

Brighton Reads!
Brighton High School English Summer Reading Assignment
All Students / Due Fall 2018

Dear Student and Guardian,

Summer shouldn't mean taking a break from learning, especially reading. Studies show that most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months, but those who continue to read *actually gain skills*. Students should make an effort to sustain reading skills, practice reading, and read for enjoyment, even though school is not in session (*LD Online Newsletter*).

As a part of the BHS school-wide Literacy Initiative and the Language Arts requirements, each student in Brighton High School's Language Arts program **will be required** to participate in ***Brighton Reads!*** over the summer months. The selected book may be either checked out from the public library or purchased from a local bookstore or online. Students are **not** required to own the book. Students must have the selected book finished by the first day of A half English class.

Having a school-wide book selection will facilitate more occasions for cross-grade level and cross-curricular discussion of universal themes regarding human nature, history, society, community, and the potential world our students will be a part of creating. It is the intention of the BHS Language Arts team to create an annual tradition of text exploration for students and the community at-large through guest lecturers—authors, historians, artists, professionals, and other authorities—whenever available and applicable. Our objective is to assist our students in identifying the interconnectedness of their educational activities and the larger world they will enter upon completing high school.

Students will be held accountable for the book through. . .

- (1) completion of the attached Graphic Organizer while reading which will be used as a source material/notes for a
- (2) Timed-Essay Test within the first 2 weeks of class and a
- (3) Book Project which will be outlined upon returning to school.

Brighton Reads! Summer 2018 book is. . .

Mississippi Trial, 1955

by Chris Crowe: Young Adult Author, Professor of English BYU

From Publishers Weekly: "Basing his. . .novel on historical events, Crowe adopts the point of view of a white teenager confronting racism in the 1950s South. Hiram Hillburn has resented his civil-rights-minded father ever since the age of nine, when his parents moved him from his adored grandfather's home in Greenwood, Miss., to the more liberal climate of an Arizona college town. Now that he is 16, Hiram has finally been permitted to visit Grampa Hillburn again. Crowe. . .arriv[es] at the central action: the lynching of Emmett Till, a black teenager from Chicago who reputedly made 'ugly remarks' to a white woman, and the nationally publicized trial, in which the murderers were acquitted. However, the author takes a nuanced approach to ethical dilemmas and his plotting seems lifelike. Events force Hiram to question his willingness to stand up for his beliefs and to reevaluate his understanding of the animosity between his grandfather and father. The characterizations are sketched with care, from the white lawyers who mock the black witnesses they cross-examine, to R.C., the bully whom Hiram suspects of participating in the crime, to R.C.'s sister, whom Hiram likes. . .Crowe's. . .measured treatment will get readers thinking." (Amazon Book Store)

Important – If a student does not have English during the first trimester of school and desires to take the Timed-Essay Test before the second trimester, she/he may check with the A half teacher at the beginning of the school year to make special arrangements to take the test early.

Opt-out – Should a student choose to not participate in ***Brighton Reads!***, she/he will need to select a book from the Alternate Book List (see below) for her/his upcoming grade level for the upcoming school year and *complete the Graphic Organizer for a timed-essay and book project.*

English 1010 and English 2010 – Concurrent Enrollment students will also be participating in ***Brighton Reads!***

Creative Writing – Students will be responsible for ***Brighton Reads!*** book (or alternate text) for their grade level Language Arts class only, and can use the book for both Language Arts *and* Creative Writing class.

A.P. Language 11 – Students will receive a separate assignment: books are listed here (see below). A copy of the assignment can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yagc27rd>, or please email either of the following teachers to request a copy.

kellie.clark@canyonsdistrict.org

celeste.king@canyonsdistrict.org

A.P. Literature 12 – Students will receive a separate assignment: books are also listed here (see below). If a student did not receive the assignment, please email *jennifer.mattson@canyonsdistrict.org* to request a copy.

