



# The Woodlands College Park High School

Conroe Independent School District

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## English II Honors

### *2020-2021 Summer Reading*

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.

***"What we know is that children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading development while kids who do read tend to gain a month of reading proficiency..."***

*Richard Allington, professor of literacy studies and past-president of the International Reading Association and the Literacy Research Association*

We, in Conroe ISD, do maintain our belief in the power of reading for all students. In order to maintain reading skills and continue to grow a reading life, we encourage all students to continue reading over the summer.

**In light of the current public health situation and modified learning environment, we will not be requiring students to complete any accompanying assignment or project for any suggested summer reading for the 2020-2021 school year.**

**Suggested summer reading:** Choose one of the following historical fiction novels to read. As you read, please pay particular attention to themes, characterization, setting, conflict, and point of view. We will begin next year with a study of Elie Wiesel's *Night*, Wiesel's personal account about his experience with his father in the Nazi German concentration camps at Auschwitz, and the suggested summer reading titles will be a great transition to this study.

- Note to parents regarding summer reading selection: Please know that many titles targeted to young adult audiences deal with mature subject matter. Parents and students will want to preview the potential book choice(s) prior to reading and discuss if the book is the right fit for the student.

#### ***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr**

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant *New York Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind, and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great-uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

#### ***Anna and the Swallow Man* by Gavriel Savit**

A stunning, beautiful, and ambitious debut novel set in Poland during the Second World War perfect for readers of *All the Light We Cannot See* and *The Book Thief*. Kraków, 1939. A million marching soldiers and a thousand barking dogs. This is no place to grow up. Anna Lania is just seven years old when the Germans take her father, a linguistics professor, during their purge of intellectuals in Poland. She's alone. And then Anna meets the Swallow Man. He is a mystery, strange and tall, a skilled deceiver with more than a little magic up his sleeve. And when the soldiers in the streets look at him, they see what he wants them to see. The Swallow Man is not Anna's father—she knows that very well—but she also knows that, like her father, he's in danger of being taken, and like her father, he has a gift for languages: Polish, Russian, German, Yiddish, even Bird. When he summons a bright, beautiful swallow down to his hand to stop her from crying, Anna is entranced. She follows him into the wilderness. Over the course of their travels together, Anna and the Swallow Man will dodge bombs, tame soldiers, and even, despite their better judgment, make a friend. But in a world gone mad, everything can prove dangerous. Even the Swallow Man. Destined to become a classic, Gavriel Savit's stunning debut reveals life's hardest lessons while celebrating its miraculous possibilities.

- Common Sense Media Review(age 14+) - <https://www.common Sense Media.org/book-reviews/anna-and-the-swallow-man>

### ***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist - books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

- Common Sense Media Review(Age 13+) - <https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/the-book-thief>
- The full text is available online here: <http://tiny.conroeisd.net/RFihj>

### ***Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth E. Wein**

Oct. 11th, 1943-A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution. As she intricately weaves her confession, Verity uncovers her past, how she became friends with the pilot Maddie, and why she left Maddie in the wrecked fuselage of their plane. On each new scrap of paper, Verity battles for her life, confronting her views on courage, failure and her desperate hope to make it home. But will trading her secrets be enough to save her from the enemy? A universally acclaimed Michael L. Printz Award Honor book, *Code Name Verity* is a visceral read of danger, resolve, and survival that shows just how far true friends will go to save each other.

- Common Sense Media Review(Age 15+) - <https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/code-name-verity>

### ***Code Talkers* by Joseph Bruchac**

Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo Indians.

- An American Librarian Association (ALA) best book for young adults

### ***Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse**

Amsterdam, 1943. Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines when the Germans invaded. She likes to think of her illegal work as a small act of rebellion. On a routine delivery, a client asks Hanneke for help. Expecting to hear that Mrs. Janssen wants meat or kerosene, Hanneke is shocked by the older woman's frantic plea to find a *person*--a Jewish teenager Mrs. Janssen had been hiding, who has vanished from a secret room without a trace. Hanneke initially wants nothing to do with such dangerous work, but is ultimately drawn into a web of mysteries and stunning revelations that lead her into the heart of the resistance, open her eyes to the horrors of the Nazi war machine, and compel her to take desperate action. Beautifully written, intricately plotted, and meticulously researched, *Girl in the Blue Coat* is an extraordinary novel about bravery, grief, and love in impossible times.

- Common Sense Media Review(Age 13+) - <https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/girl-in-the-blue-coat>

### ***Invasion* by Walter Dean Myers**

One white, one black, these young men have nothing in common and everything in common as they approach an experience that will change them forever. It's May 1944. World War II is ramping up, and so are these young recruits, ready and eager. In small towns and big cities all over the globe, people are filled with fear. When Josiah and Marcus come together in what will be the greatest test of their lives, they learn hard lessons about race, friendship, and what it really means to fight. Set on the front lines of the Normandy invasion, this novel, rendered with heart-in-the-throat precision, is a cinematic masterpiece. Here we see the bold terror of war, and also the nuanced havoc that affects a young person's psyche while living in a barrack, not knowing if today he will end up dead or alive.

- Common Sense Media Review(Age 13+) - <https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/invasion>

### ***The Librarian of Auschwitz* by Antonio Iturbe**

Fourteen-year-old Dita is one of the many imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. Taken, along with her mother and father, from the Terezín ghetto in Prague, Dita is adjusting to the constant terror that is life in the camp. When Jewish leader Freddy Hirsch asks Dita to take charge of the eight precious volumes the prisoners have managed to sneak past the guards, she agrees. And so Dita becomes the librarian of Auschwitz. Out of one of the darkest chapters of human history comes this extraordinary story of courage and hope.

- Common Sense Media Review(Age 13+) - <https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/the-librarian-of-auschwitz>

***Rose Under Fire (Code Name Verity Book II)* by Elizabeth E. Wein**

While flying an Allied fighter plane from Paris to England, American ATA pilot and amateur poet, Rose Justice, is captured by the Nazis and sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious women's concentration camp. Trapped in horrific circumstances, Rose finds hope in the impossible through the loyalty, bravery and friendship of her fellow prisoners. But will that be enough to endure the fate that's in store for her?

- Common Sense Media Review(Age 14+) - <https://www.common sense media.org/book-reviews/rose-under-fire>

***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys**

World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety. Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people—adults and children alike—aboard must fight for the same thing: survival.

- Common Sense Media Review(Age 13+) - <https://www.common sense media.org/book-reviews/salt-to-the-sea>

***The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris**

In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a *Tätowierer* (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners. Imprisoned for over two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive. One day in July 1942, Lale, prisoner 32407, comforts a trembling young woman waiting in line to have the number 34902 tattooed onto her arm. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her.

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**Apps found in the CISD SSO Portal:**

- **Sora**
  - Free access to a variety of e-books and audiobooks
- **Destiny Discover**
  - Check out e-books and audiobooks from your campus library

**Other websites with free resources:**

- **Montgomery County Public Library**
  - E-Books & Audiobooks: <https://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/elibrary>
  - Get a Digital Library Card: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/registration.html>
- **Open Library**
  - Create a free account: <https://openlibrary.org/account/create>
  - Popular Titles: <https://bit.ly/2XBEwyP>
- **Project Gutenberg**
  - Free E-Books: [http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page)
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  - Free Audiobooks: <https://stories.audible.com/>