

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s) of Students Entering Grade 10,

We are excited to draw your attention to our Summer Reading List. Over the past year, the sophomore teachers have spent a substantial amount of time determining ways to increase student participation in the independent summer reading that is required of them annually, and we have decided to limit the options and select books that have a wide appeal but also pose demanding moral and ethical questions. We hope to inspire students to read and discuss books with their friends, families, and the larger community.

Students are required to read at least **two** books, either *The Other Wes Moore* or *Discovering Wes Moore* plus an additional book from the list, but are encouraged to read as many as possible. Books are available at the Haverhill Public Library and at local bookstores, such as Barnes & Noble. Many of these titles are also available as eBooks and/or audiobooks. In September, students will be given an assignment related to their summer reading. To help with these assignments, students are encouraged to take notes as they read.

In efforts to connect our community, and our sophomore class as a whole, **we are requiring that all incoming grade 10 students read a memoir by Wes Moore (either *The Other Wes Moore* or *Discovering Wes Moore*).** *The Other Wes Moore* is a rich, powerful, and moving story about the journey of two men - coincidentally with the same name - that experience drastically different lives as a result of their upbringings, neighborhoods, and socioeconomic backgrounds. *Discovering Wes Moore* is an abridged version of this captivating story, and may be more appropriate for reluctant readers.

For those who cannot procure a copy at a public library or afford a personal copy, both books are available for loan from the high school. Please contact Principal Kitsos at bkitsos@haverhill-ps.org or (978) 374-5700 for further information.

Our primary goal with the new Summer Reading List is to show our students that reading is not simply an academic requirement but something that can be addictive, entertaining, and tremendously enriching. A majority of the books have been *New York Times* best-sellers; several others have served their turn as the go-to reads of regular people on beaches and planes; some have been made into critically-acclaimed films. These books are filled with captivating stories, real and fictional, that have the potential to create lifetime readers and allow our students to enter into a cultural rather than just a classroom conversation.

Please review the list with your son/daughter to ensure your familiarity with these titles, as some of them contain mature topics and themes. As with all the media that your student is exposed to, some of it requires conversation with trusted adults.

Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

Happy Reading!

10th Grade Summer Reading List (2017)

All students entering sophomore year are required to read either *The Other Wes Moore** or *Discovering Wes Moore* and at least one of the other novels listed below.

**required for students entering English II Honors*

Required reading for all incoming sophomores:

The Other Wes Moore

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

Discovering Wes Moore

Two men. One overcame adversity. The other suffered the indignities of poverty. Their stories are chronicled in *Discovering Wes Moore*, a book for young people based on Wes Moore's bestselling adult memoir, *The Other Wes Moore*.

And at least one of the following:

***No Country for Old Men* by Cormac McCarthy**

One day, a good old boy named Llewellyn Moss finds a pickup truck surrounded by a bodyguard of dead men. A load of heroin and two million dollars in cash are still in the back. When Moss takes the money, he sets off a chain reaction of catastrophic violence that not even the law—in the person of aging, disillusioned Sheriff Bell—can contain. As Moss tries to evade his pursuers—in particular a mysterious mastermind who flips coins for human lives—McCarthy simultaneously strips down the American crime novel and broadens its concerns to encompass themes as ancient as the Bible and as bloodily contemporary as this morning's headlines.

***Ordinary People* by Judith Guest**

In *Ordinary People*, Judith Guest's remarkable first novel, the Jarrets are a typical American family. Calvin is a determined, successful provider and Beth an organized, efficient wife. They had two sons, Conrad and Buck, but now they have one. In this memorable, moving novel, Judith Guest takes the reader into their lives to share their misunderstandings, pain, and ultimate healing. *Ordinary People* is an extraordinary novel about an "ordinary" family divided by pain, yet bound by their struggle to heal.

