

2021 SUMMER READING: English 10.2 & 11.2

Over the summer, the English Department invites you to pick at least one book to read for enjoyment and enrichment purposes. We are attaching suggestions and recommendations by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the International Literacy Association (ILA), and other professional organizations. We are also including texts that the department just read or plans to read over the summer. We hope that by allowing you to choose any book you want, it will be a positive and enriching experience. The ideas contained in the books will be carried into conversations throughout the school year and will enrich your experience and understanding of the curriculum next year and beyond.

Parents should review the descriptions of the novels to ensure that they are suitable for their child. If parents have further questions as to the suitability of a text for their child, they are encouraged to call Mary Richardson, Teen Services Librarian at Simsbury Public Library; or Emily Drago, English Supervisor at Simsbury High School. Mary Richardson can be reached at mrichardson@libraryconnection.info or 860-658-7663 (ext 2118) and Emily Drago can be reached by email at edrago@simsburyschools.net.

Assignment: In a thoughtful paragraph or two, please explain why you selected the book that you did and what you learned as a result of it (either about the content of the book or what you learned about yourself). Include one quote from the book to support your reflection. Please write your response on Google Docs, so it can be uploaded to your English class's Classroom at the start of the year.

[Recommended Nonfiction Texts for Teens](#)

[11 Fascinating Nonfiction Books for Teens](#)

[Nonfiction Books for Teens That Will Delight and Educate](#)

[GoodReads Highest Rated Teen Nonfiction](#)

[Buzzfeed's Best YA Books of 2020](#)

Here are some other fiction and nonfiction texts that come highly recommended:

[A Heart in the Body in the World](#) (Deb Caletti)

[Long Way Down](#) (Jason Reynolds)

[Turtles All the Way Down](#) (John Green)

[I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter](#) (Erika L. Sanchez)

[Refugee](#) (Alan Gratz)

[On the Come Up](#) (Angie Thomas)

[Dear Martin](#) (Nic Stone)

[The Smell of Other People's Houses](#) (Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock)

[Parable of the Sower](#) (Octavia Butler)

[Salvage the Bones](#) (Jesmyn Ward)

[Ordinary Grace](#) (William Kent Krueger)

[The Book Thief](#) (Markus Zusak)

[The Midnight Library](#) (Matt Haig)

[Clap When You Land](#) (Elizabeth Acevedo)

[I Wish You All the Best](#) (Mason Deaver)

[Brown Girl Dreaming](#) (Jacqueline Woodson)

[We Were Liars](#) (e. Lockhart)

[Children of Blood and Bone](#) (Tomi Adeyemi)

[The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens](#) (Sean Covey)

[The House on Mango Street](#) (Sandra Cisneros)

[Mindfulness for Teens in 10 Minutes a Day](#) (Jennie Marie Battistin)

[One of Us is Lying](#) (Karen M. McManus)

[Hey, Kiddo](#) (Jarrett J. Krosoczka)

[How to Be a Person](#) (Catherine Newman)

Read with your teachers! Here is what some English department members recently read or are looking forward to reading:

- Mr. Lenz plans to read [The Splendid and the Vile](#), “an intimate chronicle of Winston Churchill and London during the Blitz—an inspiring portrait of courage and leadership in a time of unprecedented crisis” (Random House).
- Mrs. Henry is currently reading [The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together](#) - “One of today’s most insightful and influential thinkers offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color (New York Times Bestseller).
- On Ms. Weiser’s summer reading list is [Octavia’s Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements](#) -- an anthology of sci-fi short stories that examines how both sci-fi and social justice movements imagine new worlds.
- Ms. Miron read and really enjoyed [Circe](#) by Madeline Miller.
- Mrs. Drago is excited to read [The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue](#). Here's what it's about: "In the 1700s, Addie LaRue makes a deal with the devil—she will live forever, although her immortality comes with the curse of being forgotten by everyone. Addie moves through time and across continents; she learns to survive and even leave her mark on the world. Then one day she meets a man in a bookstore who remembers her name, and suddenly everything changes" (*Amazon*).
- Ms. Flowers recently read [Exile Music](#) by Jennifer Steil and said, “This is one of those rare novels that hooked my attention from the start and had me thinking of the story whenever I was not reading. Immediately, I fell in love with Orly, a brave and observant girl who sees there was so much more to life than what she's been told. This novel, set against the devastating sweep of World War II in Austria, shows how love endures through bigotry, separation and loss.”

Please Note: Some literature may have ideas, language or philosophies that are objectionable to you. We suggest you read a review of the book before selecting it. Keep in mind that this is a recommended list, and you are free to select a text of choice.