

# WLPCS SUMMER READING

Upper School – Summer 2019

## Using the reading list

On the next pages, look up the class you are going to take next year for specific instructions on your required summer reading.

Summer reading in the Upper School varies by the course students will enter in the fall but consists of up to three main types of reading.

- 1. Core texts** – Texts that are required of all students taking the course and will serve as the cornerstone text for the first unit of the school year, as well as connecting to the year-long essential questions of the course. Students must read all required texts for their course and should annotate their reading.
- 2. Companion texts** – Companion texts connect with the year-long essential questions of each English course. Students must choose one of these books from the provided short list, and should be prepared to discuss the reading in detail so they should take notes or annotate.
- 3. Free choice reading** – It is important that students also read about their own interests and explore books they enjoy outside of those required. Students may choose any book that interests them for free choice reading and should be prepared to discuss what they chose to read.

Questions? Ask Ms. Hamm  
([shamm@latinpcs.org](mailto:shamm@latinpcs.org)).



Book by Horia Varlan

## Why summer reading?

At Washington Latin, we require that students read over the summer for several reasons. Required texts establish themes for the year and are frequently the focus of the first unit of the year in each class. They serve as touchstones and jumping-off points for year-long conversations about the essential thematic questions that drive English courses at Latin. We require summer reading to prevent any loss of reading skills over the summer; summer reading ensures that students are engaged in some of the same activities they pursue during the school year. We believe children learn to read (and think) best when they want to read; we require summer reading to promote reading for pleasure and assist parents in motivating students to read. We are trying to teach students to love reading. We think if children love books, they will do well in life.



# 9TH GRADE ENGLISH AND HONORS ENGLISH

**Core Texts — Read ALL Core texts for the class you are entering as indicated below.**

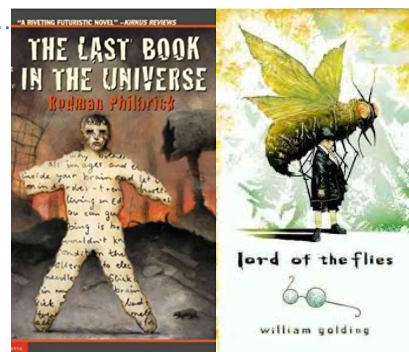
## Required English 9 Core Text

*The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Philbrick

## Required Honors English 9 Core Texts

*The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Philbrick

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding



**Companion Texts — Choose ONE from the list below.**

**Ready Player One by Ernie Cline** -- In the not-too-distant future, the OASIS (Ontologically Anthropocentric Sensory Immersive Simulation), a large multiplayer virtual reality game, has become the place where we live our lives. Parzival, a poor orphan from the trailer stacks in Oklahoma, and his virtual friends work together to solve puzzles placed by the OASIS's creator and defeat an evil corporation to find the keys to a vast fortune.

**Love Is the Drug by Alaya Dawn Johnson** -- After the events of a party with political elite leave frightening gaps in DC teen Emily Bird's memory, she believes that she has uncovered secrets about her parents' work with a nation-wide flu epidemic -- if only she could remember them. With the help of her new friend and love interest Coffee, Bird works to uncover her parents' secrets before the disease destroys the country.

**(+)The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness** -- Because of an alien germ, male residents of the intergalactic colony city Prentisstown can hear each others' every thought. Despite the difficulty of doing so in a town where people can hear each other think, Prentisstown still hides its biggest secret. When Todd Hewitt discovers the secret on his thirteenth birthday, he knows he has to run for his life. But how can he hide when his pursuers can hear his thoughts?

**(+)Steelheart by Brandon Sanderson** -- In the future, Epics, dark and powerful supervillains, rule over major US cities. When Steelheart, the Epic that rules over Newcago, kills David's father, he plans his revenge.

**(+)Scythe by Neil Shusterman** -- In a perfect world where there is no disease and death, Scythes reign supreme because they have the power to take a life. Reluctant apprentices Citra and Rowan are taught the art of death, and their greatest fears are realized when they are required to chase each other to the death to show off their skills.

