

Summer Reading-2020

Pre-AP Gifted English 10

Mrs. Stevens

Dear readers,

Wherever you may be this summer, I ask that you carve out some time to read. Since school was interrupted, we actually did not get a chance to read a few other extended works in our time together. You will have a longer summer break since school has ended earlier in May than normal. The books selected below have been chosen to expand your reading minds and facilitate complex discussion on varying topics. Some of the books are older, published a few decades ago, and some of the choices are more modern. Regardless of which titles you read, remember the tremendous benefits of reading: it relieves stress (it can take you out of the present and into a different place and time), it prepares you for the world of work, it builds empathy for the people and world around you, it builds stamina and focus, it stimulates your brain, it provides you with new information, it builds your vocabulary, it improves your writing, and more!

Happy reading!
Mrs. Stevens

1. ALL incoming Gifted program sophomores will read ***All Quiet on the Western Front*** by Erich ReMarque. (You will take a test on this book during the first week of class)

2. Choose one of the following books to read **for your second book.**

FICTION

Where the Crawdads Sing

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Ready Player One

All the Light We Cannot See

A Separate Peace

The Road

NONFICTION

Same Kind of Different as Me

Born a Crime: Stories from a South

African Childhood

Becoming

Concussion

Delia Owens

Douglas Adams

Ernest Cline

Anthony Doerr

John Knowles

Cormac McCarthy

Ron Hall & Denver Moore

Trevor Noah

Michelle Obama

Jeanne Marie Laskas

3. You select a book of YOUR CHOICE. It can be another one from the list above, or it can be any book you have on your “TO-READ” list that you’ve been wanting to read. Some of you prefer YA Lit and none of the choices above are part of that particular category. There are easy ways to find great suggestions from lists on Goodreads and/or Amazon. If you have trouble finding a book of interest, please let me know and I’ll help you.

Therefore, you will have a total of THREE books that you are responsible for regarding summer reading. Please make sure you follow directions.

Students will be allowed to use his or her novel during each writing portion of the assessment, so it is important to take notes in the book and highlight or underline important events in the plot, characters, and quotes that you think are significant to make testing easier. **If you are borrowing the book or do not choose to write/place sticky notes in your book, I would suggest creating some quick notes of this information on a separate sheet of paper.** Unfortunately, it is quite easy to forget some of those key ideas if you read the book in May or June by the time August comes around, so jot down some thoughts while they are “fresh” in your mind before you move onto another book or forget over time.

Students will NOT be allowed to share books during testing. Each evaluation will count as a major test grade.

If you do not have access to acquire any of these books, please let me know. I do have extra copies at the school of *All Quiet on the Western Front* and some of the other titles mentioned on the list that I can let you “check-out.” Please email me if you have any other questions: kara.stevens@dcsms.org

Topics to consider/focus on while reading

All Quiet on the Western Front:

- The psychological defense mechanisms the soldiers used
- the roles of the authority figures and elders
- the effects of war on an individual

READING & MARKING A TEXT

If you are unsure of how to annotate a text, here are some suggestions:

BEFORE READING:

- Examine the front and back covers.
- Read the title.
- Examine the way the book is set up.

DURING READING:

Front fly pages:

- Write a character list w/brief description.

Mark in the text:

- Character descriptions, attitudes,
- Personalities, reactions to each other
- Setting
- Conflicts
- Favorite Passages
- Literary Elements
- Circle unfamiliar vocabulary/define at bottom of page

Write in the margins:

- Determine the relation of the title of the story on the front cover

- Summarize/make predictions
- Formulate opinions/make connections
- Ask questions
- Write reflections/reactions/comments
- Patterns/repetitions

Blank Pages/Inside Cover in

Back of Book:

- Key scenes
- Plot line or development

AFTER READING:

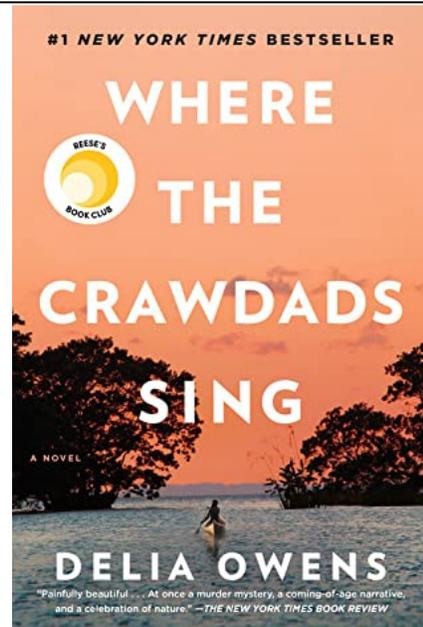
- Reread annotations-draw conclusions in the side margins
- Reread the beginning and the end-make connections in the side margins
- Examine patterns/repetitions – determine possible meanings in the side margins

