



June 12, 2019

Dear Parent(s) and/or 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. 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.

Our primary goal with the 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.

Countless novels and plays that are no longer protected by copyright laws are also available for free through MIT's Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org).

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. While these titles are suggested, and they may not be of interest to all, we nevertheless expect all incoming 10th grade students at Haverhill High School to read at least two titles of something that interests them.

Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

Happy Reading!

10th Grade Summer Reading List (2019)

Here are some suggested titles:

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

Llewellyn Moss finds a pickup truck surrounded by dead cartel members, a ton of heroin, and two million dollars in cash. 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 Jarret’s 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.

***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.

***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.