**(+)Unwind by Neil Shusterman** -- After the second Civil War, the nation comes up with a creative solution to the abortion debate. Though abortion is not allowed under any circumstances, teenagers can be "unwound" and all of their organs transplanted into others. Four teenagers who are about to be unwound rebel against the cruel policy and start a teenage revolution.

**(+)Uglies by Scott Westerfeld** -- In Tally Youngblood's society, sixteen-year-olds have an operation to make them "pretty," and they live a life of parties and luxury. When Tally discovers a dark secret behind the "pretty" operation, she faces a difficult choice.

**Free Choice Reading — Choose TWO more books to read this summer.**

You must also read two books that you choose (yes, any book you choose -- no need to get approval from your teacher!) and be prepared to discuss them with your teacher and class. If you are stuck in choosing a book, go to the [YALSA Book Finder](#) or email Ms. Hamm ([shamm@latinpcs.org](mailto:shamm@latinpcs.org)) for a recommendation. Your local public library or bookstore can also help with giving good recommendations.

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(+) Students may read any book of the series.

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# 10TH GRADE ENGLISH AND HONORS ENGLISH

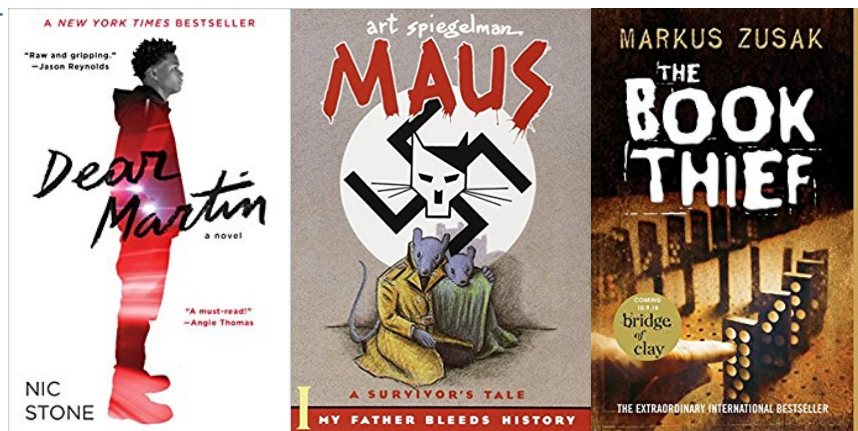
**Core Texts — Read ALL Core texts for the class you are entering as indicated below.**

## Required English 10 Core Text

*Dear Martin* by Nic Stone

## Required Honors English 10 Core Texts

*Maus : A Survivor's Tale – Vol. I. My Father Bleeds History and Vol. II. And Here My Troubles Began* by Art Spiegelman  
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak



**Companion Texts — Choose ONE from the list below.**

***Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Vol. 1 The Pox Party* by M.T. Anderson,** -- "It sounds like a fairy tale. He is a boy dressed in silks and white wigs and given the finest of classical educations. Raised by a group of rational philosophers, the boy and his mother – a princess from a faraway land – are the only persons in their household assigned names. As the boy's regal mother, Cassiopeia, entertains the house scholars with her beauty and wit, young Octavian begins to question the purpose behind his guardians' fanatical studies. Only after he dares to open a forbidden door does he learn the hideous nature of their experiments – and his own chilling role in them."

***Life of Pi* by Yann Martel** -- "After the sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a wounded zebra, an orangutan—and a 450-pound royal bengal tiger."

***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez** -- "Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed."

***Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi** -- "In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country."

***57 Bus* by Dashka Slater** -- "If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the

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country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment."

***Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson** -- "Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But... just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from."

***Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein** -- "Two young women from totally different backgrounds are thrown together during World War II: one a working-class girl from Manchester, the other a Scottish aristocrat, one a pilot, the other a wireless operator. Yet whenever their paths cross, they complement each other perfectly and before long become devoted friends. But then a vital mission goes wrong, and one of the friends has to bail out of a faulty plane over France. She is captured by the Gestapo and becomes a prisoner of war. The story begins in Verity's own words, as she writes her account for her captors."

***Ms. Marvel, Vol. 1* by G. Willow Wilson** -- "Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City - until she is suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the all-new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm! As Kamala discovers the dangers of her newfound powers, she unlocks a secret behind them as well. Is Kamala ready to wield these immense new gifts?"

***American Street* by Ibi Zoboi** -- "On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find une belle vie—a good life. But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit's west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?"

### **Free Choice Reading — Choose TWO more books to read this summer.**

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You must also read two books that you choose (yes, any book you choose -- no need to get approval from your teacher!) and be prepared to discuss them with your teacher and class. If you are stuck in choosing a book, go to the [YALSA Book Finder](https://www.yalsa.org/bookfinder/) or email Ms. Hamm ([shamm@latinpcs.org](mailto:shamm@latinpcs.org)) for a recommendation. Your local public library or bookstore can also help with giving good recommendations.

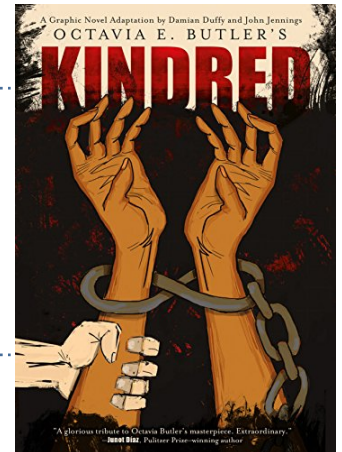


# 11TH GRADE ENGLISH

**Core Texts — Read ALL Core texts for the class you are entering as indicated below.**

## Required English 11 Core Text

*Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation* by Octavia Butler, adapted by Damian Duffy



**Companion Texts — Choose ONE from the list below.**

**Solo by Kwame Alexander** -- "Blade never asked for a life of the rich and famous. In fact, he'd give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback. Or to no longer be part of a family known most for lost potential, failure, and tragedy, including the loss of his mother. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship, assuming Blade will become just like his father."

**How the García Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez** -- "The García sisters—Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofía—and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father's role in an attempt to overthrow a tyrannical dictator is discovered. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean. In the wild and wondrous and not always welcoming U.S.A., their parents try to hold on to their old ways, but the girls try find new lives: by forgetting their Spanish, by straightening their hair and wearing fringed bell bottoms. For them, it is at once liberating and excruciating to be caught between the old world and the new. *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* sets the sisters free to tell their most intimate stories about how they came to be at home—and not at home—in America."

**Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson** -- "Speak up for yourself—we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school.... As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her."

**The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros** -- "*The House on Mango Street* is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Told in a series of vignettes—sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous—Sandra Cisneros' masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery."

**Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller** -- "In the person of Willy Loman, the aging, failing salesman who makes his living riding on a smile and a shoeshine, Arthur Miller redefined the tragic hero as a man whose dreams are at once insupportably vast and dangerously insubstantial. He has given us a figure whose name has become a symbol for a kind of majestic grandiosity—and a play that

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compresses epic extremes of humor and anguish, promise and loss, between the four walls of an American living room."

**The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama** -- "The Audacity of Hope is Barack Obama's call for a different brand of politics—a politics for those weary of bitter partisanship and alienated by the 'endless clash of armies' we see in congress and on the campaign trail; a politics rooted in the faith, inclusiveness, and nobility of spirit at the heart of 'our improbable experiment in democracy.' He explores those forces—from the fear of losing to the perpetual need to raise money to the power of the media—that can stifle even the best-intentioned politician. He also writes, with surprising intimacy and self-deprecating humor, about settling in as a senator, seeking to balance the demands of public service and family life, and his own deepening religious commitment."

