

# Albany High School

## Summer Reading

- ★ Students enrolled in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12 Prep classes are asked to read a book that meets their interest and reading abilities
  - The **9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> + 12 Prep** tab online includes the suggested titles below and the optional journal assignment
  
- ★ Students enrolled in AP or IB-level courses have a separate reading requirement and assignment
  - The tab labeled **AP / IB** online includes the required texts and assignment
  - For all AP / IB courses there are TWO required texts each
  
- ★ Seniors enrolled in the electives Horror Fiction and Film, African American and Women in Literature, and Creative Writing have a separate reading and viewing requirement in addition to a writing and long response component
  - Online, the **12<sup>th</sup> Grade** tab. Writing prompts, articles, and video links are all provided. A Google Form is linked for responses to the articles and videos.



View all information at

<http://albanyhighschoolsummerreading.weebly.com>

## Summer Reading Suggestions: Nonfiction

Deem, James. **The Prisoners of Breendonk : Personal Histories from a World War II Concentration Camp.** Fort Breendonk was built in the early 1900s to protect Antwerp, Belgium, from possible German attack. Damaged at the start of World War I, it fell into disrepair...until the Nazis took it over after their invasion of Belgium in 1940. Labeled a "reception" camp where prisoners were held until they were either released or transported, Breendonk was no less brutal than official concentration camps. About 3,600 prisoners were held there - just over half of them survived.

Higgins, Nadia Abushanab. **Feminism: Reinventing the F-Word.** Examines the history of the feminist philosophy and movement in the United States, tracking milestones in the feminist movement, such as gaining the right to vote and the legalization of abortion, and discusses the question of whether or not feminism and the fight for equal rights includes people of color, men, and LGBTQ communities today.

Jarrow, Gail. **Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America.** In March 1900, San Francisco's health department investigated a strange and horrible death. A man in Chinatown had been infected with bubonic plague. But this deadly disease had never struck America before. Would it now kill millions, as it had for centuries throughout the rest of the world? Could the United States survive an invasion of one of the most lethal microbes?

Jarrow, Gail. **Red Madness: How A Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat.** An account of the mysterious disease called pellagra that spread across the American South in the early 1900s that made people weak, disfigured, and insane and sometimes caused their deaths; and discusses how doctors and public health officials found the cause of the illness and stopped the epidemic.

Kalanithi, Paul. **When Breath Becomes Air.** At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor making a living treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. Just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated.

McCormick, Patricia. **I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up For Education and Changed the World.** Malala Yousafzai's describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

Miller, Sarah Elizabeth. **The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century.** Discusses the trial of Lizzie Borden and the murders of her parents.

Powell, Patricia Hruby.

**Loving vs. Virginia : a Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case.** Written in blank verse, the story of Mildred Loving, an African American girl, and Richard Loving, a Caucasian boy, who challenge the Virginia law forbidding interracial marriages in the 1950s.

Sebold, Alice. **Lucky.** The author tells the story of her violent rape at the age of eighteen, her accidental sighting of her attacker six months later, the resulting trial and conviction of the man, and the trauma she suffered for years afterwards.

Sheinkin, Steve. **Undefeated : Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team.** Jim Thorpe: super athlete, Olympic gold medalist, member of the Sac and Fox Indian Nation. Pop Warner: indomitable coach, football mastermind, ivy league grad. Before these men became legends, they met in 1907 at the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the winningest teams in the history of America's favorite sport.

Stelson, Caren Barzelay. **Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story.** August 5, 1942, began like any other day for six-year-old Sachiko. Her country was at war, she didn't have enough to eat. At 11:01 a.m., she was playing outdoors with four other children. Moments later, those children were all dead. An atomic bomb had exploded just half a mile away.

Walls, Jeanette. **The Glass Castle.** The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother, and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.

## **Summer Reading Suggestions: Graphic Novels**

Bell, Cece. **El Deafo.** This graphic novel memoir chronicles the author's humorous and sometimes difficult childhood experiences after she loses most of her hearing ability from an illness and must wear a large hearing aid on her chest.

Backderf, Derf. **My Friend Dahmer.** Derf describes his classmate Jeffrey Dahmer's teenage years as a lonely oddball. Dahmer would go on to become one of the United States' most notorious serial killers.

