

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

**GRADE 12  
Levels: Inten/Comp/Trans  
A.P. Lit—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) “*How do our actions reveal our character?*”

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.

**How do our actions reveal our character?**

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

*\*They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. In 1866, six young men pulled pillowcases over their heads, hopped on horses, and cavorted through the streets of Pulaski, TN. 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.

*\*Listen, Slowly* by Thanhha Lai. Mai's parents are making her spend her vacation in Vietnam so she can learn more about her roots and help her grandmother learn what really happened to her grand-father during the Vietnam War. Since Mai barely knows the language or customs, she is desperately counting down the days until she can go back home. But as time goes on, Mai begins to grow closer to her family and develops an understanding of a culture and an entire world that she never really knew about. Funny at times and amazing. Fiction.

*\*Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend* by Matthew Dicks. Budo is Max's imaginary friend. But though only Max can see him, he is real. He and the other imaginary friends watch over their children until the day comes that the child stops imagining them. And then they're gone. Budo has lasted a lot longer than most imaginary friends - four years - because Max needs him more. His parents argue about sending him to a special school, but Max is perfectly happy if everything is just kept the way it is, and nothing out of the ordinary happens. Unfortunately, something out of the ordinary is going to happen - and then he'll need Budo more than ever...Fiction.

*\*The Iron Trial* by Holly Black. All his life, Call has been warned by his father to stay away from magic. If he succeeds at the Iron Trial and is admitted into the Magisterium, he is sure it can only mean bad things for him. So he tries his best to do his worst - and fails at failing. Now the Magisterium awaits him. It's a place

that's both sensational and sinister, with dark ties to his past and a twisty path to his future. The Iron Trial is just the beginning, for the biggest test is still to come . . .Fantasy. Series.

\*\**The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch is the inspirational true story of one man's journey through life and his aspiration to achieve his childhood dreams. After his diagnosis with pancreatic cancer, Pausch decided to give a last lecture to his students and colleagues sharing life lessons learned. (Can be downloaded to PCs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library) Nonfiction.

\*\**God Grew Tired of Us* by John Bul Dau traces Dau's journey, when he was 13 years old, through hunger, exhaustion, and terror as he fled his home in Sudan during its civil war, dodging ambushes, massacres and attacks by wild animals. He walked over 1,000 miles barefoot, to Ethiopia, and 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 U.S. Dau recounts the shock of his tribal culture colliding with life in America. Memoir.

\*\**The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. In the world of the near future, who will control women's bodies? Offred may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred and the other Handmaids are only valued if their ovaries are viable. *The Handmaid's Tale* is scathing satire, dire warning, and tour de force. Mature readers. Dystopian Lit.

\*\*\**The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi* by Neal Bascomb. In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the boss for the Nazis' Final Solution, walked into the German mountains and vanished. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century's most important trials. A blind Argentinean and his teenage daughter put themselves at great risk to help. Nonfiction.

\*\*\**The Last Kingdom* by Bernard Cornwell. If you like *Game of Thrones*, you will love this book. In the middle years of the ninth-century, the fierce Danes stormed onto British soil, hungry for spoils and conquest. Kingdom after kingdom fell to the ruthless invaders until only one realm remained. Suddenly the fate of all England—and the course of history—depended upon one man, one king. Mature. Historical fiction.

\*\*\**The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. This is the epic story of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France in WWII--a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. Historical fiction.

\*\*\**We* by Yevgery Zamyatin Before 1984...There was...We. In the One State of the great Benefactor, there are no individuals, only numbers. Life is an ongoing process of mathematical precision, a perfectly balanced equation. But one frontier remains: outer space. Now, with the creation of the spaceship *Integral*, that frontier -- and whatever alien species are to be found there -- will be subjugated to the beneficent yoke of reason.

One number, D-503, chief architect of the *Integral*, decides to record his thoughts in the final days before the launch for the benefit of less advanced societies. But a chance meeting with the beautiful 1-330 results in an unexpected discovery that threatens everything D-503 believes about himself and the One State. The discovery -- or rediscovery -- of *inner* space...and that disease the ancients called the soul. Dystopian Lit.