***Joyland* by Stephen King**

Set in a fictional Canobie Lake Park, *Joyland* is a riveting story about love and loss, about growing up and growing old—and about those who don't get to do either because death comes for them before their time. College student Devin

Jones took the summer job at Joyland hoping to forget the girl who broke his heart. But he wound up facing something far more terrible: the legacy of a vicious murder, the fate of a dying child, and dark truths about life—and what comes after—that would change his world forever. *Joyland* is Stephen King at the peak of his storytelling powers.

***Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn**

On a warm summer morning in North Carthage, Missouri, it is Nick and Amy Dunne's fifth wedding anniversary. Presents are being wrapped and reservations are being made when Nick's clever and beautiful wife disappears. Husband-of-the-Year Nick isn't doing himself any favors with cringe-worthy daydreams about the slope and shape of his wife's head, but passages from Amy's diary reveal the alpha-girl perfectionist could have put anyone dangerously on edge. Under mounting pressure from the police and the media—as well as Amy's fiercely doting parents—the town golden boy parades an endless series of lies, deceptions, and inappropriate behavior. Nick is oddly evasive, and he's definitely bitter—but is he really a killer?

***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams**

Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor. Together this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from *The Hitchhiker's Guide* and a galaxy-full of fellow travelers: Zaphod Beeblebrox—the two-headed, three-armed ex-hippie and totally out-to-lunch president of the galaxy; Trillian, Zaphod's girlfriend (formally Tricia McMillan), whom Arthur tried to pick up at a cocktail party once upon a time zone; Marvin, a paranoid, brilliant, and chronically depressed robot; Veet Voojagig, a former graduate student who is obsessed with the disappearance of all the ballpoint pens he bought over the years.

***In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez**

It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo's dictatorship. It doesn't have to. Everybody knows of Las Mariposas—"The Butterflies." In this extraordinary novel, the voices of all four sisters—Minerva, Patria, María Teresa, and the survivor, Dedé—speak across the decades to tell their own stories, from hair ribbons and secret crushes to gunrunning and prison torture, and to describe the everyday horrors of life under Trujillo's rule. Through the art and magic of Julia Alvarez's imagination, the martyred Butterflies live again in this novel of courage and love, and the human cost of political oppression.

***Once Upon a Quinceañera* by Julia Alvarez**

The *quinceañera*, a celebration of a Latina girl's fifteenth birthday, has become a uniquely American trend. This lavish party with ball gowns, multi-tiered cakes, limousines, and extravagant meals is often as costly as a prom or a wedding. But many Latina girls feel entitled to this rite of passage, marking a girl's entrance into womanhood, and expect no expense to be spared, even in working-class families. Acclaimed author Julia Alvarez explores the history and cultural significance of the "quince" in the United States, and the consequences of treating teens like princesses. Through her observations of a quince in Queens, interviews with other quince girls, and the memories of her own experience as a young immigrant, Alvarez presents a thoughtful and entertaining portrait of a rapidly growing multicultural phenomenon, and passionately emphasizes the importance of celebrating Latina womanhood.

***Townie* by Andre Dubus III**

After their parents divorced in the 1970s, Andre Dubus III and his three siblings grew up with their overworked mother in our very own Haverhill, Massachusetts, contending with the challenges imposed by a community saturated with drugs and everyday violence. Nearby, his father, an eminent author, taught at the former Bradford College and took the kids out on

Sundays. The clash between town and gown, between the hard drinking, drugging, and fighting of "townies" and the ambitions of students debating books and ideas, couldn't have been more stark. In this unforgettable memoir, acclaimed novelist Dubus shows us how he escaped the cycle of violence and found empathy in channeling the stories of others—bridging, in the process, the rift between his father and himself.

Haverhill Public Schools

My signature below indicates that I have received the Summer Reading list and that I understand the expectations of reading two books, either *The Other Wes Moore* or *Discovering Wes Moore* plus an additional book from the list. I also understand that I must be prepared for a related, follow-up assignment, by the return to school on August 29, 2017.

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Signature of Student

Printed Name

_____ / _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Printed Name