

**STONEHAM HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH
REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST 2018**

**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 a diverse 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 is the American Experience?

***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.

****Esperanza Rising*** by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Esperanza always thought she would have the good life on her family's ranch in Mexico, but a sudden tragedy forces her and her mother to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances-because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it. Set during the Great Depression. Historical fiction.

****The Shadow Hero*** by Gene Luen Yang and Sonny Liew. In the comics boom of the 1940s, a legend was born: the Green Turtle. But this mysterious masked crusader was hiding something more than a secret identity... The Green Turtle was the first Asian American superhero. The comic had a short run before lapsing into obscurity, but it has been revived in this new graphic novel. Graphic Novel.

****Outrun the Moon*** by Stacey Lee. In 1906, a historic earthquake rocks San Francisco, destroying Mercy Wong's home and school. Though fires might rage, and the city may be in shambles, Mercy can't sit by while they wait for the army to bring help. Historical Fiction.

*****They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group*** by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. In 1866, six young men stole linens from a friend, pulled pillowcases over their heads, and rode their horses through the streets of Pulaski, Tennessee. Chilling and vivid personal accounts unearthed from oral histories, diaries, and congressional documents describe how a secret terrorist group took root in America. Many visuals. Nonfiction.

*****The Running Dream*** by Wendelin Van Draanen: Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? Fiction.

*****Dreamland Burning*** by Jennifer Latham. When seventeen-year-old Rowan Chase finds a skeleton on her family's property, she has no idea that investigating the brutal century-old murder will lead to a summer of discoveries about the past, the present, and herself. Fiction.

*****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. When a young neighbor who introduced him to reading disappears, Guy begins hoarding books in his home and questioning the basic precepts of his society. This cannot be tolerated. Dystopian, futuristic.

*****No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row*** by Susan Kuklin. Inmates sentenced to death as teenagers speak for themselves. In their own voices, raw and uncensored, they talk about their lives in prison and their thoughts and feelings about how they ended up there. Kuklin also gets inside the system, exploring capital punishment and the intricacies and inequities of criminal justice in the U.S. Non-fiction.

*****A Death-Struck Year*** by Makiia Lucier. A deadly pandemic, a budding romance, and the heartache of loss make for a stunning coming-of-age teen debut about the struggle to survive during the 1918 flu. Historical Fiction.

*****God Grew Tired of Us*** by John Bul Dau. When he was 13, Dau fled his home in the Sudan during the Civil War dodging ambushes, massacres and attacks by wild animals. He walked barefoot over 1,000 miles 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.

****Poetry** by any of the following wonderful American writers: Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Robert Frost, ee cummings, Langston Hughes, Theodore Roethke, Mary Oliver, Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou, Billy Collins, Nikki Giovanni, Countee Cullen, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Juan Felipe Herrera.
Read at least one book by one (or more if you would like) of these amazing writers. Poetry

******Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*** by Bryan Stevenson. Read this if you are concerned about racism or justice in our legal system. Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. Nonfiction.

******Between the World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. In a letter to his adolescent son, Coates looks at our nation's history and current crisis around the idea of 'race' that most heavily impacts black women and men—exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this history and free ourselves from its burden? Memoir.

******Sing, Unburied, Sing*** by Jesmyn Ward. JoJo is 13 and trying to understand how to be a man in Mississippi in this book set in our time. His mother, Leonie, is in constant conflict; she is black and her children's father is white. She wants to be a better mother but can't put her children above her drug use. When the children's father is released from prison, Leonie drives JoJo and his little sister to pick him up. JoJo can see another boy there, a ghost boy who has something to teach JoJo about fathers and sons, violence, and love. Fiction