

SENIOR SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

for ALL Cuyahoga Heights High School
Students enrolled in Ms. Neville's English IV
classes for the 2015-16 school year

DUE DATE: Thursday, August 20th

(the first day of school)

DIRECTIONS: Choose a book from the list of options (NOT one you've read before, please) and complete the attached assignment.

Student Name: _____ Date submitted: _____

Book Title & Author: _____

of pages: _____ Lexile Level (leave this one blank - Ms. Nev will complete it) : _____

Why/how did you choose to read this particular book? Please be more specific than "it looked interesting." _____

Some tips for getting the most out of this assignment:

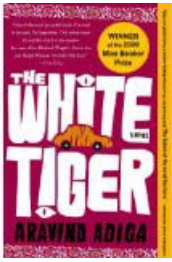
- 1.) **DO NOT PICK A BOOK BASED ON LENGTH!** If a 350-page book is exciting and interesting to you, you will read it much faster than a 190-page book that does not interest you at all. Trust me on this – I have seen hundreds of students take each route.
- 2.) **DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT OR MAKE EXCUSES** – starting out by saying “I don’t read books”, “I stink at reading” or any other junk like that won’t make the assignment go away; in fact, talking it down as a negative experience before you bother to give it a shot will set you up for almost certain failure. Approach it with an open and curious mind, however, and you increase your chances for success.
 - **A quick note on the “But I don’t have time to read a book” copout:** We all live hectic, busy lives. Work, family responsibilities, sports and other activities suck up the hours of each day before we realize it is over. That’s just life! The sooner you learn to manage your time efficiently, the better and more balanced your life will be. Consider this an exercise in that venture.
 - Set aside a specific time each day (ex: 15 minutes before you go to bed, or ½ hour in the afternoon) that you will use for reading until you finish.
 - Find a PLACE to read that works for you – if you’re too distracted at home, find someplace else!
 - Set specific goals for yourself (ex: 10 pages/day).
- 3.) **LIBRARIANS ARE AWESOME.** They are trained professionals with degrees in library science and/or other areas of academic interest – use them as resources to help you choose a book! Bookstore employees are also usually very helpful.
- 4.) **THE INTERNET IS ALSO OK.** Sites such as www.goodreads.com are good resources for reader reviews and ratings. However, remember that people’s opinions are just that – opinions.
- 5.) **COMPLETE THE ATTACHED ASSIGNMENT AS SOON AS YOU’RE DONE READING (OR, EVEN BETTER, AS YOU READ).** If you read your book in June and return it to the library right away, you will not have much fun scrambling to remember what you read as you attempt to complete the assignment at 10 PM on August 20th.
- 6.) **KNOW THAT YOU WILL HAVE SEVERAL CHANCES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO CHOOSE A BOOK TO READ.** This should be a relief to those of you who enjoy reading and are stressed out over having to narrow it down to one book for this assignment. ☺
- 7.) **NO, READING THE SPARKNOTES OR WATCHING A MOVIE ADAPTATION OF YOUR BOOK WILL NOT SUFFICE.** I’ve purposely compiled this list of books that have no SparkNotes or movie versions, but in the event that SparkNotes or movie versions pop up before this assignment is due I’ll be able to tell from your response whether or not you actually read the book!
- 8.) **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS** that aren’t answered herein, please contact me. I will check each of the following approximately once a week over the summer:

○ Email: mneville@cuyhts.org

○ Twitter: @Ms_Neville

○ Website: <http://www.EnglishWithNeville.com> (I will post class-related updates here throughout the summer!)

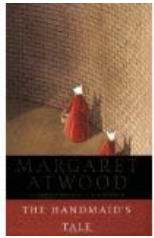
Summer Reading Options for Students Entering 12th Grade 2015-16



Adiga, Aravind. *The White Tiger*

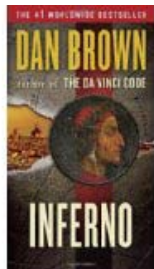
WINNER OF THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE. A stunning literary debut critics have likened to Richard Wright's *Native Son*, *The White Tiger* follows a darkly comic Bangalore driver through the poverty and corruption of modern India's caste society. "This is the authentic voice of the Third World, like you've never heard it before" (John Burdett, *Bangkok 8*). The white tiger of this novel is Balram Halwai, a poor Indian villager whose great ambition leads him to the zenith of Indian business culture, the world of the Bangalore entrepreneur. On the occasion of the president of China's impending trip to Bangalore, Balram writes a letter to him describing his transformation and his experience as driver and servant to a wealthy Indian family, which he thinks exemplifies the contradictions and complications of Indian society. Recalling *The Death of Vishnu* and *Bangkok 8* in ambition, scope, *The White Tiger* is narrative genius with a mischief and personality all its own. Amoral, irreverent, deeply endearing, and utterly

contemporary, this novel is an international publishing sensation—and a startling, provocative debut.