**Complete the Graphic Organizer (see below) while reading
and bring it to the first day of A half English.**

Divide the book into **3 sections** and fully complete this Graphic Organizer while reading

This organizer will be the *only notes allowed for a timed-essay* within the first 2 weeks of English and will be *turned-in as an assignment*

↓ Beginning (First 1/3) ↓

↓ Middle (Second 1/3) ↓

↓ End (Third 1/3) ↓

Decisions, Actions, and Consequences →

How do decisions, actions, and consequences vary depending on the **different perspectives** of the people involved?

Conflict and Change →

How does a character's point-of-view affect the way she/he **deals with conflict**?

Culture: Values and Beliefs →

How do values and beliefs **shape who characters are** as individuals and **influence their behavior**?

Social Justice →

What does power have to do with **fairness and justice**?

What (Quote/Text Evidence w/ page #)? Who (Speaker)? When (Situation)? Why (Motivation/Circumstance)?	What? Who? When? Why?	What? Who? When? Why?
What? Who? When? Why?	What? Who? When? Why?	What? Who? When? Why?
What? Who? When? Why?	What? Who? When? Why?	What? Who? When? Why?
What? Who? When? Why?	What? Who? When? Why?	What? Who? When? Why?

English 9 and Honors 9 – Alternate Book Choices

Cinder by Marissa Meyer (448 pgs.)

Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers (281 pgs.)

"Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? To calm his nerves as he sits in the courtroom, aspiring filmmaker Steve chronicles the proceedings in movie script format. The narrative alternates between his screenplay and his journal writings that provide insight into Steve's life before the murder and his feelings about being on trial.

English 10 and Honors 10 – Alternate Book Choices

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein – On October 11, 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.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon – Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Anne Shaffer & Annie Barrows –

In January 1946, London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton, looking for her next book subject, finds it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book. As Juliet and her new friend exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of the "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society"— a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island—which boasts a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters.

Maus: A Survivor's Tale (both parts 1 & 2) by Art Spiegelman – The Pulitzer Prize-winning *Maus* tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his father's story. Vladek's harrowing story of survival is woven into the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father, all told in comic book form: the Nazis are cats and the Jews are mice. Against the backdrop of guilt brought by survival, they stage a normal life of small arguments and unhappy visits. This astonishing retelling of our century's grisliest news is a story of survival, not only of Vladek, but of the children who survive even the survivors.

English 11 – Alternate Book Choices

***The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson** – A true crime story of H.H. Holmes, who dispatched somewhere between 27 and 200 people in the churning new metropolis of Chicago; many of the murders occurring during the city's finest moment, the World's Fair of 1893. Larson's breathtaking history is a novelistic yet wholly factual account of the fair and the mass murderer who lurked within it. The author strikes a fine balance between the planning and execution of the vast fair and Holmes's relentless, ghastly activities.

***Hole in My Life* by Jack Gantos** – In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was an aspiring writer looking for adventure, cash for college tuition, and a way out of a dead-end job. For ten thousand dollars, he recklessly agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with a ton of hashish from the Virgin Islands to New York City, where he and his partners are eventually apprehended. For his part, Gantos is sentenced to serve up to six years in prison. Gantos – once he is locked up in a small, yellow-walled cell – moves from wanting to be a writer to writing, which helps him endure and ultimately overcome the worst experience of his life.

***Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel** – *Station Eleven* tells the spellbinding story of several individuals impacted when a pandemic wipes out nearly ninety-nine percent of Earth's population. Moving between the days leading up to the event and the twenty years that follow, it begins with one snowy night when Arthur Leander, a famous actor, has a heart attack onstage during a production of *King Lear*. Jeevan Chaudhary, a paparazzo-turned-EMT in the audience, leaps to his aid. A child actress named Kirsten Raymonde watches in horror as Jeevan performs CPR, but Arthur is dead. As Jeevan walks home from the theater, a terrible flu begins to spread. Hospitals are flooded and Jeevan and his brother barricade themselves inside an apartment, watching out the window as life disintegrates around them. Fifteen years later, Kirsten is an actress with the Traveling Symphony. Together, this small troupe moves between the settlements of an altered world, performing Shakespeare and music for scattered communities of survivors.