**Wench by Dolen Perkins-Valdez** -- "Situated in Ohio, a free territory before the Civil War, Tawawa House is an idyllic retreat for Southern white men who vacation there every summer with their enslaved black mistresses. It's their open secret. Lizzie, Reenie, and Sweet are regulars at the resort, building strong friendships over the years. But when Mawu, as fearless as she is assured, comes along and starts talking of running away, things change. To run is to leave everything behind, and for some it also means escaping from the emotional and psychological bonds that bind them to their masters. When a fire on the resort sets off a string of tragedies, the women of Tawawa House soon learn that triumph and dehumanization are inseparable and that love exists even in the most inhuman, brutal of circumstances—all while they bear witness to the end of an era."

**Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly** -- Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women, some of the brightest minds of their generation."

**The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas** -- "Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed."

### Free Choice Reading — Choose TWO more books to read this summer.

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You must also read two books that you choose (yes, any book you choose -- no need to get approval from your teacher!) and be prepared to discuss them with your teacher and class. If you are stuck in choosing a book, go to the [YALSA Book Finder](https://www.yalsa.org/bookfinder/) or email Ms. Hamm ([shamm@latinpcs.org](mailto:shamm@latinpcs.org)) for a recommendation. Your local public library or bookstore can also help with giving good recommendations.



# 12TH GRADE ENGLISH AND HONORS ENGLISH

**Core Texts — Read ALL Core texts for the class you are entering as indicated below.**

## Required English 12 Core Texts

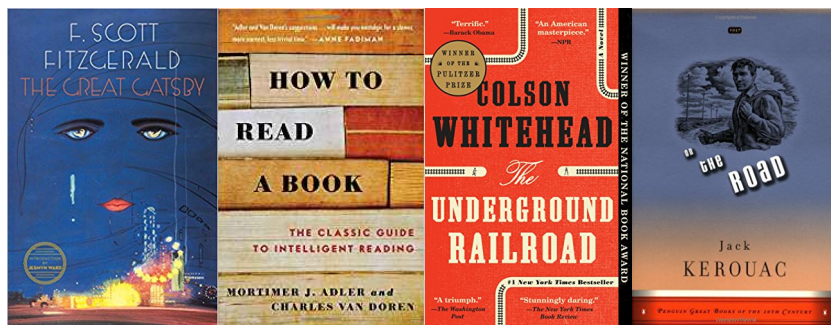
*On the Road* by Jack Kerouac

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

## Required Honors English 12 Core Texts

*The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

*How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler  
(selections)



**Companion Texts — Choose ONE from any of the lists below.**

### Non-Fiction

Both courses will undertake a major research project during the year which looks at incarceration from a variety of perspectives. You could definitely build important background knowledge by reading one of these non-fiction texts.

- **Alexander, Michelle.** *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.*
- **Forman, James, Jr.** *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America.*
- **Pfaff, John.** *Locked In: The True Causes of Mass Incarceration and How to Achieve Real Reform.*
- **Rankine, Claudia.** *Citizen: An American Lyric.*
- **Solnit, Rebecca.** *Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities.*
- **Stevenson, Bryan.** *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption.*

### Memoir

The works in this list all connect in one way or another to the themes of identity and belonging. Any of these choices makes an incredibly worthy summer read.

- **Angelou, Maya.** *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.*
- **Jefferson, Margo.** *Negroland.*
- **Haddish, Tiffany.** *The Last Black Unicorn.*
- **Khan, Khizr.** *An American Family: A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice.*
- **McCall, Nathan.** *Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America.*
- **Noah, Trevor.** *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*
- **Union, Gabrielle.** *We're Going to Need More Wine.*
- **Vance, J.D.** *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis.*

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## Fiction

**Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*.** -- Capote called his work "a nonfiction novel." He used extensive interviews with the murderers of the Clutter family. This work is considered the first in the true crime genre.

**Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Crime and Punishment*.** -- Still considered the most profound portrayal of a man whose bright future descends into madness: psychological drama.

**Eugenides, Jeffrey. *Middlesex*.** -- The narrator leads the reader in a wondrous narrative of gender identity. It won the Pulitzer Prize.

**Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.** -- This novel remains a profound window into the mind of a young man on the autistic spectrum.

**Hannaham, James. *Delicious Foods*.** -- "Darlene, once an exemplary wife and a loving mother to her young son, Eddie, finds herself devastated by the unforeseen death of her husband. Unable to cope with her grief, she turns to drugs, and quickly forms an addiction. One day she disappears without a trace."

**Jones, Edward P. *The Known World*.** -- DC native Edward P. Jones won a Pulitzer Prize for a little known narrative from U.S. history - black slave owners.

**Larsen, Nella. *Passing*.** -- "Irene Redfield marries an African-American doctor and moves to Harlem. Clare Kendy, on the other hand, marries a bigoted white man -- never telling him of her true heritage. When the two women meet, after decades of separation, they impact each other lives in ways that neither would have imagined."

**Lahiri, Jhumpa. *The Interpreter of Maladies*.** -- In this collection of short stories, Lahiri explores identity.

**McBride, James. *The Good Lord Bird*.** -- National Book Award winner 2013 citation: "James McBride's novel takes a pivotal, troubled sequence in American history—John Brown's abolitionist campaign—and retells it in a voice as comic and original as any we have heard since Mark Twain. The narrator is one Henry Shackleford, aka Onion, an escaped teenaged slave who accompanies Brown while disguised as a girl. Fondly portraying Brown as a well-meaning but unhinged zealot, *The Good Lord Bird* is daringly irreverent, but also wise, funny, and affecting."

**Rawles, Nancy. *My Jim*.** -- An extension story about one of the most controversial characters in history, Jim from Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

**Styron, William. *Sophie's Choice*.** -- There may be no words to describe the anguish of losing a child, but being faced with the choice which will assuredly lead to death is unimaginable. Yet, Styron does and brilliantly so. This text will be tough, but important, reading.

**Ward, Jesmyn. *Sing, Unburied, Sing*.** -- "Jojo is thirteen years old and trying to understand what it means to be a man. He doesn't lack in fathers to study, chief among them his Black grandfather, Pop. But there are other men who complicate his understanding: his absent White father, Michael, who is being released from prison; his absent White grandfather, Big Joseph, who won't acknowledge his existence; and the memories of his dead uncle, Given, who died as a teenager."

**Wright, Richard. *Native Son*.** -- "Bigger" Thomas remains an iconic literary figure. This novel is often considered the modern American response to Dostoyevsky's psychological drama, *Crime and Punishment*.



# AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

**Core Texts — Read ALL Core texts for the class you are entering as indicated below.**

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***How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler (selections)** – “Originally published in 1940, this book is a rare phenomenon, a *living* classic that introduces and elucidates the various levels of reading and how to achieve them—from elementary reading, through systematic skimming and inspectional reading, to speed reading. Readers will learn when and how to “judge a book by its cover,” and also how to X-ray it, read critically, and extract the author’s message from the text. Also included is instruction in the different techniques that work best for reading particular genres, such as practical books, imaginative literature, plays, poetry, history, science and mathematics, philosophy and social science works.”

***The Awakening* by Kate Chopin** – “On vacation in Grand Isle, Louisiana, a married woman falls in love with a charming, attentive young man. The relationship spurs Edna Pontellier to explore her longing for independence and creative fulfillment. It also compels her to defy conventions, rejecting the constraints of marriage and motherhood.... A groundbreaking feminist work and a landmark of modernist literature, *The Awakening* depicts one woman’s journey to define her true self.”

***The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald** – “The story of the mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when *The New York Times* noted “gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession,” it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.”

***The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger** – “The hero-narrator of THE CATCHER IN THE RYE is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield As the novel begins, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days.”