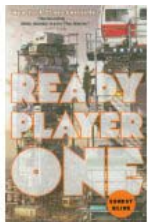
Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*

In the world of the near future, who will control women's bodies? Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred and the other Handmaids are only valued if their ovaries are viable. Offred can remember the days before, when she lived and made love with her husband Luke; when she played with and protected her daughter; when she had a job, money of her own, and access to knowledge. But all of that is gone now.... Funny, unexpected, horrifying, and altogether convincing, *The Handmaid's Tale* is at once scathing satire, dire warning, and tour de force.



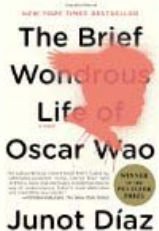
Brown, Dan. *Inferno*

The same main character as *The Davinci Code* and other Dan Brown favorites is back again, this time solving a mystery in Italy full of clues related to Dante's *Inferno*. This book is a fast-paced page turner with short chapters. Harvard professor of symbology Robert Langdon awakens in an Italian hospital, disoriented and with no recollection of the past thirty-six hours, including the origin of the macabre object hidden in his belongings. With a relentless female assassin trailing them through Florence, he and his resourceful doctor, Sienna Brooks, are forced to flee. Embarking on a harrowing journey, they must unravel a series of codes, which are the work of a brilliant scientist whose obsession with the end of the world is matched only by his passion for one of the most influential masterpieces ever written, Dante Alighieri's *The Inferno*. Dan Brown has raised the bar yet again, combining classical Italian art, history, and literature with cutting-edge science in this sumptuously entertaining thriller.



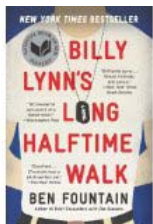
Cline, Ernest. *Ready Player One*

In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.



Diaz, Junot. *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

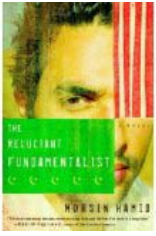
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE IN LITERATURE. Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar's family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. Encapsulating Dominican-American history, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* opens our eyes to an astonishing vision of the contemporary American experience and explores the endless human capacity to persevere—and risk it all—in the name of love.



Fountain, Ben. *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*

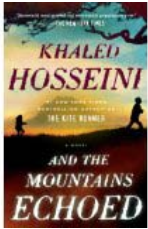
WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FOR FICTION and a FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD. From the PEN/Hemingway Award-winning author of the critically acclaimed short story collection, *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara*, comes *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* ("The Catch-22 of the Iraq War" —Karl Marlantes). A razor-sharp satire set in Texas during America's war in Iraq, it explores the gaping national disconnect between the war at home and the war abroad. Ben Fountain's remarkable debut novel follows the surviving members of the heroic Bravo Squad through one exhausting stop

in their media-intensive "Victory Tour" at Texas Stadium, football mecca of the Dallas Cowboys, their fans, promoters, and cheerleaders.



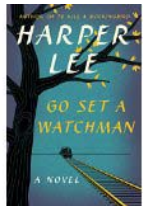
Hamid, Mohsin. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

SHORT-LISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE. Disturbing but engrossing. At a café table in Lahore, a bearded Pakistani man converses with an uneasy American stranger. As dusk deepens to night, he begins the tale that has brought them to this fateful encounter . . . Changez is living an immigrant's dream of America. At the top of his class at Princeton, he is snapped up by an elite valuation firm. He thrives on the energy of New York, and his budding romance with elegant, beautiful Erica promises entry into Manhattan society at the same exalted level once occupied by his own family back in Lahore. But in the wake of September 11, Changez finds his position in his adopted city suddenly overturned, and his relationship with Erica shifting. And Changez's own identity is in seismic shift as well, unearthing allegiances more fundamental than money, power, and maybe even love.



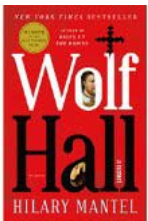
Hossieni, Khaled. *And the Mountains Echoed: A Novel*

An unforgettable novel about finding a lost piece of yourself in someone else. Khaled Hosseini, the #1 *New York Times*–bestselling author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, has written a new novel about how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations. In this tale revolving around not just parents and children but brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers, Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most. Following its characters and the ramifications of their lives and choices and loves around the globe—from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos—the story expands gradually outward, becoming more emotionally complex and powerful with each turning page.



