is about teenagers who happen to have cancer, but it’s not a cancer book, because as the narrator, 16-year-old Hazel Grace, bluntly puts it, “cancer books suck” — by which she means they’re full of clichés and sentiment that conceal hard truths. John Green, writing with wit, unpretentious clarity and total emotional honesty, clears away the clichés to reveal the hardest possible truths, which Hazel and her boyfriend Augustus have to face head on.” (From Lev Grossman)</p>

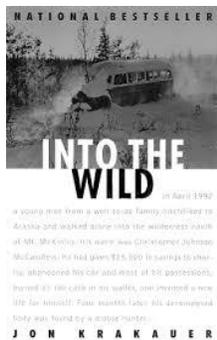
***Shatter Me*
by Tahereh Mafi**



~~“I have a curse. I have a gift. I’m a monster. I’m more than human. My touch is lethal. My touch is power. I am their weapon. I will fight back.~~

No one knows why Juliette's touch is fatal, but The Reestablishment has plans for her. Plans to use her as a weapon. But Juliette has plans of her own. After a lifetime without freedom, she's finally discovering a strength to fight back for the very first time—and to find a future with the one boy she thought she'd lost forever. In this electrifying debut, Tahereh Mafi presents a riveting dystopian world, a thrilling superhero story, and an unforgettable heroine.” (From Amazon.com)

***Into Thin Air OR Into the Wild*
(Both by John Krakauer)**

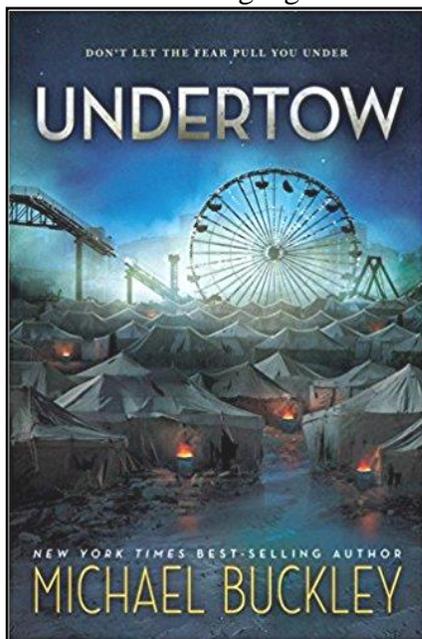


Into Thin Air: “The author describes his spring 1996 trek to Mt. Everest, a disastrous expedition that claimed the lives of eight climbers, and explains why he survived.” (From Amazon.com)

Into the Wild: “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 *Into the Wild*.” (From Amazon.com)

***Undertow* by Michael Buckley**

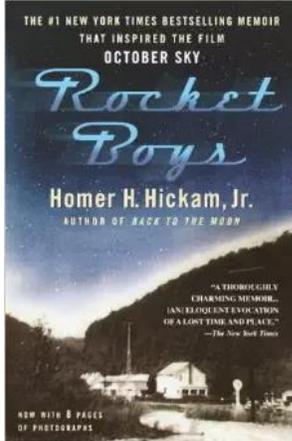
Contains mild adult language and themes



“First, we feared them. Then we fought them. Now they might be our only hope.

“Sixteen-year-old Lyric Walker’s life is forever changed when she witnesses the arrival of 30,000 Alpha, a five-nation race of ocean-dwelling warriors, on her beach in Coney Island. The world’s initial wonder and awe over the Alpha quickly turns ugly and paranoid and violent, and Lyric’s small town transforms into a military zone with humans on one side and Alpha on the other. When Lyric is recruited to help the crown prince, a boy named Fathom, assimilate, she begins to fall for him. But their love is a dangerous one, and there are forces on both sides working to keep them apart. Only, what if the Alpha are not actually the enemy? What if they are in fact humanity’s best chance for survival? Because the real enemy is coming. And it’s more terrifying than anything the world has ever seen.” (From Amazon.com)

***Rocket Boys* (also known as *October Sky*)
by Homer Hickam, Jr.**



“It was 1957, the year Sputnik raced across the Appalachian sky, and the small town of Coalwood, West Virginia, was slowly dying. Faced with an uncertain future, Homer Hickam nurtured a dream: to send rockets into outer space. The introspective son of the mine’s superintendent and a mother determined to get him out of Coalwood forever, Homer fell in with a group of misfits who learned not only how to turn scraps of metal into sophisticated rockets but how to sustain their hope in a town that swallowed its men alive. As the boys began to light up the tarry skies with their flaming projectiles and dreams of glory, Coalwood, and the Hickams, would never be the same.” (From Amazon.com)

Any questions about the assignment and/or expectations can be sent to Mrs. Goodbar (jomi.goodbar@wilmington.k12.oh.us) or Mr. McNally (will.mcnally@wilmington.k12.oh.us).