

MPH English Department Upper School Summer Reading 2021

The following US courses will entail specific summer assignments:

AP Literature: [assignment](#)

AP Language/English 12: [assignment](#)

English 9 (in conjunction with other ninth grade courses)

English 10 (in coordination with World History).

In addition to those specific assignments, we want you to pick some books to read on your own. You might choose some of the recommended books in the list below, or find other books that interest and engage you.

Read at least one or two books beyond those specifically assigned. Of course, we'd love for you to read even more! In September, you'll have a chance in class to share your thoughts and reactions about the books you chose.

There is no assigned writing to do for English courses over the summer, but if you'd like to practice your writing skills, skip to the bottom of this document for some suggestions.

Have a relaxing summer, and enjoy your reading!

Fiction

- [Middlesex](#) - Jeffrey Eugenides
- [The Hours](#) - Michael Cunningham
- [House of Sand and Fog](#) - Andre Dubus III
- [Nickel Boys](#) or [Underground Railroad](#) - Colson Whitehead
- [All American Boys](#) - Jason Reynolds
- [Watchmen](#) - Alan Moore
- [There There](#) - Tommy Orange
- [The Family Fang](#) or [Nothing to See Here](#) - Kevin Wilson
- [White Teeth](#) - Zadie Smith
- [Purple Hibiscus](#) - Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie
- [The Kite Runner](#) - Khaled Hosseini
- [The Good Girl's Guide to Getting Lost](#) - Rachel Friedman
- [Ishmael](#) - Daniel Quinn
- [Life of Pi](#) - Yann Martel
- [The Known World](#) - Edward P. Jones

- [*The Fifth Season*](#) – N K Jemisin
- [*Year of Wonders*](#) – Geraldine Brooks
- [*Oryx and Crake*](#) – Margaret Atwood
- [*The Dead Zone*](#) – Stephen King
- [*Orphan # 8*](#) – Kim Van Alkemade
- [*Arcadia*](#) – Lauren Groff
- [*Eleanor and Park*](#) – Rainbow Rowell
- [*The Moor’s Account*](#) – Laila Lalima
- [*The Good Lord Bird*](#) or [*Deacon King Kong*](#) – James McBride
- [*Black Friday*](#) – Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah
- [*Cold Storage*](#) – David Koeppe
- [*The Saturday Night Ghost Club*](#) – Craig Davidson
- [*Uprooted*](#) or [*Spinning Silver*](#) – Naomi Novik
- [*The Changeling*](#) – Victor Lavalle
- [*The Witch Elm*](#) – Tana French
- [*Number One Chinese Restaurant*](#) – Lillian Li
- [*Youngblood*](#) – Matt Gallagher
- [*The Song of Achilles*](#) – Madeline Miller
- [*Ninth House*](#) – Leigh Bardugo
- [*The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*](#) – Michael Chabon

Non-Fiction

- [*Hillbilly Elegy*](#) – JD Vance
- [*White Fragility: Why it is so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*](#) – Robin DiAngelo
- [*How to Be an Antiracist*](#) – Ibram X. Kendi
- [*Just Mercy*](#) – Bryan Stephenson
- [*I Am Malala*](#) – Malala Yousefzai
- [*Born a Crime*](#) – Trevor Noah
- [*The Tao of Wu*](#) – the RZA
- [*Mo’ Meta Blues: The World According to Questlove*](#) – Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson and Ben Greenman
- [*In Cold Blood*](#) – Truman Capote
- [*Between the World and Me*](#) – Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*](#) – Malcolm X (with Alex Haley)
- [*Into the Wild*](#) – Jon Krakauer
- [*The Things They Carried*](#) – Tim O'Brien

- [*When Breath Becomes Air*](#) - Paul Kalanith
- [*Better: a Surgeon's Notes on Performance*](#) - Atul Gawande
- [*I Miss You When I Blink*](#) - Mary Laura Philpott
- [*Braiding Sweetgrass*](#) - Robin Wall Kimmerer
- [*The Color of Water*](#) - James McBride
- [*Autobiography of a Face*](#) - Lucy Grealy
- [*Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging*](#) - Sebastian Junger
- [*Passing for Human*](#) - Liana Finck

Want to do some writing this summer?

You might try keeping a notebook (instead of a journal or diary). That means you're free to just write without feeling you must record significant moments in your life. Write fresh descriptions, bits of overheard conversation you found interesting, a great phrase, a scene, realizations, whatever you like.

If you're looking for a more definite prompt for your writing, check out these resources:

[Screencraft's "What if..." Writing Prompts](#)

[NY Times Student Opinion Questions](#)