

## Summer Reading List 2021

### English II-Story

**Directions:** Choose *one* of the titles to read over the summer. You will need to write a 2-3 page essay (typed or hand-written) on one of the following topic descriptions based on the book you read.

- Choose a character. Write an essay describing this character in detail. Include physical appearance, his/her beliefs, vocabulary, actions, thoughts, as well as why you deem them memorable. Cite evidence from the book.
- How did the characters in the book cooperate with each other? What were their individual personality traits? What obstacles did they overcome and how? What are some examples of their cooperation? What were the benefits of their cooperation? Cite evidence from the book.
- Recall a scene in which the author captured the essence (i.e. beauty/mystery) of a place in the way it was described. Write about how the author wrote about the beautiful place and what sensory words were used. Why was this scene important to the story? Cite evidence from the book.
- If you have viewed the movie made from the book, write an essay comparing and contrasting the movie with the book. Cite evidence from the book/movie.

### Your Choices:

***Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*** by Dee Brown (nonfiction)

A historic chronicle explains how Native Americans were displaced as the United States expanded west. In the 1880s, after the U. S. Army's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, the government continues to push Sioux Indians off their land.

***Touch the Top of the World*** by Erik Weihenmayer (nonfiction)

Robbed of his sight at the age of three by a degenerative eye disease, Erik's parents encouraged him not to let his condition get in the way of his dreams, and he became the first blind man to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

***In the Time of the Butterflies*** by Julia Alvarez (fiction)

Three sisters become activists during the Dominican Republic's Trujillo regime when members of their family are killed by the government's troops.

***Up from Slavery*** by Booker T. Washington (nonfiction)

Washington traces his journey from slave to educator. The early sections document his childhood as a slave and his efforts to get an education, and he directly credits his education with his later success as a man of action in his community and the nation.

***Things Fall Apart*** by Chinua Achebe (fiction)

The novel follows the life of Okonkwo, an Igbo man and local wrestling champion in the fictional Nigerian clan of Umuofia. The work is split into three parts, with the first describing his family, personal history, and the customs and society of the Igbo, and the second and third sections introducing the influence of European colonialism and Christian missionaries on Okonkwo, his family, and the wider Igbo community.

***A Lesson Before Dying*** by Ernest J. Gaines (fiction)

Set in the fictional community of Bayonne, Louisiana, in the late 1940s, *A Lesson Before Dying* tells the story of Jefferson, a twenty-one-year-old uneducated black field worker wrongfully accused and convicted of the robbery and murder of a white man, and sentenced to death by electrocution.

***Night*** by Elie Wiesel (fiction)

*Night* is a 1960 book by Elie Wiesel based on his Holocaust experiences with his father in the Nazi German concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald in 1944–1945, toward the end of the Second World War in Europe.

***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak (fiction)

This is a story narrated by a compassionate Death who tells us about Liesel, a girl growing up in Germany during World War II. She steals books, learns to read, and finds comfort in words. She and Max, the Jew her family protects, are the only main characters that survive the war.

***Lord of the Flies*** by William Golding (fiction)

This book tells the story of a group of young boys who find themselves alone on a deserted island. They develop rules and a system of organization, but without any adults to serve as a civilizing impulse, the children eventually become violent and brutal.

***An Ember in the Ashes*** by Sabaa Tahir (fiction)

Set in a rich, high-fantasy world inspired by ancient Rome, this novel tells the story of Laia, a slave fighting for her family, and Elias, a young soldier fighting for his freedom.

***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*** by Mark Twain (fiction)

This satirical novel, published in 1889, is the tale of a commonsensical Yankee who is carried back in time to Britain in the Dark Ages, and the story celebrates homespun ingenuity and democratic values in contrast to the superstitious ineptitude of a feudal monarchy.