****ONLY JUNIOR students who possess an IEP may select from the following:**

***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson** – Since the beginning of the school year, Melinda has found that it's been getting harder and harder for her to speak out loud. What could have caused Melinda to suddenly fall mute? Could it be the fact that no one at school is speaking to her because she called the cops and got everyone busted at the seniors' big end-of-summer party? Or maybe it's because her parents' only form of communication is Post-It notes written on their way out the door to their nine-to-whenever jobs. While Melinda is bothered by these things, deep down she knows the real reason why she's been struck mute: something else occurred at last summer's party and she can't seem to tell anyone the truth. (Contains subtle references to rape.)

***Slam!* by Walter Dean Myers** – Harlem is the backdrop for Myer's tales about "Slam" Harris, a seventeen-year-old boy whose dreams of playing basketball in the NBA overshadow everything else in his life. Although Slam has grandiose dreams of making millions, Slam is on his way to flunking out of high school. It is Slam's attitude that changes as he reconciles a harsh reality with his dreams.

English 12 – Alternate Book Choices

***Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger** – In this classic coming-of-age novel, Holden Caulfield narrates the story of a couple of days in his 16-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school. His constant wry observations about what he encounters, from teachers to “phonies” (the two, of course, are not mutually exclusive), capture the essence of the universal teenage experience of alienation. (This book contains strong language.)

***The Demon in the Freezer* by Richard Preston** – In this nonfiction work, Richard Preston ventures into the heart of Usamriid, the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland, once the headquarters of the U.S. biological weapons program and now the epicenter of national biodefense. Usamriid went into a state of Delta Alert on September 11, 2001, and activated its emergency response teams when the first anthrax letters were opened in New York and Washington, D.C. The author, Preston, reports, in unprecedented detail, on the government’s response to the attacks and takes us into the ongoing FBI investigation, based on interviews with top-level FBI agents and doctors.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou** – Sent at a young age to live with her grandmother in Arkansas, Angelou learns a great deal from this exceptional woman and the tightly knit black community there. These lessons carry her throughout the hardships she endures later in life, including a tragic occurrence while visiting her mother in St. Louis and her formative years spent in California – where an unwanted pregnancy changes her life forever. (This book deals with rape and teenage pregnancy.)

English 1010 and 2010

***** English 1010 and English 2010 will read the school-wide book *****

***** 12th grade alternate selections also available *****

AP Lang. English 11 – Book Choices

*** AP Lang. English 11 will NOT read the school-wide book***

*** Choose one book from the selections below***

***Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science* – Mark Aronson & Maria Budhos** – When this award-winning husband-and-wife team discovered that they each had sugar in their family history, they were inspired to trace the globe-spanning story of the sweet substance and to seek out the voices of those who led bitter sugar lives. The trail ran like a bright band from religious ceremonies in India to Europe's Middle Ages, then on to Columbus, who brought the first cane cuttings to the Americas. Sugar was the substance that drove the bloody slave trade and caused the loss of countless lives but it also planted the seeds of revolution that led to freedom in the American colonies, Haiti, and France. With songs, oral histories, maps, and over 80 archival illustrations, here is the story of how one product allows us to see the grand currents of world history in new ways.

***Unbroken* – Laura Hillenbrand** – In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channels his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II begins, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, he answers desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

***The Perfect Storm* – Sebastian Junger** – Meteorologists called the storm that hit North America's eastern seaboard in October 1991 a "perfect storm" because of the rare combination of factors that created it. In *The Perfect Storm*, Junger conjures for the reader the meteorological conditions that created the "storm of the century" and the impact the storm had on many of the people caught in it. Chief among these are the six crew members of the swordfish boat, *The Andrea Gail*, all of whom were lost 500 miles from home beneath roiling seas and high waves. Working from published material, radio dialogues, eyewitness accounts, and the experiences of people who have survived similar events, Junger attempts to re-create the last moments of *The Andrea Gail* as well as the perilous high-seas rescues of other victims of the storm.