NOTE TO PARENTS: This list includes some titles containing mature themes and content. Therefore, I encourage parents and guardians to take an active role in helping individual teens choose those books that are the best for them. Several websites, including Common Sense Media and Amazon.com, offer reviews to help parents and students make the best selection for them.

Quick info for book title selections in #2:

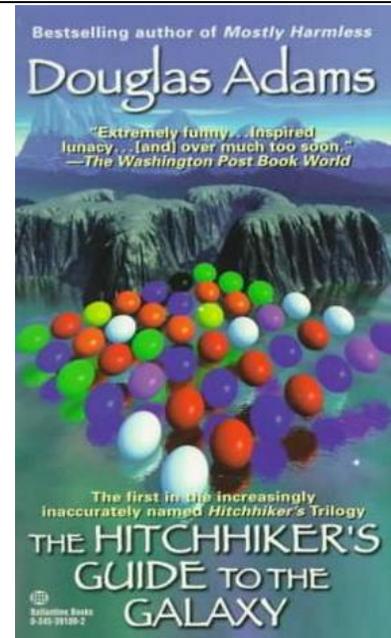
For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

Perfect for fans of Barbara Kingsolver and Karen Russell, *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.



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* ("A towel is about the most massively useful thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have") 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 YEAR 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines, puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.

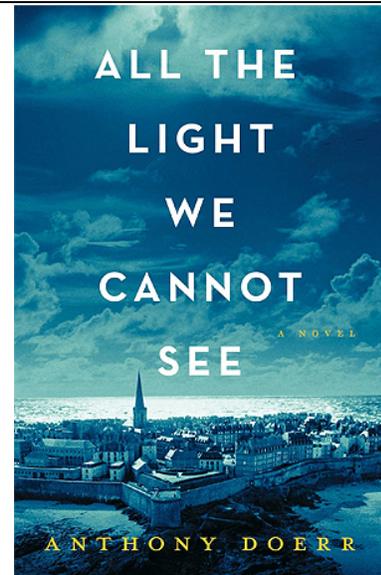
But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.



From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant *New York Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

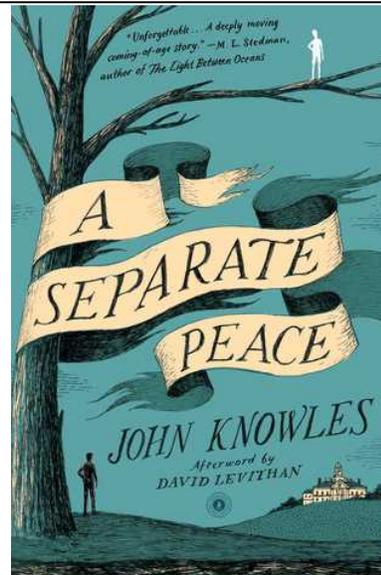
In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.



An American classic and great bestseller for over thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to the second world war.

Set at a boys boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

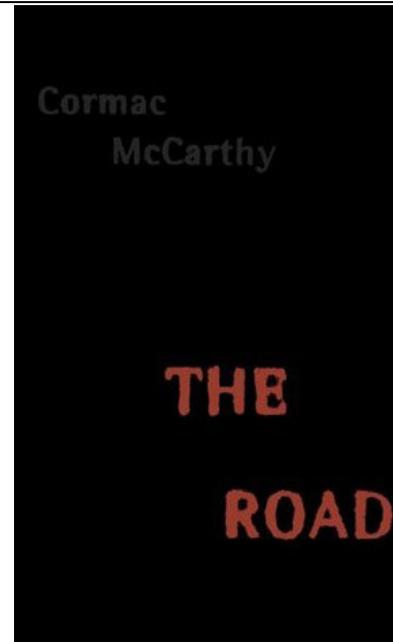
A bestseller for more than thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is John Knowles crowning achievement and an undisputed American classic.