Beyer, Ramsey. **Little Fish: A Memoir from a Different Kind of Year**. Presents a graphic novel memoir of Ramsey Beyer following her transformation from a eighteen-year-old teenager from a small town to an independent college art student living in the city.

Jamieson, Victoria. **Roller Girl**. Astrid discovers roller derby just as she and her best friend, Nicole, begin growing apart. Now Astrid must learn who she is--and how to be a Roller Girl--without Nicole.

Lewis, John. **March** series. Presents in graphic novel format the life of Georgia congressman John Lewis, focusing on his youth in rural Alabama, his meeting with Martin Luther King Jr. and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

Neri, G. **Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty**. A brief biography, in graphic novel format, of Robert "Yummy" Sandifer, an eleven-year old African American gang member from Chicago who went on the run after shooting a young girl and was later found dead, shot by members of his own gang.

O'Connor, George. **Olympians** series. A fictionalized retelling, in graphic novel format, of the Greek gods and goddesses of the Olympian Pantheon.

Ottaviani, Jim. **Primates: the Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas**. In graphic novel format, explores the lives and work of scientists Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas, who lived with and studied chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans, respectively, in their natural habitats, creating between them a body of work that greatly improved our understanding of primates, including humans.

Prince, Liz. **Tomboy**. A graphic novel memoir of American comics creator Liz Prince, focusing on how she felt she did not fit in with the girls or the boys.

Satrapa, Marjane. **Persepolis** series. Contains black-and-white comic strip images in which the author shares the story of her life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen while the country came under control of the Islamic regime.

Stevenson, Noelle. **Lumberjanes** series. At Miss Quinzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet's Camp for Hardcore Lady-types, things are not what they seem. Three-eyed foxes, secret caves, anagrams. Luckily, Jo, April, Mal, Molly, and Ripley are five bad, butt-kicking best pals determined to have an awesome summer together...and they're not going to let a magical quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way! The mystery keeps getting bigger, and it all begins here

Wicks, Maris. **Human Body Theater**. A nonfiction graphic novel that looks at the eleven systems of the human body.

Wilson, G. Willow. **Ms. Marvel** series. Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City - until she's suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm! When Kamala discovers the dangers of her newfound powers, she unlocks a secret behind them, as well. Is Kamala ready to wield these immense new gifts? Or will the weight of the legacy before her be too much to bear? Kamala has no idea, either. But she's comin' for you, New York!

## Summer Reading Suggestions: Fiction

Ali, S.K. **Saints and Misfits**. Fifteen-year-old Janna Yusuf, a Flannery O'Connor-obsessed book nerd and the daughter of the only divorced mother at their mosque, tries to make sense of the events that follow when her best friend's cousin--a holy star in the Muslim community--attempts to assault her at the end of sophomore year.

Boyne, John. **The Boy At the Top of the Mountain**. When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his Aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy household at the top of the German mountains. But this is no ordinary time, for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler. Quickly, Pierrot is taken under Hitler's wing, and is thrown into an increasingly dangerous new world: a world of terror, secrets and betrayal, from which he may never be able to escape.

Choldenko, Gennifer. **Al Capone Does My Shirts**. A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Cline, Ernest. **Ready Player One**. In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS, but when Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday he finds he must compete with thousands of others--including those willing to commit murder--in order to claim a prize of massive fortune.

Devine, Eric. **Dare Me**. High school seniors Ben and his friends decide to do ten dares in ten months, and, after their online videos catch the attention of a benefactor, they find their stunts becoming increasingly more dangerous.

Doerr, Anthony. **All The Light We Cannot See.** 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.

Federle, Timothy. **The Great American Whatever.** Quinn Roberts is a sixteen-year-old smart aleck whose only worry used to be writing convincing dialogue for the movies he made with his sister. Of course, that was all before - before the car accident that changed everything. Enter Geoff, Quinn's best friend, who insists it's time Quinn come out - at least from hibernation. One haircut later, Quinn gets dragged to his first college party, where he meets a guy - okay, a hot guy - and Quinn falls, hard. What follows is an upside-down week in which Quinn begins envisioning his future as a screenplay that might actually end happily.

Levithan, David. **Every Day.** Every morning A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached, until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon.

McCormick, Patricia. **Purple Heart.** While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali.

