

WLPCS SUMMER READING

Upper School – Summer 2021

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 the indicated number 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(s) 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).



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

Binti by Nnedi Okorafor

Required Honors English 9 Core Texts

Binti, *Binti: Home*, and *Binti: The Night Masquerade* by Nnedi Okorafor

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez



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.

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

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 Text

The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller



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."

***How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi** -- "Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves."

***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

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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 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.

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) for a recommendation. Your local public library or bookstore can also help with giving good recommendations.

11TH GRADE ENGLISH AND HONORS ENGLISH

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

Required English 11 Core Text

Kindred by Octavia Butler

Required Honors English 11 Core Text

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald



Companion Texts — Choose ONE from the list below.

Non-fiction

***All About Love* by bell hooks** -- "As bell hooks uses her incisive mind to explore the question "What is love?" her answers strike at both the mind and heart. Razing the cultural paradigm that the ideal love is infused with sex and desire, she provides a new path to love that is sacred, redemptive, and healing for individuals and for a nation. The Utne Reader declared bell hooks one of the "100 Visionaries Who Can Change Your Life." All About Love is a powerful, timely affirmation of just how profoundly her revelations can change hearts and minds for the better."

***How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi** -- "Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves."

***Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi** -- "In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. He uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to drive this history: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, W.E.B. Du Bois, and legendary activist Angela Davis."

***An African American and Latinx History of the United States* by Paul Ortiz** -- "Spanning more than two hundred years, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States* is a revolutionary, politically charged narrative history, arguing that the "Global South" was crucial to the development of America as we know it. Scholar and activist Paul Ortiz challenges the notion of westward progress as exalted by widely taught formulations like "manifest destiny" and "Jacksonian democracy," and shows how placing African American, Latinx, and Indigenous voices unapologetically front and center transforms US history into one of the working class organizing against imperialism."

***The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein** -- "Richard Rothstein's *The Color of Law* offers "the most forceful argument ever published on how federal, state, and local governments gave rise to and reinforced neighborhood segregation" (William Julius Wilson). Exploding the myth of de facto segregation arising from private prejudice or the unintended consequences of economic forces, Rothstein describes how the American government systematically imposed residential segregation: with undisguised racial zoning; public housing that purposefully segregated previously mixed communities; subsidies

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for builders to create whites-only suburbs; tax exemptions for institutions that enforced segregation; and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods. ”

Fiction

***Black Panther: A Nation Under Our Feet* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Brian Stelfreeze** -- “A new era begins for the Black Panther! MacArthur Genius and National Book Award-winning writer T-Nehisi Coates takes the helm, confronting T'Challa with a dramatic upheaval in Wakanda that will make leading the African nation tougher than ever before. When a superhuman terrorist group that calls itself The People sparks a violent uprising, the land famed for its technology and warrior traditions will be thrown into turmoil. If Wakanda is to survive, it must adapt--but can its monarch, one in a long line of Black Panthers, survive the necessary change? Heavy lies the head that wears the cowl!”

***Delicious Foods* by James Hannaham** -- “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. Unbeknownst to eleven-year-old Eddie, now left behind in a panic-stricken search for her, Darlene has been lured away with false promises of a good job and a rosy life. A shady company named Delicious Foods shuttles her to a remote farm, where she is held captive, performing hard labor in the fields to pay off the supposed debt for her food, lodging, and the constant stream of drugs the farm provides to her and the other unfortunates imprisoned there.”

***Slave Play* by Jeremy O. Harris** -- “The Old South lives on at the MacGregor Plantation—in the breeze, in the cotton fields...and in the crack of the whip. Nothing is as it seems, and yet everything is as it seems. *Slave Play* rips apart history to shed new light on the nexus of race, gender, and sexuality in twenty-first-century America.”

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston** -- “One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences’ rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston’s classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.”

***How Long 'til Black Future Month?: Stories* by NK Jemisin** -- “N. K. Jemisin challenges and delights readers with thought-provoking narratives of destruction, rebirth, and redemption that sharply examine modern society in her first collection of short fiction... Spirits haunt the flooded streets of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In a parallel universe, a utopian society watches our world, trying to learn from our mistakes. A black mother in the Jim Crow South must save her daughter from a fey offering impossible promises. And in the Hugo award-nominated short story “The City Born Great,” a young street kid fights to give birth to an old metropolis’s soul.”

***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison** -- “Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife.”

***Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng** -- “In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned—from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren—an enigmatic artist and single mother—who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons.... Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town—and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides... Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia’s past.”

***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

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officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life."

The Color Purple by Alice Walker -- "Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance and silence. Through a series of letters spanning twenty years, first from Celie to God, then the sisters to each other despite the unknown, the novel draws readers into its rich and memorable portrayals of Celie, Nettie, Shug Avery and Sofia and their experience."

Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward -- "A hurricane is building over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, and Esch's father is growing concerned. A hard drinker, largely absent, he doesn't show concern for much else. Esch and her three brothers are stocking food, but there isn't much to save. Lately, Esch can't keep down what food she gets; she's fourteen and pregnant. Her brother Skeetah is sneaking scraps for his prized pitbull's new litter, dying one by one in the dirt. Meanwhile, brothers Randall and Junior try to stake their claim in a family long on child's play and short on parenting."

Memoir

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates -- "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 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 the world 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 as American plunder."

