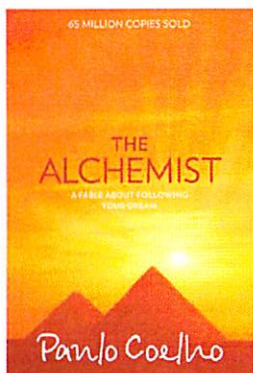


May 13, 2022

Dear Families,

When school begins in August, 9th grade students will be immersed in a riveting unit on Survival in English 1. We'll read several short stories, poems, and informational texts that explore what it takes to survive. At this age, all students should have the skills necessary to jump straight into challenging texts. To keep these skills in practice through the summer weeks, **each student is expected to read ONE book from the list below plus ONE ADDITIONAL BOOK OF THEIR CHOOSING**. Honors students must choose both books from this list.

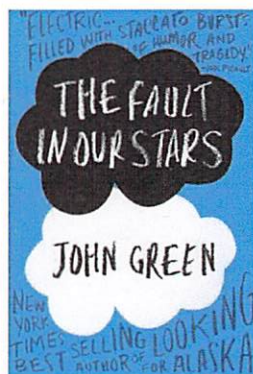
We encourage you to explore these options with your child and support them as they make book selections. For more information on each book, including age recommendations for the young adult titles, you can visit www.kirkusreview.com, www.common sense media.org, or www.publishersweekly.com.



The Alchemist – Paul Coelho

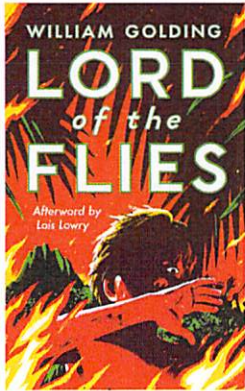
The Alchemist is a classic novel in which a boy named Santiago embarks on a journey seeking treasure in the Egyptian pyramids after having a recurring dream about it and on the way meets mentors, falls in love, and most importantly, learns the true importance of who he is and how to improve himself and focus on what really matters in life.

Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel in the eclectic "magical realism" category is dazzling in many ways. The style reads simply yet contains powerful emotions, interesting and deep characters, plots twists and inspiring wisdom.



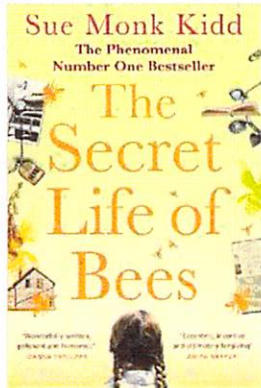
The Fault in Our Stars – John Green

John Green's novel *The Fault in Our Stars* tells the story of a seventeen year old girl named Hazel Grace Lancaster who suffers from thyroid cancer. Hazel worries that her death will devastate her parents and leave them unable to go on without her. While attending a support group, she meets a boy her age named Augustus whose cancer is in remission. Unfortunately Augustus finds out that his cancer has returned and he slowly grows sicker over the next few months before dying. Hazel learns that she wouldn't trade her time with Augustus for anything and therefore, her parents will be okay after she dies.



Lord of the Flies - William Golding

Lord of the Flies explores the dark side of humanity, the savagery that underlies even the most civilized human beings. William Golding intended this novel as a tragic parody of children's adventure tales, illustrating humankind's intrinsic evil nature. In the midst of a nuclear war, a group of British boys find themselves stranded without adult supervision on a tropical island. Initially, the boys attempt to form a culture similar to the one they left behind. Golding presents the reader with a chronology of events leading a group of young boys from hope to disaster as they attempt to survive their uncivilized, unsupervised, isolated environment until rescued.



The Secret Life of Bees - Sue Monk Kidd

The Secret Life of Bees is the story of Lily Owens, a girl who has shaped her life around one devastating memory—the afternoon her mother was killed, when Lily was four. Besides her harsh and unyielding father, Lily's only real companion is Rosaleen, a tender, but fierce-hearted black woman who cooks, cleans and acts as her "stand-in mother."

When Rosaleen is arrested and beaten, Lily is desperate, not only to save Rosaleen, but to flee from a life she can no longer endure. Calling upon her colorful wits and youthful daring, she breaks Rosaleen out of jail and the two escape, into what quickly becomes Lily's quest for the truth about her mother's life.

