

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

**GRADE 9
ALL LEVELS**

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) "*Why do our choices matter?*"

Honors: You are required to read a minimum of two selections from this list - at least one should be a ** or ***choice. You will be writing an essay when you return to school that addresses the Driving Question.

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 DQ; 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.

Why do our choices matter?

Easy **Medium *Challenging*

****Gym Candy*** by Carl Deuker. Running back Mick Johnson has dreams of winning and of being the best. But football is a cruel sport. It requires power, grace, speed, quickness, and knowledge of the game. It takes luck, too. One crazy bounce can turn a likely victory into sudden defeat. What elite athlete wouldn't look for an edge? A way to make him bigger, stronger, faster? Sports. Fiction.

****Gathering Blue*** by Lois Lowry. In this sequel to *The Giver*, but with a different setting, civilization has regressed to a primitive, technology-free state. Kira, a crippled young weaver, has been raised and taught her craft by her mother after her father was allegedly killed by "beasts." When her mother dies, Kira fears that she will be cast out of the village. Young adult. Futuristic. Series.

****A Northern Light*** by Jennifer Donnelly. In 1906 sixteen-year-old Mattie takes a job at the Glenmore, where hotel guest Grace Brown entrusts her with the task of burning a secret bundle of letters. But when Grace's drowned body is fished from the lake, Mattie discovers that the letters could reveal the truth behind a murder. This historical fiction has won numerous awards.

****Shipbreaker*** by Paolo Bacigalupi. In the future, Nailer's dangerous job is to crawl deep into ancient oil tankers, scavenging copper wire. After a hurricane, Nailer and his friend find a wreck filled with valuables. Amid the wreckage, a girl clings to life. If they help her, she can show them a world of privilege that they have never known. But can they trust her? Futuristic. Post-apocalyptic.

****Speak** by Laurie Halse Anderson. What could have caused freshman Melinda to suddenly fall mute? Maybe because no one at school is speaking to her since she called the cops and got everyone busted at the seniors' big end-of-summer party? While Melinda is bothered by these things, deep down she knows the real reason why she's been struck mute... For mature readers. Sensitive topics. Young adult.

****Sold** by Patricia McCormick. As this story, written in free verse, opens, 13-year-old Lakshmi lives in Nepal, goes to school and thinks of the boy she is to marry. Then her stepfather sells her into prostitution in India. If she works off her family's debt, she can leave, but that this is virtually impossible until an American comes to the brothel to rescue girls. For mature readers Realistic fiction.

****Flip** by Martyn Bedford. Alex, 14, goes to bed in December, and wakes in June, in a strange house to a strange family. In the mirror, he sees Flip. Unless Alex finds out what's happened and how to get back to his own life, he may be trapped forever inside a body that belongs to someone else. What is identity, the will to survive, and what will we sacrifice to survive? Fiction. Fantasy.

****Legend** by Marie Lu. Set in the future, the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation at war with its neighbors. Two fifteen-year-olds, from different worlds, wealthy June trained for success in the Republic's highest military circles and Day, the country's most wanted criminal, try to uncover the shocking truth that brings them together. Futuristic. Series.

****Ashfall** by Mike Mullen. Alex plans to play computer games when he is left alone for the weekend. Then the Yellowstone supervolcano erupts and the world becomes a nightmare. Alex begins a journey to find his family with Darla, a travel partner he meets along the way. Together they must find the strength and skills to survive and outlast an epic disaster. Post-apocalyptic, Survival, series.

*****Nineteen Minutes** by Jodi Picoult. Sterling is a New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens—until the day its complacency is shattered by an act of violence- a school shooting. Josie Cormier, the teenage daughter of the judge sitting on the case, should be the state's best witness, but she can't remember what happened before her very own eyes—or can she? Young adult.

*****Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom. Morrie, a history professor at Brandeis University is dying from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). A former student, Albom, a fairly well-known sports writer, heard about his teacher and starts to visit him on Tuesdays. Great book to remind you what really matters in life. (Can be downloaded to PCs, iPods, and MP3 players from SPL) Nonfiction.

*****The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi** by Neal Bascomb. A thrilling spy mission, a moving Holocaust story, and a first-class work of narrative nonfiction. In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis' Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. 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 Count of Monte Cristo** by Alexandre Dumas. Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantès is confined to the grim fortress of If. There he learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and he becomes determined not only to escape, but also to unearth the treasure and use it to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration. Dumas' epic tale of suffering and retribution, inspired by a real-life case of wrongful imprisonment, was a huge popular success when it was first serialised in the 1840s. Classic.