



**The Woodlands College Park
English III Honors
Summer Reading Program - 2017**

In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

Additionally, students who enroll in a Pre AP, AP English, or Honors course are expected to engage in summer reading as it prepares students for the upcoming school year and creates an initial common framework for classroom discussion and instruction.

Your Assignment: When you return to school in the fall, be ready to engage in a perceptive and interesting discussion about the two books you have selected. Also, be prepared to write knowledgeably about the stories. Be aware of what the American Dream is and how it relates to your book choices.

Read TWO of the following books -- ONE from Group A AND ONE from Group B:

Group A

***Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee** -- 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.

***Columbine* by Dave Cullen** -- In this remarkable account of the April 20, 1999, Columbine High School shooting, journalist Cullen not only dispels several of the prevailing myths about the event but tackles the hardest question of all: why did it happen? Drawing on extensive interviews, police reports and his own reporting, Cullen meticulously pieces together what happened when 18-year-old Eric Harris and 17-year-old Dylan Klebold killed 13 people before turning their guns on themselves. The media spin was that specific students, namely jocks, were targeted and that Dylan and Eric were members of the Trench Coat Mafia. According to Cullen, they lived apparently normal lives, but under the surface lay an angry, erratic depressive (Klebold) and a sadistic psychopath (Harris), together forming a combustible pair. They planned the massacre for a year, outlining their intentions for massive carnage in extensive journals and video diaries. Cullen expertly balances the psychological analysis—enhanced by several of the nation's leading experts on psychopathology—with an examination of the shooting's effects on survivors, victims' families and the Columbine community. easy to stomach. © Reed Business Information

***The Devil and the White City* by Erik Larson** -- Two men, each handsome and unusually adept at his chosen work, embodied an element of the great dynamic that characterized America's rush toward the twentieth century. The architect was Daniel Hudson Burnham, the fair's brilliant director of works and the builder of many of the country's most important structures, including the Flatiron Building in New York and Union Station in Washington, D.C. The murderer was Henry H. Holmes, a young doctor who, in a malign parody of the White City, built his "World's Fair Hotel" just west of the fairgrounds—a torture palace complete with dissection table, gas chamber, and 3,000-degree crematorium. Burnham overcame tremendous obstacles and tragedies as he organized the talents of Frederick Law Olmsted, Charles McKim, Louis Sullivan, and others to transform swampy Jackson Park into the White City, while Holmes used the attraction of the great fair and his own satanic charms to lure scores of young women to their

deaths. What makes the story all the more chilling is that Holmes really lived, walking the grounds of that dream city by the lake. *BookBrowse.com*

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls -- Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves. For two decades, Jeannette Walls hid her roots. Now she tells her own story. *Book Browse.com*

God Help the Child by Toni Morrison -- At the center: a young woman who calls herself Bride, whose stunning blue-black skin is only one element of her beauty, her boldness and confidence, her success in life, but which caused her light-skinned mother to deny her even the simplest forms of love. There is Booker, the man Bride loves, and loses to anger. Rain, the mysterious white child with whom she crosses paths. And finally, Bride's mother herself, Sweetness, who takes a lifetime to come to understand that "what you do to children matters. And they might never forget." *Amazon.com*

Group B
Classic American Literature

<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> J.D. Salinger	<i>The Jungle</i> Upton Sinclair
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> John Steinbeck	<i>The Sun Also Rises</i> Ernest Hemingway
<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> Zora Neale Hurston	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> Ernest Hemingway
<i>The Awakening</i> Kate Chopin	<i>As I Lay Dying</i> William Faulkner
<i>The Things They Carried</i> Tim O'Brien	<i>Absalom, Absalom!</i> William Faulkner
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> Sue Monk Kidd	<i>Light in August</i> William Faulkner
<i>Native Son</i> Richard Wright	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> William Faulkner
<i>Invisible Man</i> Ralph Ellison	<i>The Color Purple</i> Alice Walker
<i>Beloved</i> Toni Morrison	<i>My Antonia</i> Willa Cather
<i>The Bluest Eye</i> Toni Morrison	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave</i>
<i>Song of Solomon</i> Toni Morrison	<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> Ernest J. Gaines
<i>One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> Ken Kesey	<i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> Kurt Vonnegut
<i>In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences</i> Truman Capote	<i>Cat's Cradle</i> by Kurt Vonnegut
<i>East of Eden</i> John Steinbeck	<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> Barbara Kingsolver
<i>The Bean Trees</i> Barbara Kingsolver	<i>The Sound and the Fury</i> William Faulkner
<i>Maggie</i> Stephen Crane	<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> James Fenimore Cooper
<i>Alas, Babylon</i> Pat Frank	<i>Catch-22</i> Joseph Heller
<i>Cold Mountain</i> Charles Frazier	<i>The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother</i> James McBride
<i>The Bell Jar</i> by Sylvia Plath	<i>Annie John</i> Jamaica Kincaid
<i>The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket</i> Edgar Allan Poe	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> Betty Smith
<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> Harriet Beecher Stowe	<i>The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter</i> Carson McCullers
	<i>Little Women</i> Louisa May Alcott