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain** – “Rich in authentic dialect, folksy humor, and sharp social commentary, Twain’s classic tale follows Huck and the runaway slave Jim on an exciting journey down the Mississippi.”

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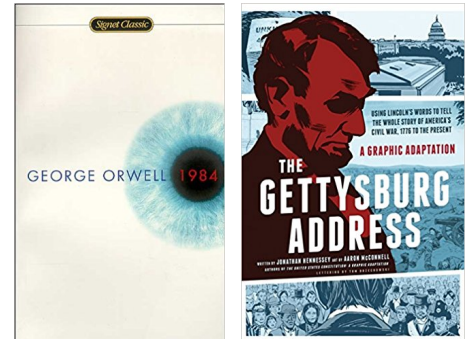
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# AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

**Core Texts — Read ALL Core texts for the class you are entering as indicated below.**

**1984 by George Orwell** – Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...



**The Gettysburg Address: A Graphic Adaptation by Jonathan Hennessey** – Using Lincoln's words as a keystone, and drawing from first-person accounts, *The Gettysburg Address* shows us the events through the eyes of those who lived through the events of the War, from soldiers to slaves.

**Companion Texts — Choose ONE from the list below.**

**We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** -- "Drawing extensively on her own experiences and her deep understanding of the often masked realities of sexual politics, here is one remarkable author's exploration of what it means to be a woman now--and an of-the-moment rallying cry for why we should all be feminists."

**The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way by Bill Bryson** -- "With dazzling wit and astonishing insight, Bill Bryson--the acclaimed author of *The Lost Continent*--brilliantly explores the remarkable history, eccentricities, resilience and sheer fun of the English language."

**How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie** -- "Dale Carnegie's rock-solid, time-tested advice has carried countless people up the ladder of success in their business and personal lives."

**The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion** -- "Joan Didion explores an intensely personal yet universal experience: a portrait of a marriage--and a life, in good times and bad--that will speak to anyone who has ever loved a husband or wife or child."

**Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass** -- "Former slave, impassioned abolitionist, brilliant writer, newspaper editor and eloquent orator whose speeches fired the abolitionist cause, Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) led an astounding life. Physical abuse, deprivation and tragedy plagued his early years, yet through sheer force of character he was able to overcome these obstacles to become a leading spokesman for his people."

**Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard** -- "*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* is the story of a dramatic year in Virginia's Roanoke Valley. Annie Dillard sets out to see what she can see. What she sees are astonishing incidents of "beauty tangled in a rapture with violence."

**Thirteen Days by Robert F. Kennedy** -- "During the thirteen days in October 1962 when the United States confronted the Soviet Union over its installation of missiles in Cuba, few people shared the behind-the-scenes story as it is told here by the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy."

**Bird By Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott** -- "'Thirty years ago my older brother, who was ten years old at the time, was trying to get a report on birds written that he'd had three months to write. It was due the next day. We were out at our family cabin in Bolinas, and he was at the

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kitchen table close to tears, surrounded by binder paper and pencils and unopened books on birds, immobilized by the hugeness of the task ahead. Then my father sat down beside him, put his arm around my brother's shoulder, and said, 'Bird by bird, buddy. Just take it bird by bird.'"

**Lies My Teacher Told Me by James Loewen** – "After surveying eighteen leading high school American history texts, [the author] has concluded that not one does a decent job of making history interesting or memorable. Marred by an embarrassing combination of blind patriotism, mindless optimism, sheer misinformation, and outright lies, these books omit almost all the ambiguity, passion, conflict, and drama from our past."

**Studs Terkel's Working: A Graphic Adaptation by Harvey Pekar** – "A masterpiece of words, *Working* is now adapted into comic-book form by Harvey Pekar, the blue-collar antihero of his American Book Award-winning comics series *American Splendor*. Brilliantly scripting and arranging Terkel's interviews, Pekar collaborates with established comics veterans and some of the comic underground's brightest new talent, selected by editor Paul Buhle. Readers will find a visual palette of influences from Mexican, African American, superhero, and feminist art, each piece an electric melding of artist and subject."