A searing, postapocalyptic novel destined to become Cormac McCarthy's masterpiece.

A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other.

The Road is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.



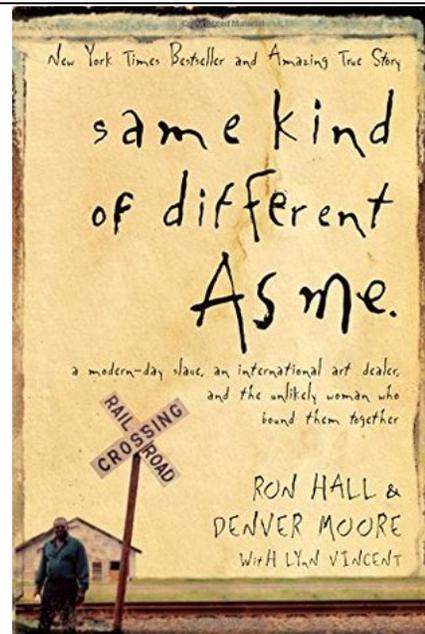
Gritty with pain and betrayal and brutality, this true story also shines with an unexpected, life-changing love.

Meet Denver, raised under plantation-style slavery in Louisiana until he escaped the "Man" – in the 1960's – by hopping a train. Non-trusting, uneducated, and violent, he spent another 18 years on the streets of Dallas and Fort Worth.

Meet Ron Hall, a self-made millionaire in the world of high priced art deals -- concerned with fast cars, beautiful women, and fancy clothes.

And the woman who changed their lives -- Miss Debbie: "The skinniest, nosiest, pushiest, woman I ever met, black or white." She helped the homeless and gave of herself to all of "God's People," and had a way of knowing how to listen and helping others talk and be found – until cancer strikes.

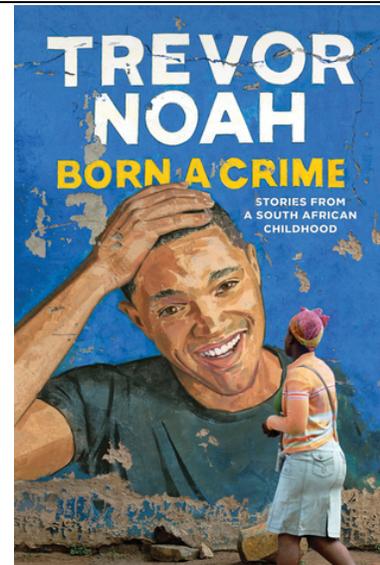
Same Kind of Different as Me is a tale told in two unique voices – Ron Hall & Denver Moore – weaving two completely different life experiences into one common journey where both men learn "whether we is rich or poor or something in between this earth ain't no final restin' place. So in a way, we is all homeless-just workin' our way toward home."



The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime New York Times bestseller about 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.



Jeanne Marie Laskas first met the young forensic pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu in 2009, while reporting a story for *GQ* that would go on to inspire the movie *Concussion*. Omalu told her about a day in September 2002, when, in a dingy morgue in downtown Pittsburgh, he picked up a scalpel and made a discovery that would rattle America in ways he'd never intended. Omalu was new to America, chasing the dream, a deeply spiritual man escaping the wounds of civil war in Nigeria. The body on the slab in front of him belonged to a fifty-year-old named Mike Webster, aka "Iron Mike," a Hall of Fame center for the Pittsburgh Steelers, one of the greatest ever to play the game. After retiring in 1990, Webster had suffered a dizzyingly steep decline. Toward the end of his life, he was living out of his van, tasing himself to relieve his chronic pain, and fixing his rotting teeth with Super Glue. *How did this happen?*, Omalu asked himself. *How did a young man like Mike Webster end up like this?* The search for answers would change Omalu's life forever and put him in the crosshairs of one of the most powerful corporations in America: the National Football League. What Omalu discovered in Webster's brain—proof that Iron Mike's mental deterioration was no accident but a disease caused by blows to the head that could affect everyone playing the game—was the one truth the NFL wanted to ignore.

Taut, gripping, and gorgeously told, *Concussion* is the stirring story of one unlikely man's decision to stand up to a multibillion-dollar colossus, and to tell the world the truth.

