

**STONEHAM HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH
REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST 2016**

**GRADE 11
Levels: Inten/Comp/Trans
A.P. Lang—see separate list**

We value high interest reading and reading choice. We hope these books will introduce you to new worlds, experiences, and authors as well as keep your literacy skills sharp. These books will encourage you to think about the Driving Question (DQ) *“What does it mean to be an individual in America?”*

Intensive, Comprehensive, and Transitional: You are required to read at least one book. Reading one, some, or all of these will help answer the DQ. You do not have to take notes, but you are welcome to do so. Within in the first two weeks of school, you will participate in a Socratic discussion and write an in-class journal as you consider the Driving Question. These assessments will count as a quiz grade.

If you don't read a book on this list, you may reference other books, blogs or articles you have read, or you may refer to historical, personal, or current events for the discussion and journal assignment; in this case, the highest possible grade will be a 75. Books may be ordered from *The Book Oasis* on Main Street or checked out from the Stoneham Public Library.

What does it mean to be an individual in America?

***Easy **Medium ***Challenging**

****Stargirl*** by Jerry Spinelli. Leo, a high school junior, falls in love with an unconventional new student, a free spirit and nonconformist. He discovers lessons about loyalty to friends and oneself. Young Adult.

****A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor*** by Harry Mazer. While fishing with friends off Honolulu on 12-7-41, Adam is caught in Japanese air attack. Through the chaos of the next days, he tries to find his father who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell. Historical fiction. Series.

****October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepherd*** by Lesléa Newman. On the night of October 6, 1998, a gay twenty-one-year-old college student named Matthew Shepard was lured from a Wyoming bar by two young men, savagely beaten, tied to a remote fence, and left to die. Using her poetic imagination, the author creates fictitious monologues from various points of view, including the fence Matthew was tied to, the stars that watched over him, the deer that kept him company, and Matthew himself. Mature Readers. Poetry.

*****They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group*** by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. In 1866, six young men raided the linens at a friend's mansion, pulled pillowcases over their heads, hopped on horses, and cavorted through the streets of Pulaski, Tennessee. They named their club the Ku Klux Klan. This is the story of how a secret terrorist group took root in America's democracy. Filled with chilling and vivid personal accounts unearthed from oral histories, congressional documents, and diaries, this account from Newbery Honor-winning author Susan Campbell Bartoletti is a book to read and remember. Very interesting. Many visuals. Nonfiction.

*****And We Stay*** by Jenny Hubbard. When Emily's high school senior boyfriend, Paul, threatens her with a gun and then takes his own life, her parents ship her off to boarding school in Amherst, Massachusetts where Emily must deal with her anger and guilt. The spirit of poet Emily Dickinson and two quirky girls help her, but it is ultimately up to Emily to heal her own damaged self. Fiction. Young Adult.

****X: A Novel** by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon. Written by one of Malcom X's daughters, this story follows Malcolm through his time in Boston and Harlem, culminating with his conversion to Islam and his decision to change his name while in prison in 1948. While the novel stops prior to his rise as a civil rights leader, it does provide historical context. The author's honesty about his early troubles serves to convey that it is possible to rise through adversity to make a positive difference in this world. Fictional account of a true story.

****Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury. Guy Montag is a fireman whose job is to burn printed books as well as the houses where they're hidden. But when his wife commits suicide and a young neighbor who introduced him to reading disappears, Guy begins hoarding books in his own home. Dystopian, futuristic.

****The Wild Truth** by Carine McCandless. If you loved *Into the Wild*, but still had questions, read this book; the real story of Chris's life and his journey has not yet been told - until now by Chris's beloved and trusted sister. She witnessed, firsthand the dysfunctional and violent family dynamic that made Chris willing to embrace the harsh wilderness of Alaska.. In this touching and deeply personal memoir, she reveals how she has learned that real redemption can only come from speaking the truth. Nonfiction.

****God Grew Tired of Us** by John Bul Dau. This book traces Dau's journey, starting when he was 13 years old, through hunger, exhaustion, terror, and violence as he fled his home in Sudan during the civil war, dodging ambushes, massacres and attacks by wild animals. He walked over 1,000 miles barefoot, to Ethiopia, back to Sudan, then to a refugee camp in Kenya, where he lived with thousands of other Lost Boys. In 2001, at the age of 27, he immigrated to the United States. With touching humor, Dau recounts the shock of his tribal culture colliding with life in America. Memoir.

****The Five People You Meet in Heaven** by Mitch Albom. This novel follows the life and death of a maintenance man named Eddie. In a heroic attempt to save a little girl from being killed by an amusement park ride that is about to fall, Eddie is killed and sent to heaven, where he encounters five people who had a significant impact upon him while he was alive. Fiction.

*****The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** by Rebecca Sloop. Henrietta Lacks was a poor Southern farmer when her cells, taken without her knowledge, became one of the most important tools in medicine. Her cells, grown in culture, are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than 60 years. HeLa cells were vital for developing vaccines and cures and have been sold by the billions. Yet she remains buried in an unmarked grave. Nonfiction.

*****Into the Wild** by Jon Krakauer investigates the true story of student and athlete Chris McCandless, who, after graduating from college, gave away his entire savings account and hitchhiked to Alaska to live in the wilderness, meeting lots of characters along the way until he meets tragedy. The book is better than the movie. Nonfiction.

*****Travels with Charley: In Search of America** by John Steinbeck. In September 1960, John Steinbeck embarked on a journey through almost forty states in an old pickup truck accompanied by his French poodle, Charley, to rediscover America for himself. Steinbeck drives the interstates and the country roads, dines with truckers, encounters bears at Yellowstone and old friends in San Francisco. Along the way he reflects on the American character, racial hostility, the particular form of American loneliness he finds almost everywhere, and the unexpected kindness of strangers. Nonfiction. Classic.