

STONEHAM HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH
REQUIRED SUMMER READING 2018

GRADE 10
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.

Honors: You are required to read a minimum of two selections from this list. At least one should be a ** or *** star choice. You will be writing two open-responses that address the Driving Question “*What does it mean to be human?*” on one of these selections.

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 “*What does it mean to be human?*” 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 human?

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

****The Adoration of Jenna Fox*** by Mary E. Pearson. Seventeen-year-old Jenna has been told that is her name. She has just awoken from a coma and is still recovering from a terrible accident in which she was involved a year ago. Jenna doesn't remember or does she? Set in a near future America, it raises questions of bio-medical ethics and the nature of humanity. Young Adult. Futuristic.

****Anya's Ghost*** by Vera Brosgol. Of all the things Anya expected to find at the bottom of an old well, a new friend was not one of them. Especially not a new friend who's been dead for a century. Falling down a well is bad enough, but Anya's normal life might actually be worse. She's embarrassed by her family, self-conscious about her body, and she's pretty much given up on fitting in at school. A new friend—even a ghost—is just what she needs. Or so she thinks. Graphic Novel.

****The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond*** by Brenda Woods. This moving, uplifting story of a girl finally meeting the African American side of her family explores racism and how it feels to be biracial, and celebrates families of all kinds. Coretta Scott King Honor winner. Fiction.

****The Five People You Meet in Heaven*** by Mitch Albom. This #1 NY Times bestseller is a fictional account of what happens after an old, disillusioned war veteran dies while saving a young girl’s life. When he reaches heaven, five people, loved ones and distant strangers, explain his life to him. Fiction.

*****Eleven Seconds*** by Travis Roy. In this heartfelt testament to the power of love and the strength of the human spirit, Travis Roy, who suffered a devastating injury eleven seconds into his first college hockey game, reveals how he has managed to cope after the accident and, with the help of family and friends, overcome tremendous barriers to begin a new life. Nonfiction. Biography.

*****Notes from the Midnight Driver*** by Jordan Sonnenblick. 16-year-old Alex decides to get even. His parents are separated, his father is dating his former third-grade teacher, and being 16 isn't easy, especially when it comes to girls. Instead of revenge though, Alex ends up in trouble with the law and is ordered to do community service at a senior center where he is assigned to Solomon Lewis, a "difficult" senior with a lot of gusto, advice for Alex, and a puzzling (yet colorful) Yiddish vocabulary. Fiction.

*****The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak. Death narrates this WW II story of a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel survives by stealing books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. Historical fiction.

*****Fahrenheit 451*** by Ray Bradbury. In this futuristic society ruled by a tyrannical government, firefighters don't douse fires – they ignite them. And they do this specifically in homes that house the most evil of evils: books. (Can be downloaded to PCs, iPods, and MP3 players from Stoneham Public Library). Science Fiction.

*****The Boy on the Wooden Box*** by Leon Leyson. True story of Leon Leyson's survival of World War II as Jew who was rescued by Oskar Schindler. Schindler provided work opportunities for Leyson's family. Sensitively told. Mature reader. Autobiography.

*****Taking Flight*** by Michaela DePrince. In this engaging memoir, Michaela shares her dramatic journey from an orphan in West Africa to becoming one of ballet's most exciting rising stars. At the orphanage where she was abandoned, Michaela found a picture of a beautiful ballerina en pointe that would help change the course of her life. Memoir.

****_***** (depending on the version) ***Oliver Twist*** by Charles Dickens. The story of the orphan Oliver, who runs away from the workhouse only to be taken in by a den of thieves, shocked readers when it was first published. Dickens's tale of childhood innocence beset by evil depicts the dark criminal underworld of a London peopled by vivid and memorable characters — the arch-villain Fagin, the artful Dodger, the menacing Bill Sikes and the prostitute Nancy. Classic.

*****She Takes a Stand: 16 Fearless Activists Who Have Changed the World*** by Michael Elsohn Ross. This inspiring collection of short biographies features the stories of extraordinary figures past and present who have dedicated their lives to fighting for human rights, civil rights, workers' rights, and world peace. Non-fiction.

******Looking for Alaska*** by John Green. Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a tragedy happens. Mature readers. Fiction.

******Gifts*** by Ursula LeGuin. This novel tells of wondrous gifts that can summon animals, move land, or create fire and of the proud cruelty of power, how hard it is to grow up, and of how much harder still it is to find, in the world's darkness, gifts of light for two young people who struggle with their gifts. Fantasy/Series.