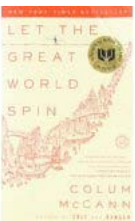
Lee, Harper. *Go Set a Watchman* (* will be released July 14th)

This is the long-awaited book written fifty years ago by the author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I obviously haven't read it yet so I can't guarantee that it's good, but I'll certainly be giving it a chance this summer. Here's what the publisher has to say: An historic literary event: the publication of a newly discovered novel, the earliest known work from Harper Lee, the beloved, bestselling author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Originally written in the mid-1950s, *Go Set a Watchman* was the novel Harper Lee first submitted to her publishers before *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Assumed to have been lost, the manuscript was discovered in late 2014. *Go Set a Watchman* features many of the characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird* some twenty years later. Returning home to Maycomb to visit her father, Jean Louise Finch—Scout—struggles with issues both personal and political, involving Atticus, society, and the small Alabama town that shaped her. Exploring how the characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird* are adjusting to the turbulent events transforming mid-1950s America, *Go Set a Watchman* casts a fascinating new light on Harper Lee's enduring classic. Moving, funny and compelling, it stands as a magnificent novel in its own right.



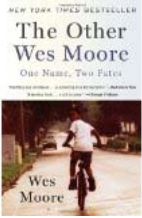
Mantel, Hillary. *Wolf Hall*

WINNER OF THE 2009 MAN BOOKER PRIZE; WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FOR FICTION. England in the 1520s is a heartbeat from disaster. If the king dies without a male heir, the country could be destroyed by civil war. Henry VIII wants to annul his marriage of twenty years and marry Anne Boleyn. The pope and most of Europe opposes him. Into this impasse steps Thomas Cromwell: a wholly original man, a charmer and a bully, both idealist and opportunist, astute in reading people, and implacable in his ambition. But Henry is volatile: one day tender, one day murderous. Cromwell helps him break the opposition, but what will be the price of his triumph? In inimitable style, Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* is "a darkly brilliant reimagining of life under Henry VIII. . . . Magnificent." (*The Boston Globe*).



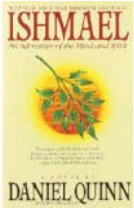
McCann, Colum. *Let the Great World Spin*

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER. In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is running, dancing, leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in bestselling novelist Colum McCann's stunningly intricate portrait of a city and its people. *Let the Great World Spin* is the critically acclaimed author's most ambitious novel yet: a dazzlingly rich vision of the pain, loveliness, mystery, and promise of New York City in the 1970s. Corrigan, a radical young Irish monk, struggles with his own demons as he lives among the prostitutes in the middle of the burning Bronx. A group of mothers gather in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who died in Vietnam, only to discover just how much divides them even in grief. A young artist finds herself at the scene of a hit-and-run that sends her own life careening sideways. Tillie, a thirty-eight-year-old grandmother, turns tricks alongside her teenage daughter, determined not only to take care of her family but to prove her own worth. Elegantly weaving together these and other seemingly disparate lives, McCann's powerful allegory comes alive in the unforgettable voices of the city's people, unexpectedly drawn together by hope, beauty, and the "artistic crime of the century." A sweeping and radical social novel, *Let the Great World Spin* captures the spirit of America in a time of transition, extraordinary promise, and, in hindsight, heartbreaking innocence. Hailed as a "fiercely original talent" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), award-winning novelist McCann has delivered a triumphantly American masterpiece that awakens in us a sense of what the novel can achieve, confront, and even heal.



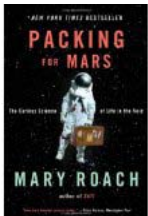
Moore, Wes. *The Other Wes Moore*

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world. "The chilling truth is that his story could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his."



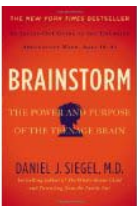
Quinn, Daniel. *Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit*

The narrator of this extraordinary tale is a man in search for truth. He answers an ad in a local newspaper from a teacher looking for serious pupils, only to find himself alone in an abandoned office with a full-grown gorilla who is nibbling delicately on a slender branch. "You are the teacher?" he asks incredulously. "I am the teacher," the gorilla replies. Ishmael is a creature of immense wisdom and he has a story to tell, one that no other human being has ever heard. It is a story that extends backward and forward over the lifespan of the earth from the birth of time to a future there is still time to save. Like all great teachers, Ishmael refuses to make the lesson easy; he demands the final illumination to come from within ourselves. Is it man's destiny to rule the world? Or is it a higher destiny possible for him—one more wonderful than he has ever imagined?



