

Marshfield High School

English Department

~ Incoming Grade 11 Books and Summer Assignments ~

The English Department at Marshfield High School is pleased to present this year's summer reading program. We hope you enjoy your book(s)!

Each student must select a book from their grade level list and complete the corresponding assignment. **Students entering AP classes will read additional books and complete additional assignments; they should refer to the letter they received.**

Since we are offering many choices, students should obtain copies of their selected books from the local libraries, local bookstores, or online sources. If a student is unable to obtain a copy, please contact Patty Ridolfi, English Department Head, via email at PRidolfi@mpsd.org.

READ WHAT INTERESTS YOU! ENJOY!

<p>AP Language and Composition: Read <i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i> by Alex Haley and Malcolm X *violence AND Choose one from the following from the book list: <i>Dreams from my Father</i> by Barack Obama <i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta Nehisi Coates <i>The Color of Water</i> by James McBride</p>	<p>AP Language Assessments: 1. <i>Malcolm X: Nineteen journal responses</i> (*see AP Summer Letter for more information) 2. Assigned AP Op-Ed (*see AP Summer Letter for more information) AND 3. Choice from List (Keep a list of important quotations from the book (with page numbers). Be prepared for an in-class FIX assessment in the first week of school.</p>
<p>Level 1 and Level 2: Choose one book from the list below</p>	<p>Level 1 and Level 2 Assessment: 1. Choice from List: Keep a list of important quotations from the book (with page numbers). Be prepared for an in-class FIX assessment in the first week of school.</p>

11th Grade Book List:

The American Experience/American Identity/The American Dream

- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien *suicide, language, violence
 - THE THINGS THEY CARRIED follows an infantry unit wandering through the jungles of Vietnam in the late 1960s at the height of the American intervention. The semi-autobiographical, nonlinear storytelling of award-winning author Tim O'Brien darts from anecdote to anecdote, leading readers through misty riverbanks along the Song Tra Bong, to napalm-charred villages, to fields of manure and piles of corpses, exposing the grim and graphic realities of war. Tracing the emotional lives of several soldiers in his unit, O'Brien draws parallels between the memories and objects the men bring with them to the war, and what they wind up bringing back with them when they leave, if they're so lucky to return in one piece. In searching for meaning and understanding through recollection and retelling, O'Brien concludes, "In the end, of course, a true war story is never about war. It's about sunlight. It's about the special way that dawn spreads out on a river when you know you must cross the river and march into the mountains and do things you are afraid to do. It's about love and memory. It's about sorrow. It's about sisters who never write back and people who never listen." *from Common Sense Media*
- *Dreams from my Father* by Barack Obama *language
 - In this lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir, the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American. It begins in New York, where Barack Obama learns that his father—a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man—has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey—first to a small town in Kansas, from which he retraces the migration of his mother's family to Hawaii, and then to Kenya, where he meets the African side of his family, confronts the bitter truth of his father's life, and at last reconciles his divided inheritance. *From Amazon*

- *Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle *suggestive content
 - Topanga Canyon is home to two couples on a collision course. Los Angeles liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher lead an ordered sushi-and-recycling existence in a newly gated hilltop community: he a sensitive nature writer, she an obsessive realtor. Mexican illegals Candido and America Rincon desperately cling to their vision of the American Dream as they fight off starvation in a makeshift camp deep in the ravine. And from the moment a freak accident brings Candido and Delaney into intimate contact, these four and their opposing worlds gradually intersect in what becomes a tragicomedy of error and misunderstanding. *From Amazon*
- *The Greatest Generation* by Tom Brokaw
 - Tom Brokaw goes out into America, to tell through the stories of individual men and women the story of a generation, America's citizen heroes and heroines who came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America. This generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values—duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country, and, above all, responsibility for oneself. In this book, you will meet people whose everyday lives reveal how a generation persevered through war, and were trained by it, and then went on to create interesting and useful lives and the America we have today. *From Barnes and Noble*
- *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
 - A novel about assimilation and generational differences. Gogol is so named because his father believes that sitting up in a sleeping car reading Nikolai Gogol's "The Overcoat" saved him when the train he was on derailed and most passengers perished. After his arranged marriage, the man and his wife leave India for America, where he eventually becomes a professor. They adopt American ways, yet all of their friends are Bengalis. But for young Gogol and his sister, Boston is home, and trips to Calcutta to visit relatives are voyages to a foreign land. He finds his strange name a constant irritant, and eventually he changes it to Nikhil. When he is a senior at Yale, his father finally tells him the story of his name. Moving to New York to work as an architect, he meets Maxine, his first real love, but they separate after his father dies. Later, his mother reintroduces him to a Bengali woman, and they fall in love and marry, but their union does not last. The tale comes full circle when the protagonist, home for a Bengali Christmas, rediscovers his father's gift of Gogol's short stories. This novel will attract not just teens of other cultures, but also readers struggling with the challenges of growing up and tugging at family ties. *From School Library Journal*
- *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride
 - The need to clarify his racial identity prompted the author to penetrate his veiled and troubled family history. Ruth McBride Jordan concealed her former life as Rachel Deborah Shilsky, the daughter of an Orthodox Jewish rabbi, from her children. Her grim upbringing in an abusive environment is left behind when she moves to Harlem, marries a black man, converts to Christianity, and confounds a Baptist congregation with her husband. The courage and tenacity shown by this twice-widowed mother who manages to raise 12 children, all of whom go on to successful careers, are remarkable. *From Library Journal*
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates *violence
 - 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 fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? *Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions, in the form of a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in American culture through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken far too soon, as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bracingly confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward. *From Random House Academic Resources*

*Indicates the book contains some mature content or serious subject matter.

Assignment:

Select one book from the 11th Grade Book List : “The American Experience/American Identity/The American Dream” List

AP Students should refer to the AP Summer Letter they received.

Assessment:

TAKE NOTES: Keep a list of important quotations from the book (with page numbers).

QUIZ: Be prepared for an in-class FIX (Find, Identify, and Explain) assessment in the first week of school.

