

**The Woodlands College Park
English III Honors
2019 Summer Reading Program**



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 PreAP, AP, 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 an insightful and multilayered 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
Contemporary Literature**

***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 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. 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.

***Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens** -- For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched

and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens. *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreakingly moving coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps. A #1 *New York Times* Bestseller and a Reese Witherspoon *Hello Sunshine Book Club* pick.

Educated by Tara Westover — Tara Westover wasn't the garden variety college student. When the Holocaust was mentioned in a history class, she didn't know what it was. That's because she didn't see the inside of a classroom until the age of seventeen. Public education was one of the many things her religious fanatic father was dubious of, believing it a means for the government to brainwash its gullible citizens, and her mother wasn't diligent on the homeschooling front. If it wasn't for a brother who managed to extricate himself from their isolated—and often dangerous--world, Westover might still be in rural Idaho, trying to survive her survivalist upbringing. *Educated* is an inspiring reminder that knowledge is, indeed, power. A #1 *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Boston Globe* Bestseller. Named one of the ten best books of the year by the *New York Times Book Review*.

Beartown by Fredrik Backman - In rural Sweden, a team of junior hockey players are on the cusp of changing everything for Beartown. If the players can win the championship, the small town may attract new businesses, improve its ailing economy, and recover its dignity. Everyone, from the local bar owner to the mother who cleans the rink, is linked to the boys and has a stake in whether they win or lose, making the teammates demigods within the community. After a night of celebrating a memorable semifinals win, the star player is accused of raping the general manager's daughter. The community must decide between holding the alleged rapist accountable, and thereby forfeiting their chances at success and overlooking the crime. This is a serious look at how the actions of one or two people can affect an entire town.

Group B Classic American Literature

<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> J.D. Salinger <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> John Steinbeck <i>East of Eden</i> John Steinbeck <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> Zora Neale Hurston <i>The Awakening</i> Kate Chopin <i>The Things They Carried</i> Tim O'Brien <i>Native Son</i> Richard Wright <i>Invisible Man</i> Ralph Ellison <i>Beloved</i> Toni Morrison <i>The Bluest Eye</i> Toni Morrison <i>Song of Solomon</i> Toni Morrison <i>One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> Ken Kesey <i>In Cold Blood</i> Truman Capote <i>Maggie</i> Stephen Crane <i>Alas, Babylon</i> Pat Frank <i>Cold Mountain</i> Charles Frazier	<i>The Jungle</i> Upton Sinclair <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> Ernest Hemingway <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> Ernest Hemingway <i>As I Lay Dying</i> William Faulkner <i>Absalom, Absalom!</i> William Faulkner <i>Light in August</i> William Faulkner <i>The Sound and the Fury</i> William Faulkner <i>The Color Purple</i> Alice Walker <i>My Antonia</i> Willa Cather <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> Kurt Vonnegut <i>Cat's Cradle</i> by Kurt Vonnegut <i>Catch-22</i> Joseph Heller <i>The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother</i> James McBride <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> Betty Smith <i>The Bell Jar</i> by Sylvia Plath <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> Harriet Beecher Stowe
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