Ness, Patrick. **A Monster Calls.** Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill--an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. **Life As We Knew It.** Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Sebold, Alice. **The Lovely Bones.** Fourteen-year-old Susie Salmon, the victim of a sexual assault and murder, looks on from the afterlife as her family deals with their grief, and waits for her killer to be brought to some type of justice.

Schusterman, Neal. **Challenger Deep.** Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior. Caden Bosch is designated the ship's artist in residence, to document the journey with images. Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days

walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head. A captivating and powerful novel that lingers long beyond the last page, *Challenger Deep* is a heartfelt tour de force by one of today's most admired writers for teens.

Thomas, Angie. **The Hate U Give.** Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does-or does not-say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

Yoon, Nicola. **Everything Everything.** The story of a teenage girl who's literally allergic to the outside world. When a new family moves in next door, she begins a complicated romance that challenges everything she's ever known. The narrative unfolds via vignettes, diary entries, texts, charts, lists, illustrations, and more.

Zentner, Jeffrey. **Goodbye Days.** Carver Briggs never thought a simple text would cause a fatal crash, killing his three best friends, Mars, Eli, and Blake. Carver can't stop blaming himself for the accident, and a judge is pressuring the district attorney to open up a criminal investigation. Eli's girlfriend, Carver's therapist, and Blake's grandmother ask Carver to spend a "goodbye day" with them to share their memories and say a proper farewell. As other families ask for their own goodbye day with Carver, will it mean making peace with their losses, or bring Carver one step closer to a complete breakdown-- and possibly prison?

Zentner, Jeffrey. **The Serpent King.** The son of a Pentecostal preacher faces his personal demons as he and his two outcast friends try to make it through their senior year of high school in rural Forrestville, Tennessee without letting the small-town culture destroy their creative spirits and sense of self.

## Recommended Authors\*

Kwame Alexander

Rae Carson

John Green

April Henry  
Marie Lu  
Marissa Meyer  
Walter Dean Myers  
Jason Reynolds  
Ruta Sepetys  
Steve Sheinkin  
Roland Smith  
Nic Stone  
Raina Telgemeier  
Paul Volponi  
Cat Winters  
Gene Luen Yang

\*It is sometimes hard to find the right book for the right reader, so in addition to the nonfiction, graphic novels, and fiction suggestions above, we're also including a list of authors with multiple books or series that increase the opportunity of finding the best book for you, the reader. Feel free to choose any book by the authors listed above for your summer reading assignment.



## Required Reading AP Language / IB 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Both books are required texts and the assignment and rubric are available on the AHS Summer Reading Weebly under the AP / IB tab*

Dickens, Charles. **Great Expectations**. After harsh early years, Pip, an orphan growing up in Victorian England, is given the means to become a gentleman by an unknown benefactor and learns that outward appearances can be deceiving.

Vance, J.D. **Hillbilly Elegy**. From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. *Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

**Remember:** Both books are required.

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## Required Reading AP Literature / IB 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Both books are required texts and the assignment and rubric are available on the AHS Summer Reading Weebly under the AP / IB tab*

Chopin, Kate. **The Awakening**. Edna Pontellier, a Victorian-era wife and mother, is awakened to the full force on her desire for love and freedom when she becomes enamored with Robert LeBrun, a young man she meets while on vacation.

Sophocles. **Antigone**. The curse placed on Oedipus lingers and haunts a younger generation in this new and brilliant translation of Sophocles' classic drama. The daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta, Antigone is an unconventional heroine who pits her beliefs against the King of Thebes in a bloody test of wills that leaves few unharmed. Emotions fly as she challenges the king for the right to bury her own brother. Determined but doomed, Antigone shows her inner strength throughout the play. **Antigone** raises issues of law and morality that are just as relevant today as they were more than two thousand years ago.

**Remember:** Both books are required.

# 12th Grade Senior Elective Summer Requirements

*(African American and Women in Literature, Creative Writing, and Horror Fiction & Film)*

Use the website <http://albanyfalconlibrary.weebly.com>

**Part I:** Select **TWO** Common Application prompts from the list and write the essays

## Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

**Part II:** Watch the Mike Rowe video "War on Work" *and* read the four articles (for viewing or downloading on the **12th grade** tab on the website). Then, use the Google Form linked on the same page to fill out the long responses or upload the long responses.