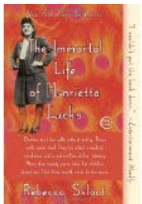
Roach, Mary. *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*

The best-selling author of *Stiff* and *Bonk* explores the irresistibly strange universe of space travel and life without gravity. Space is a world devoid of the things we need to live and thrive: air, gravity, hot showers, fresh produce, privacy, beer. 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? have sex? smell flowers? What happens if you vomit in your helmet during a space walk? Is it possible for the human body to survive a bailout at 17,000 miles per hour? To answer these questions, space agencies set up all manner of quizzical and startlingly bizarre space simulations. As Mary Roach discovers, it's possible to preview space without ever leaving Earth. From the space shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA's new space capsule (cadaver filling in for astronaut), Roach takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth.



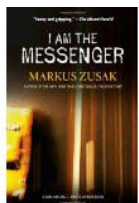
Siegel, Daniel J. *Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain*

Between the ages of 12 and 24, the brain changes in important, and oftentimes maddening, ways. It's no wonder that many parents approach their child's adolescence with fear and trepidation. According to renowned neuropsychiatrist Daniel Siegel's *New York Times* bestseller *Brainstorm*, if parents and teens can work together to form a deeper understanding of the brain science behind all the tumult, they will be able to turn conflict into connection and form a deeper understanding of one another. In *Brainstorm*, Siegel illuminates how brain development impacts teenagers' behavior and relationships. Drawing on important new research in the field of interpersonal neurobiology, he explores exciting ways in which understanding how the teenage brain functions can help parents make what is in fact an incredibly positive period of growth, change, and experimentation in their children's lives less lonely and distressing on both sides of the generational divide. *Brainstorm* is a current nominee for a Books for a Better Life award.



Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. This phenomenal *New York Times* bestseller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.



Zusak, Marcus. *I am the Messenger*

By the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Book Thief*, this is a cryptic journey filled with laughter, fists, and love. Ed Kennedy is an underage cabdriver without much of a future. He's pathetic at playing cards, hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey, and utterly devoted to his coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first ace arrives in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary) until only one question remains: Who's behind Ed's mission? This book is a 2005 Michael L. Printz Honor Book and recipient of five starred reviews.

All book reviews above are from Amazon.com. Some have added commentary from yours truly.

DISCLAIMER: As will happen with any list of good literature, several of these books contain material that some individuals may consider offensive (coarse language, adult themes, etc.). Good books don't leave out any part of life, even if it's not the prettiest part; better yet, the overall literary value outweighs any small disturbance the material may cause. Please feel free to direct questions about any particular title to myself, a librarian, or a bookseller before reading if this is a concern for you or your parents.

(Your assignment begins on the next page 😊)

Section 2: Theme/Central Idea

As you read, identify one theme of your text. Find and cite three pieces of evidence from the text that support this theme. Write a paragraph (6-8 sentences minimum) explaining the connection(s) between the evidence and the theme.

1. Record the theme/central idea of the text. This should be done in ONE COMPLETE SENTENCE.

Record three pieces of textual evidence (quotations) that support the theme central evidence.

Textual Evidence	Page Number

2. Write a one paragraph objective summary using three pieces of textual evidence you recorded above to analyze how the author develops the theme/central idea over the course of the text. An objective summary is factual and does not include your personal opinion. You must NOT use personal pronouns such as I, me, mine, we, our, etc. Visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> for assistance on how to properly cite textual evidence when writing your paragraph.

Section 3: Stating a Claim and Citing Evidence

As you read, identify one major conflict a character faces and how he/she resolves it. Find and cite three pieces of evidence from the text that support this conflict and resolution. Write a paragraph (6-8 sentences minimum) explaining the relevance between the evidence and conflict/resolution. Use the graphic organizer below to guide you.

1. In no more than four sentences, record the conflict the character faces and how he/she resolves it.

2. Record three pieces of textual evidence. This evidence should support your identification of the conflict and resolution.

Textual Evidence	Page Number

3. In one paragraph, use the three pieces of textual evidence to support your analysis of the conflict and resolution. Visit Purdue's Online Writing Lab if you need assistance with properly citing textual evidence in your paragraph.

Section 4: Reflection Questions

1.) Who was a minor character or figure that played an important role in this book? _Explain.

2.) What did you like about this book?

3.) What did you dislike about this book?

4.) Did this book remind you of other books, movies, etc. that you're familiar with? Explain.

5.) Who would you recommend this book to?

6.) Anything else you want to say about your reading experience?