**The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan** – "What should we have for dinner? Ten years ago, Michael Pollan confronted us with this seemingly simple question and, with *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, his brilliant and eye-opening exploration of our food choices, demonstrated that how we answer it today may determine not only our health but our survival as a species."

**Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void by Mary Roach** – "Space exploration is in some ways an exploration of what it means to be human. How much can a person give up? How much weirdness can they take? What happens to you when you can't walk for a year?"

**Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History by William Safire** – "Covering speeches from Demosthenes to George W. Bush, this latest edition includes the words of Cromwell to the 'Rump Parliament,' Orson Welles eulogizing Darryl F. Zanuck, General George Patton exhorting his troops before D-Day, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaking on Bush v. Gore. A new section incorporates speeches that were never delivered: what Kennedy was scheduled to say in Dallas; what Safire wrote for Nixon if the first moon landing met with disaster; and what Clinton originally planned to say after his grand jury testimony."

**Cleopatra by Stacy Schiff** – "Famous long before she was notorious, Cleopatra has gone down in history for all the wrong reasons. Her supple personality and the drama of her circumstances have been lost. In a masterly return to the classical sources, Stacy Schiff boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order."

**Walden by Henry David Thoreau** – "*Walden* by noted transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau is a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings. The work is part personal declaration of independence, social experiment, voyage of spiritual discovery, satire, and manual for self-reliance."

**The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson** – "In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life."

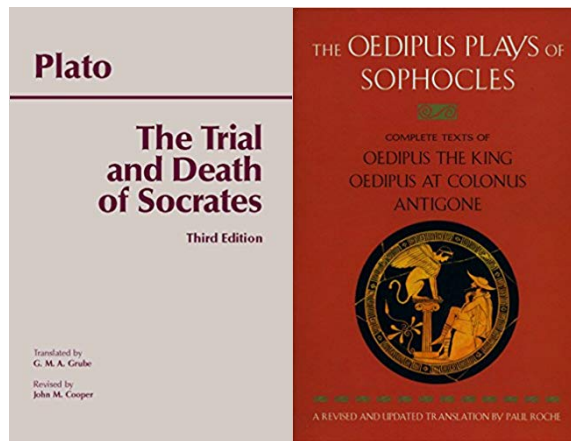
**The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X and Alex Haley** – "In the searing pages of this classic autobiography, originally published in 1964, Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. His fascinating perspective on the lies and limitations of the American Dream, and the inherent racism in a society that denies its nonwhite citizens the opportunity to dream, gives extraordinary insight into the most urgent issues of our own time."



# HONORS HUMANITIES

**Core Texts — Read ALL Core texts for the class you are entering as indicated below.**

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**Plato's "Apology" from *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, 3rd edition. Translated by Grube, edited by Cooper –** This Socratic dialogue offers the defense of Socrates at his trial for corrupting young people and not worshipping the gods of Athens.

**"Oedipus Tyrannus" by Sophocles. From *The Oedipus Plays of Sophocles*. Translated by Roche –** "In vivid, poetic language, [this translation of the classic play] presents the timeless story of [a king] moving toward catastrophe, dragged down from wealth and power by pride, cursed with incest, suicide, and murder."

**Free Choice Reading — Choose TWO more books to read this summer.**

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You must also read two books that you choose (yes, any book you choose -- no need to get approval from your teacher!) and be prepared to discuss them with your teacher and class. If you are stuck in choosing a book, go to the [YALSA Book Finder](https://www.yalsa.org/bookfinder/) or email Ms. Hamm ([shamm@latinpcs.org](mailto:shamm@latinpcs.org)) for a recommendation. Your local public library or bookstore can also help with giving good recommendations.

When in quotation marks, blurbs are copyrighted to the publisher.

(+) Students may read any book of the series.

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