



The Woodlands College Park High School Conroe Independent School District

English II Honors - 2021-2022 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.

Additionally, students who enroll in a Honors or AP English 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, be ready to engage in an insightful, multilayered discussion about the two books you read this summer. Also, be prepared to write knowledgeably for a major grade. Be aware of possible messages developed by the authors you read, and consider how the authors use characters and conflict to develop the theme and/or author's purpose.

All students will read George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and select ONE novel to read from the NonFiction Contemporary World Literature choices seen below.

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* - ALL Students Will Read

Students need to have read and annotated *Animal Farm* by Thursday, August 19. This novel will serve as the initial framework for class discussion and instruction as we begin the year. Students will spend time in class analyzing and discussing how conflict creates theme as seen through Orwell's novel. Students will complete both an objective assessment and written assessment after class instruction.

Animal Farm is an allegorical novella by George Orwell, first published in England on 17 August 1945. The book tells the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmer, hoping to create a society where the animals can be equal, free, and happy. George Orwell's 1945 classic is an enduring, devastating story of new tyranny replacing old, and power corrupting even the noblest of causes.

NonFiction Contemporary World Literature Choices -- Choose ONE

Choose one of the following nonfiction novels to read. As you read, please pay particular attention to how characterization and conflict creates the author's purpose in writing. Students will engage in an insightful discussion about the novel selected and use the novel to complete a writing pre-assessment at the beginning of the year.

- 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.

***A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah**

There may be as many as 300,000 child soldiers... Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. He is one of the first to tell his story in his own words.

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-six years old, tells a riveting story. At the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. Eventually released by the army and sent to a UNICEF rehabilitation center, he struggled to regain his humanity and to reenter the world of civilians, who viewed him with fear and suspicion. This is, at last, a story of redemption and hope.

***Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston**

During World War II a community called Manzanar was created in the high mountain desert country of California. Its purpose was to house thousands of Japanese Americans. Among them was the Wakatsuki family, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and take with them only the belongings they could carry. Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, who was seven years old when she arrived at Manzanar in 1942, recalls life in the camp through the eyes of the child she was.

First published in 1973, this new edition of the classic memoir of a devastating Japanese American experience includes an inspiring afterword by the authors.

***Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson**

From the bestselling author of *The Devil in the White City*, here is the true story of the deadliest hurricane in history. September 8, 1900, began innocently in the seaside town of Galveston, Texas. Even Isaac Cline, resident meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau failed to grasp the true meaning of the strange deep-sea swells and peculiar winds that greeted the city that morning. Mere hours later, Galveston found itself submerged in a monster hurricane that completely destroyed the town and killed over six thousand people in what remains the greatest natural disaster in American history—and Isaac Cline found himself the victim of a devastating personal tragedy.

Using Cline's own telegrams, letters, and reports, the testimony of scores of survivors, and our latest understanding of the science of hurricanes, Erik Larson builds a chronicle of one man's heroic struggle and fatal miscalculation in the face of a storm of unimaginable magnitude. Riveting, powerful, and unbearably suspenseful, *Isaac's Storm* is the story of what can happen when human arrogance meets the great uncontrollable force of nature.

***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah**

The memoir of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

***I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai**

"I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday."

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I Am Malala is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

I Am Malala will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.