

**Trousdale County High School**  
**English I- Summer Reading List**  
**Mrs. Cecelia Stricker**

***Fahrenheit 451- fiction***

**By: Ray Bradbury**

In *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury's classic, frightening vision of the future, firemen don't put out fires--they start them in order to burn books. Bradbury's vividly painted society holds up the appearance of happiness as the highest goal--a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad. Guy Montag is a book-burning fireman undergoing a crisis of faith. His wife spends all day with her television "family," imploring Montag to work harder so that they can afford a fourth TV wall. Their dull, empty life sharply contrasts with that of his next-door neighbor Clarisse, a young girl thrilled by the ideas in books, and more interested in what she can see in the world around her than in the mindless chatter of the tube. When Clarisse disappears mysteriously, Montag is moved to make some changes, and starts hiding books in his home. Eventually, his wife turns him in, and he must answer the call to burn his secret cache of books. After fleeing to avoid arrest, Montag winds up joining an outlaw band of scholars who keep the contents of books in their heads, waiting for the time society will once again need the wisdom of literature.

***Secret Life of Bees- fiction***

**By: Regina Marler**

In Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*, 14-year-old Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their South Carolina peach farm, spends hours imagining a blissful infancy when she was loved and nurtured by her mother, Deborah, whom she barely remembers. These consoling fantasies are her heart's answer to the family story that as a child, in unclear circumstances, Lily accidentally shot and killed her mother. All Lily has left of Deborah is a strange image of a Black Madonna, with the words "Tiburon, South Carolina" scrawled on the back. The search for a mother, and the need to mother oneself, are crucial elements in this well-written coming-of-age story set in the early 1960s against a background of racial violence and unrest. When Lily's beloved nanny, Rosaleen, manages to insult a group of angry white men on her way to register to vote and has to skip town, Lily takes the opportunity to go with her, fleeing to the only place she can think of--Tiburon, South Carolina--determined to find out more about her dead mother.

***Freedom Writers- Nonfiction***

**By: Gruwell, Erin**

The amazing true story of strength, courage, and achievement in the face of adversity. In the fall of 1999, in Room 203 at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, California, an idealistic teacher named Erin Gruwell faced her first group of students, dubbed by the administration as "unteachable, at risk" teenagers. The class was a diverse mix of African-American, Latino, Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Caucasian students many of whom had grown up in rough neighborhoods in Long Beach. A pivotal moment changed their lives forever, and Erin encouraged them to rethink rigid beliefs about themselves and others.

### ***The Blind Side- Nonfiction***

#### **By:**

As he did so memorably for baseball in *Moneyball*, Lewis takes a statistical X-ray of the hidden substructure of football, outlining the invisible doings of unsung players that determine the outcome more than the showy exploits of point scorers. In his sketch of the gridiron arms race, first came the modern, meticulously choreographed passing offense, then the ferocious defensive pass rusher whose bone-crunching quarterback sacks demolished the best-laid passing game, and finally the rise of the left tackle—the offensive lineman tasked with protecting the quarterback from the pass rusher—whose presence is felt only through the game-deciding absence of said sacks. A rare creature combining 300 pounds of bulk with "the body control of a ballerina," the anonymous left tackle, Lewis notes, is now often a team's highest-paid player. Lewis fleshes this out with the colorful saga of left tackle prodigy Michael Oher. An intermittently homeless Memphis ghetto kid taken in by a rich white family and a Christian high school, Oher's preternatural size and agility soon has every college coach in the country courting him obsequiously. Combining a tour de force of sports analysis with a piquant ethnography of the South's pigskin mania, Lewis probes the fascinating question of whether football is a matter of brute force or subtle intellect.

### ***Soul Surfer- Nonfiction***

#### **By: Hamilton, Bethany, Sheryl Berk, and Rick Bundschuh**

This is the amazing story of a thirteen-year-old girl who lost her arm in a shark attack but never lost her faith -- and of her triumphant return to competitive surfing. They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the tremendous passion that drives her to surf? How else could one explain that nothing -- not even the loss of her arm in a horrific shark attack -- could come between her and the waves? When the first thing Bethany wanted to know after surgery was "When can I surf again?" it became clear that her unfaltering spirit and determination were part of a greater story -- a tale of courage and faith that this modest and softspoken girl would come to share with the world. *Soul Surfer* is a moving account of Bethany's life as a young surfer, her recovery in the wake of the shark attack, the adjustments she's made to her unique surfing style, and her unprecedented bid for a top showing in the World Surfing Championships.

### ***Twisted- fiction***

#### **By: Anderson, Laurie Halse.**

Tyler Miller, a high school senior, tries to clean up his reputation, succeed in school, and deal with his demanding, explosive father and his alcoholic, distant mother. In addition, he tries to win the affection and attraction of the most popular girl at school while enduring the torment of her brother. He must tackle the complex issues of integrity, raging hormones, personal responsibility, and identity on his own as he struggles to understand what it means to be a man. With gripping scenes and a rousing ending, Anderson authentically portrays Tyler's emotional instability as he contemplates darker and darker solutions to his situation.

### ***Cold Sassy Tree- fiction***

#### **By: Olive Ann Burns**

E. Rucker Blakeslee, proprietor of the general store and barely three weeks a widower, elopes with Miss Love Simpson -- a woman half his age and, worse yet, a Yankee! Thus, fourteen-year-old Will Tweedy's adventures begin, and an unimpeachably pious, deliciously irreverent town comes to life.

**Assignment:**

#1 Please choose **one** of the titles suggestions above.

#2 Read Literary Work

#3 Length 2-3 pages (hand-written or typed)

#4 Paper Topics

(If chosen novel is Fiction)

**Pick one character from the book and write an analysis of the chosen character.**

The structure of your analysis should include the following:

- a short plot synopsis
- introducing the character (protagonist, antagonist, main/minor character)
- describing and analyzing the character in detail
- conclusion (what is your opinion of the character?)
- speculating on the future (what do you think might happen?)

(If chosen novel is Nonfiction)

**Analysis of Author's Purpose:**

When writing, all nonfiction authors have one or more of the four basic purposes as a goal: description, narration, exposition, and argumentation. What is your writer's purpose in this book? How does the writer employ or mix these four basic kinds of writing to achieve that purpose? Identify a specific example of a specific place in the book that demonstrates the author's purpose.