Freedom Is a Constant Struggle by Angela Y. Davis -- "Reflecting on the importance of black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles, from the Black Freedom Movement to the South African anti-Apartheid movement. She highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from Ferguson to Palestine. Facing a world of outrageous injustice, Davis challenges us to imagine and build a movement for human liberation. And in doing so, she reminds us that "freedom is a constant struggle."

When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele -- Raised by a single mother in an impoverished neighborhood in Los Angeles, Patrisse Khan-Cullors experienced firsthand the prejudice and persecution Black Americans endure at the hands of law enforcement. For Patrisse, the most vulnerable people in the country are Black people. In 2013, when Trayvon Martin's killer went free, Patrisse's outrage led her to co-found Black Lives Matter with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi.

Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community by Martin Luther King, Jr. -- "In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., isolated himself from the demands of the civil rights movement, rented a house in Jamaica with no telephone, and labored over his final manuscript. In this prophetic work, which has been unavailable for more than ten years, he lays out his thoughts, plans, and dreams for America's future, including the need for better jobs, higher wages, decent housing, and quality education. With a universal message of hope that continues to resonate, King demanded an end to global suffering, asserting that humankind—for the first time—has the resources and technology to eradicate poverty."

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."

12TH GRADE ENGLISH AND HONORS ENGLISH

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

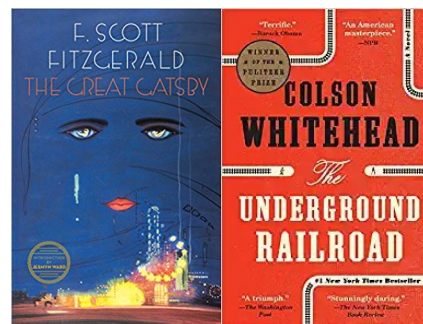
Required English 12 Core Text

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Required Honors English 12 Core Text

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead



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.*
- **Brown, Sarah.** *The Yellow House.*
- **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.*
- **Wright, Richard.** *Black Boy.*

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.

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 Kendry, 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*.

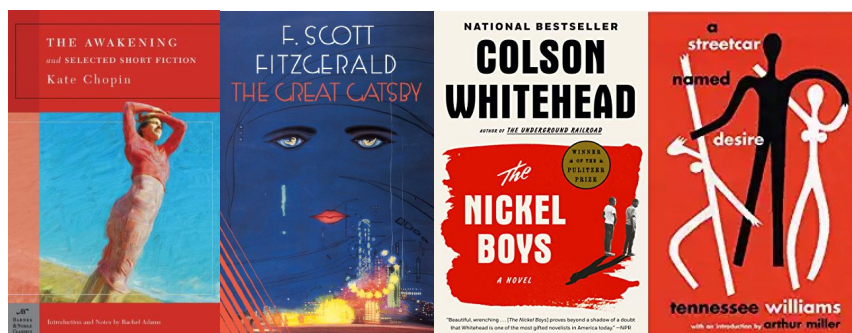
Styron, William. *Sophie's Choice*. -- There may be no words to describe the anguish of losing a child, but being faced with the choice which will assuredly lead to death is unimaginable. Yet, Styron does and brilliantly so. This text will be tough, but important, reading.

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.



***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 Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead** – “When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood’s only salvation is his friendship with fellow “delinquent” Turner, which deepens despite Turner’s conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood’s ideals and Turner’s skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades.”

***A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams** – “It is a very short list of 20th-century American plays that continue to have the same power and impact as when they first appeared. Tennessee Williams’ *A Streetcar Named Desire* is one of those plays. The story famously recounts how the faded and promiscuous Blanche DuBois is pushed over the edge by her sexy and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski. [The play] solidified the position of Tennessee Williams as one of the most important young playwrights of his generation...”

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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."

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."

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.

How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi -- "Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism--and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other....In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas--from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities--that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves."

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-

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

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 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*. . . . 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 – "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."

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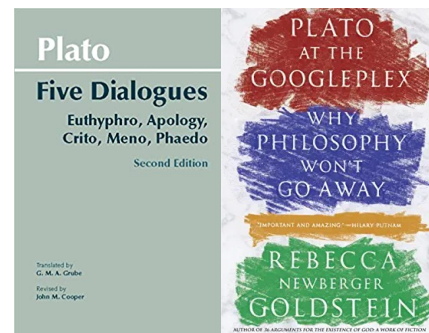
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HONORS HUMANITIES

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

***Plato at the Googleplex* by Rebecca Goldstein (excerpt)** – “Imagine that Plato came to life in the twenty-first century and embarked on a multicity speaking tour. How would he handle the host of a cable news program who denies there can be morality without religion? How would he mediate a debate between a Freudian psychoanalyst and a tiger mom on how to raise the perfect child? How would he answer a neuroscientist who, about to scan Plato’s brain, argues that science has definitively answered the questions of free will and moral agency? What would Plato make of Google, and of the idea that knowledge can be crowd-sourced rather than reasoned out by experts? With a philosopher’s depth and a novelist’s imagination and wit, Goldstein probes the deepest issues confronting us by allowing us to eavesdrop on Plato as he takes on the modern world.”



***Five Dialogues* by Plato, translated by Grube** – This Socratic dialogue centers around the idea of virtue and discusses key questions like: Can virtue be taught? What is it?

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) for a recommendation. Your local public library or bookstore can also help with giving good recommendations.