

Oak Mountain High School Required Summer Reading 2018

ALL STUDENTS IN ALL ENGLISH CLASSES are required to choose **ONE of the following books** to read this summer. In order to help you choose, blurbs (taken from Amazon) about each book are on the back of this sheet. You will have an assignment to complete in class the first week of school.

- *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green
- *The Cruel Prince* (The Folk of the Air) by Holly Black
- *Warcross* by Marie Lu
- *Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Assassin* by James L. Swanson
- *The IF in Life: How to Get off Life's Sidelines and Become Your Best Self* by Rashad Jennings
- *I Have Lost My Way* by Gayle Forman
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

*AP Language 11 students MUST choose one of the non-fiction selections.

Honors and AP Required Summer Reading Selections 2018

Please note that this assignment is in addition to the one mentioned above and is REQUIRED for all Honors and AP students. Honors students will be given an assessment upon returning to school, while AP students have actual assignments to complete during the summer.

Honors English 9:

- *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

Honors English 10:

- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

* Honors English 10 students will begin reading *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd the first week of school. Please have a copy on the first day of school.

AP Language 11:

- *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton
- *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs
- AP Lang students MUST choose one of the **non-fiction choices** from the list at the top of the page.

* AP Language 11 students **MUST** see Ms. Blakemore (Room 230) or Ms. Davis (Room 223) for the actual summer reading assignment.

AP Literature 12:

- *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
- *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson.

* AP Literature 12 students **MUST** see Ms. Dixon (Room 208) for the actual summer reading assignment.

***Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green**

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis.

Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

***The Cruel Prince (The Folk of the Air)* by Holly Black**

Jude was seven years old when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King.

To win a place at the Court, she must defy him--and face the consequences.

In doing so, she becomes embroiled in palace intrigues and deceptions, discovering her own capacity for bloodshed. But as civil war threatens to drown the Courts of Faerie in violence, Jude will need to risk her life in a dangerous alliance to save her sisters, and Faerie itself.

***Warcross* by Marie Lu**

For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game—it's a way of life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down Warcross players who bet on the game illegally. But the bounty-hunting world is a competitive one, and survival has not been easy. To make some quick cash, Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships—only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation.

Convinced she's going to be arrested, Emika is shocked when instead she gets a call from the game's creator, the elusive young billionaire Hideo Tanaka, with an irresistible offer. He needs a spy on the inside of this year's tournament in order to uncover a security problem . . . and he wants Emika for the job. With no time to lose, Emika's whisked off to Tokyo and thrust into a world of fame and fortune that she's only dreamed of. But soon her investigation uncovers a sinister plot, with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire.

***Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Assassin* by James L. Swanson**

In his meteoric, thirteen-year rise to fame, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a mass movement for Civil Rights -- with his relentless peaceful, non-violent protests, public demonstrations, and eloquent speeches. But as violent threats cast a dark shadow over Dr. King's life, Swanson hones in on James Earl Ray, a bizarre, racist, prison escapee who tragically ends King's life.

As he did in his bestselling Scholastic MG/YA books *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* and "THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN SHOT!", Swanson transports readers back to one of the most shocking, sad, and terrifying events in American history.

***The IF in Life: How to Get off Life's Sidelines and Become Your Best Self* by Rashad Jennings**

In his debut book, *The IF in Life: How to Get Off Life's Sidelines and Become Your Best Self*, former NFL running back and Dancing with the Stars champion Rashad Jennings shares his inspiring story and experiences that will encourage readers to follow their dreams.

As a kid, Rashad was overweight, had poor vision, asthma, and a 0.6 GPA yet he still hoped to one day play in the NFL. The odds were stacked against him, but through hard work and determination, Rashad became a record-setting running back who has played with the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Oakland Raiders, and the New York Giants.

In *The IF in Life*, Rashad writes about the decisions that shaped his life. From overcoming injuries and setbacks to reaching goals and everything in between, Rashad's transparency about his journey will encourage readers to hold on to faith in the midst of uncertainty and win big in life.

***I Have Lost My Way* by Gayle Forman**

Around the time that Freya loses her voice while recording her debut album, Harun is making plans to run away from everyone he has ever loved, and Nathaniel is arriving in New York City with a backpack, a desperate plan, and nothing left to lose. When a fateful accident draws these three strangers together, their secrets start to unravel as they begin to understand that the way out of their own loss might just lie in help-ing the others out of theirs.

An emotionally cathartic story of losing love, finding love, and dis-covering the person you are meant to be, *I Have Lost My Way* is best-selling author Gayle Forman at her finest.

***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely**

A bag of chips. That's all sixteen-year-old Rashad is looking for at the corner bodega. What he finds instead is a fist-happy cop, Paul Galluzzo, who mistakes Rashad for a shoplifter, mistakes Rashad's pleadings that he's stolen nothing for belligerence, mistakes Rashad's resistance to leave the bodega as resisting arrest, mistakes Rashad's every flinch at every punch the cop throws as further resistance and refusal to STAY STILL as ordered. But how can you stay still when someone is pounding your face into the concrete pavement?

There were witnesses: Quinn Collins—a varsity basketball player and Rashad's classmate who has been raised by Paul since his own father died in Afghanistan—and a video camera. Soon the beating is all over the news and Paul is getting threatened with accusations of prejudice and racial brutality. Quinn refuses to believe that the man who has basically been his savior could possibly be guilty. But then Rashad is absent. And absent again. And again. And the basketball team—half of whom are Rashad's best friends—start to take sides. As does the school. And the town. Simmering tensions threaten to explode as Rashad and Quinn are forced to face decisions and consequences they had never considered before.

Written in tandem by two award-winning authors, this four-starred reviewed tour de force shares the alternating perspectives of Rashad and Quinn as the complications from that single violent moment, the type taken directly from today's headlines, unfold and reverberate to highlight an unwelcome truth.