

Sophomore Summer Reading List

Torrance High School

2016

Requirements for English 2:	Requirements for English 2 Honors:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose one book from the list below. Read the book over the summer. Complete the synopsis for grade 10. Bring the completed synopsis to your English teacher ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">* Please do <u>not</u> choose a book from the supplemental reading list.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read both required novels (see page 2). Read one book of your choice from the list below. Complete the grade 10 synopsis for each of the three books. Bring the three completed synopses to your English teacher ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">* Please do <u>not</u> choose a book from the supplemental reading list.</p>

Students who are life-long readers are more successful in their academic classes as well as in their careers after graduation. People who read well also write better, have larger vocabularies, score higher on tests, and communicate more effectively.

The English Department has included a variety of authors to appeal to a broad spectrum of student interests. Some titles are recommended by the California Department of Education (CDE), American Library Association (ALA), and College Board (CB). In addition to the synopsis (synopses) that must be submitted **ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**, during the second week of school, students will write an essay based on their selection(s). The English teachers suggest parents help their child thoughtfully and carefully select a book from the list.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime – Mark Haddon: A murder mystery of sorts told by an autistic, mathematically-gifted, and socially-hopeless 15-year-old boy. (252 pages)

The First Part Last – Angela Johnson: A young father struggling to raise an infant, Bobby, 16, is a sensitive and intelligent narrator. His parents are supportive but refuse to take over the child-care duties, so he struggles to balance parenting, school, and friends who don't comprehend his new role. (CDE: 144 pages)

Looking for Alaska – John Green: A Florida teenager starts boarding school in Alabama. Interested in famous people's last words, the protagonist takes Francois Rabelais' deathbed statement "I go to seek a Great Perhaps" as his personal mission. (221 pages)

Monster – Walter Dean Meyers: Steve Harmon, 16, is accused of serving as a lookout for a robbery of a Harlem drugstore. The owner was shot and killed, and now Steve is in prison awaiting trial for murder. (288 pages)

A Step from Heaven – An Na: Young Ju emigrates from Korea with her parents when she is four. The pressures of immigration, language difficulties, and oppositional cultural expectations lead her family down a difficult path. (160 pages)

Required Reading for English 2 Honors ONLY

Students who are taking a *regular* 10th grade English class must choose a book from the list on the front page.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* - Rebecca Skloot:** In 1951, Henrietta Lacks, a young mother from a poor African American family, was dying of cancer. Without Henrietta's knowledge or consent, doctors took tissue samples to use for testing. Henrietta died soon after, but her cells reproduced at a miraculous rate and were used for research and sold to labs around the world. The cells (known as HeLa) have been used in scientific discoveries ranging from the polio vaccine to modern AIDS treatments. They have even traveled to space and are still reproducing today. This is a story of medical ethics, scientific progress, race relations, and a family discovering their mother's lasting legacy after years of hardship.

***A Separate Peace* - John Knowles:** Set during World War II in a boys' boarding school, *The Separate Peace* recounts the story of two friends, one a serious student and the other a mischievous athlete. During a summer session at school, the two friends are involved in a terrible accident. Or was it really an accident? This classic novel is a coming of age story about teens whose hidden rivalry shatters their innocence forever.