Within the first full week of school, teachers will be explaining to your child the means of assessment for this summer reading expectation. This is a major test grade and strong indicator of whether your child will pass the course. It is imperative that your child both complete the reading and review the material near the end of summer to prepare for the assessment.

If you have any questions or concerns about these titles, summer reading, or English 1 in general, please don't hesitate to reach out. If you feel that none of these options will work for your student, you can request an alternative option. I'm happy to work with you to find a thematically related book that will be a good fit for your child.

I hope you have a wonderful summer full of great books and great conversations! I look forward to partnering with you to support your child.

Sincerely,

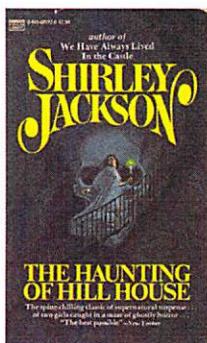
Heather Brown - brown_heather@hcde.org

May 13, 2022

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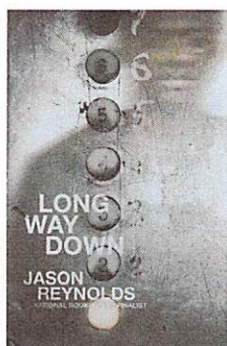
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The Haunting of Hill House - Shirley Jackson

The classic supernatural thriller by an author who helped define the genre. First published in 1959, Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* has been hailed as a perfect work of unnerving terror. It is the story of four seekers who arrive at a notoriously unfriendly pile called Hill House: Dr. Montague, an occult scholar looking for solid evidence of a "haunting;" Theodora, his lighthearted assistant; Eleanor, a friendless, fragile young woman well acquainted with poltergeists; and Luke, the future heir of Hill House. At first, their stay seems destined to be merely a spooky encounter with inexplicable phenomena. But Hill House is gathering its powers—and soon it will choose one of them to make its own.



Long Way Down - Jason Reynolds

This is National Book Award finalist and New York Times bestseller Jason Reynolds's fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.

He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if WILL gets off that elevator.

Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.



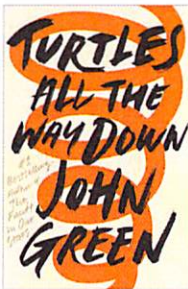
Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.



The Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky

The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky follows observant “wallflower” Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.



Turtles All the Way Down - John Green

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there’s a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett’s son, Davis.

Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

If you have any questions or concerns about these titles, summer reading, or English 2 in general, please don’t hesitate to reach out. If you feel that none of these options will work for your student, you can request an alternative option. I’m happy to work with you to find a thematically related book that will be a good fit for your child.

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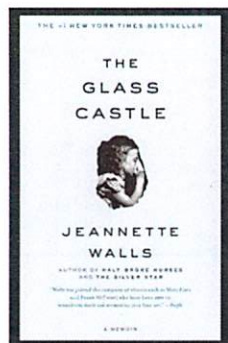
Heather Brown - brown_heather@hcde.org

May 13, 2022

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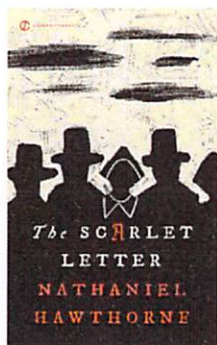
When school begins in August, 11th grade students will jump straight into several short stories, poems, and informational texts that explore deep themes and push students' ability to tackle challenging texts. At this age, all students should have the skills necessary to analyze texts independently. To keep these skills in practice through the summer weeks, **each student is expected to read ONE book from the list below plus ONE ADDITIONAL BOOK OF THEIR CHOOSING.** Honors students must choose both books from this list.

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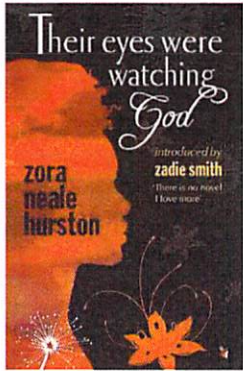
The Glass Castle - Jeanette Walls

Jeanette Walls narrates her nomadic and adventurous childhood with her dreaming, 'brilliant' but alcoholic parents. At the age of seventeen, she escapes on a Greyhound bus to New York with her older sister; her younger siblings follow later. After pursuing the education and civilization her parents sought to escape, Jeanette eventually succeeds in her quest for the 'mundane, middle-class existence' she had always craved. In her apartment, overlooked by 'a portrait of someone else's ancestor' she recounts poignant remembered images of star watching with her father, juxtaposed with recollections of irregular meals, accidents, and police-car chases, and reveals her complex feelings of shame, guilt, pity and pride toward her parents.