***The Glass Castle* – Jeannette Walls** – *The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

***In the Garden of Beasts* – Erik Larson** – In 1933 Berlin, William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Nazi Germany in a year that proved to be a turning point in history. A mild-mannered professor from Chicago, Dodd brings his wife, son, and flamboyant daughter, Martha. At first Martha is entranced by the parties and pomp, and the handsome young men of the Third Reich with their infectious enthusiasm for restoring Germany to a position of world prominence. But as evidence of Jewish persecution mounts, confirmed by chilling first-person testimony, her father telegraphs his concerns to a largely indifferent State Department back home. Dodd watches with alarm as Jews are attacked, the press is censored, and drafts of frightening new laws begin to circulate. As that first year unfolds and the shadows deepen, the Dodds experience days full of excitement, intrigue, romance—and ultimately, horror, when a climactic spasm of violence and murder reveals Hitler's true character and ruthless ambition.

AP Lit. English 12 – Book Choices

*** AP Lit. English 12 will NOT read the school-wide book***

*** Choose one book from the selections below***

***My Antonia* by Willa Cather** – Set in Nebraska in the late 19th century, this tale of the spirited daughter of a Bohemian immigrant family planning to farm on the untamed land is told through the eyes of Antonia's childhood friend, Jim Burden. Jim has been newly orphaned at the beginning of the novel and arrives at his grandparents' neighboring farm on the same night Antonia's family arrives in this new country. Antonia represents immigrant struggles with a foreign land and tongue, the restraints on women of the time, and the great courage and determination that marked the earliest settlers on the frontier. Cather opens the novel with Virgil's phrase "*Optima dies ... prima fugit*, meaning "The best days are the first to flee." This could be said equally of childhood and the earliest hours of this country.

***Catch-22* by Joseph Heller** – *Catch-22* satirizes war in a way at once both outrageously funny and strangely affecting. Set in the closing months of World War II in an American bomber squadron on a small island off Italy, its hero is a bombardier named Yossarian, who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he hasn't even met keep trying to kill him. (He has decided to live forever even if he has to die in the attempt.) His problem is Colonel Cathcart, who keeps raising the number of missions the men have to fly. The unusual cast of characters ranges from Lieutenant Milo Minderbinder, a dedicated entrepreneur (he bombs his own airfield when the Germans make him a reasonable offer: cost plus 6%), to the dead man in Yossarian's tent; from Major Major Major, whose tragedy is that he resembles Henry Fonda, to Nately, in love with a prostitute; from Clevinger, who is lost in the clouds, to the wounded gunner Snowden, who lies dying in the tail of Yossarian's plane.

***A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving** – In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boys are playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire, when one of the boys hits a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother. The boy who hits the ball doesn't believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen, after that 1953 foul ball, is extraordinary and terrifying, and haunts his friend, John, into his adulthood. Mixing flashbacks of their growing up years through the '50s and '60s with his present year of 1987, John narrates this coming of age story which involves comedy and tragedy, friendship and faith.

***All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy** – John Grady Cole, finds himself in love at age 16 with a dying lifestyle as he is soon to be cut off from the only life he has ever imagined for himself: that of a long line of Texas ranchers. To escape a society moving in all the wrong directions, Cole and two companions decide to seek their future in Mexico, a land at once beautiful and desolate, rugged and cruelly civilized, still a "last frontier." But what begins as an idyllic, sometimes comic adventure, leads, in fact, to a place where dreams are paid for in blood. Within months, one of the boys is dead, and the other two aged beyond their years.

***Beloved* by Toni Morrison** – In the troubled years following the Civil War, the spirit of a murdered child haunts the Ohio home of a former slave. This angry, destructive ghost breaks mirrors, leaves its fingerprints in cake icing, and generally makes life difficult for Sethe and her family. Set in rural Ohio several years after the Civil War, this haunting chronicle of slavery and its aftermath traces the life of a young woman, Sethe. The narrative juxtaposes scenes from Sethe's former life as a slave on Sweet Home Farm, her escape with her children, and the tragic events that ensue, with her struggles to deal with the consequent present.