

# Senior Summer Reading List

## Torrance High School

### 2016

<p><b>Requirements for English 4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose <b>one</b> book from the list below.</li> <li>• Read the book over the summer.</li> <li>• Complete the synopsis for grade 12.</li> </ul> <p>Bring the completed synopsis to your English teacher <b>ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</b></p> <p><small>* Please do <u>not</u> choose a book from the supplemental reading list.</small></p>	<p><b>Requirements for AP Literature and Composition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read <b>both</b> required novels (see page 2).</li> <li>• Complete the AP English 4 Reading Guide for <b>each</b> of the books.</li> <li>• Bring the completed guides to your English teacher <b>ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.</b></li> </ul>
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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.

**All But My Life – Gerda Kline:** The story of holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein’s six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty, *All But My Life* offers hope that hatred can be overcome. (261 pages)

**The Hotel on the corner of Bitter and Sweet - Jamie Ford:** Henry Lee is a 12-year-old Chinese boy who falls in love with Keiko Okabe, a 12-year-old Japanese girl, while they are scholarship students at a prestigious private school in World War II Seattle. Henry hides the relationship from his parents, who would disown him if they knew he had a Japanese friend. His father insists that Henry wear an "I am Chinese" button everywhere he goes because Japanese residents of Seattle have begun to be shipped off by the thousands to relocation centers. This is an old-fashioned historical novel that alternates between the early 1940s and 1984, after Henry’s wife Ethel has died of cancer. (301 pages)

**Impossible – Nancy Werlin:** This book, a combination of fantasy and realism, is about the date rape of a 17-year old girl who becomes pregnant, and has to perform three impossible tasks to save her baby from a curse. (ALA: 384 pages)

**Slaughterhouse-Five - Kurt Vonnegut:** Kurt Vonnegut’s absurdist classic *Slaughterhouse-Five* introduces us to Billy Pilgrim, a man who becomes unstuck in time after he is abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore. In a plot-scrambling display of virtuosity, we follow Pilgrim simultaneously through all phases of his life, concentrating on his (and Vonnegut’s) shattering experience as an American prisoner of war who witnesses the firebombing of Dresden. (215 pages)

**Twisted – Laurie Halse Anderson:** Manhood, growing up, and family relationships are at the center of this tense, engaging novel. High-school senior Tory has always been considered a loser, but after bulking up a bit and creating a reputation at his high school with a spray-paint stunt, he finds himself appealing to the most popular girl in school, Bethany Millbury. When a dangerous situation arises that could potentially change his life forever, Troy must figure out what it means to take control and stand up for himself. (ALA: 272 pages)

## Required Reading for AP Lit and Composition ONLY

Students who are taking a regular 12<sup>th</sup> grade English class  
must choose a book from the list on the front page.

**Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte:** A powerful and passionate novel, *Jane Eyre* tells the story of an orphaned young woman who takes the position of governess in the home of Mr. Rochester (CB: 624 pages)

**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest - Ken Kesey:** In this modern classic of the 1960's, a rebellious new patient faces off with the strong-minded nurse in charge of the mental ward. (312 pages)

**NOTE:** AP English students must complete the Reading Guides for *Jane Eyre* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* provided on the website.  
They are **NOT** to use the synopsis provided for the general English 4 classes.