The Scarlet Letter - Nathaniel Hawthorne

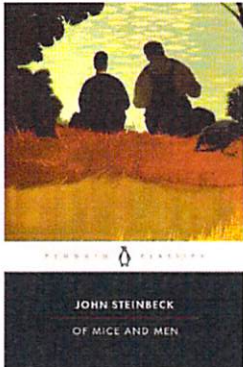
Set in 17th-century Puritan Boston, Massachusetts, during the years 1642 to 1649, it tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an affair and will not reveal her lover's identity. The scarlet letter A (for adultery) she has to wear on her clothes, along with her public shaming, is her punishment for her sin and her secrecy. She struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. Throughout the book, Hawthorne explores themes of legalism, sin, and guilt.



Their Eyes Were Watching God - Zora Neale Hurston

The epic tale of Janie Crawford, whose quest for identity takes her on a journey during which she learns what love is, experiences life's joys and sorrows, and come home to herself in peace. Her passionate story prompted Alice Walker to say, "There is no book more important to me than this one."

When first published in 1937, this novel about a proud, independent black woman was generally dismissed by male reviewers. Out of print for almost thirty years, but since its reissue in paperback edition by the University of Illinois Press in 1978, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* has become the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.



Of Mice and Men - John Steinbeck

This classic novel tells the tale of an unusual friendship between two very different men: the mentally challenged and sometimes violent Lennie, and his loyal yet reluctant caretaker George. Finding comfort in one another's company, George and Lennie travel from farm to farm looking for work in pre-Depression Salinas Valley, California.

While the powerlessness of the laboring class is a recurring theme in this classic work, Steinbeck narrows his focus, creating an intimate portrait of two men facing a world marked by petty tyranny, misunderstanding, jealousy, and callousness, and a parable about commitment, loneliness, hope, and loss.

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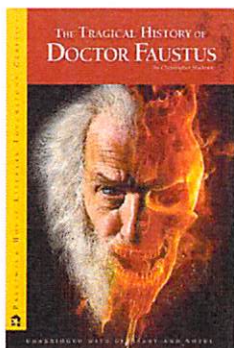
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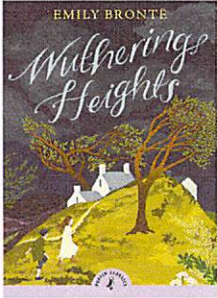
Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen

The story follows Elizabeth Bennet and the Bennet family through a time of courtship and manners during the British Regency period. The matriarch of the Bennet family, Mrs. Bennet, is determined to find husbands for her five daughters.



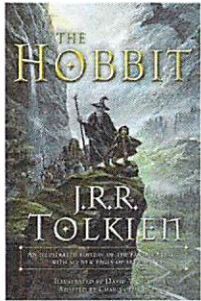
Dr. Faustus - Christopher Marlowe

This is a play written during the English Renaissance about a doctor of philosophy and medicine, who throws away his life for magical knowledge. He sells his soul to Lucifer in order to gain power and goes through periods of elation and doubt as his time on earth comes to a close.



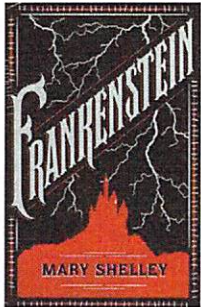
Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte

The story revolves around Heathcliff and his thwarted love for Catherine who dies in childbirth after marrying another man. Heathcliff swears revenge on the man and his family and eventually forces his own son to marry Catherine's daughter. However, this backfires after Heathcliff dies unexpectedly as does his son. Catherine's daughter gains control of the manor house and marries again.



The Hobbit - J. R. R. Tolkien

This is a story of Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit who likes to stay home and live a quiet life. One day his world is shaken up by the arrival of Gandalf, a wizard. Gandalf pulls Bilbo into an adventure with thirteen dwarves. They are off to the Lonely Mountain to retrieve a stolen treasure from a dragon.



Frankenstein - Mary Shelley

The story is about a man who decides to create a monster. Victor Frankenstein is a genius in the natural sciences. Through his research, he discovers that electricity can reanimate dead creatures. He becomes obsessed with the idea and puts a man together; then on a dark and stormy night, he harnesses the lightning to bring his creation to life.

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