2015 Summer Reading Assignment

While the English department encourages students to read as much as possible over the summer, we are requiring all students to read a minimum of one memoir from the following list. We have offered a wide variety of options (over 100 titles) in the hope that students will find at least one that interests them.

Please note: all titles have been well-reviewed. However, it is the nature of the memoir to examine personal challenges, and thus these works vary in terms of readability and may include mature content. Therefore, we encourage students to involve parents in helping them select a book that is right for them. Reviews of all these books can be found on online bookseller websites.

We encourage students to select and read with next year’s Marking Period 1 Essential Question in mind:

Freshmen: How do age and experience affect our thinking?
Sophomores: How do social class and family affect our thinking?
Juniors: How do time and place affect our thinking?
Seniors: How do race and gender affect our thinking?

Honors students should consider sampling a few different titles to determine an appropriately challenging text.

Students are also expected to have completed the reading of their books before the first day of school, and should expect to be assessed on it. These books will be the basis for a project or presentation during first marking period. Therefore, annotating, highlighting and making note of significant passages is highly recommended, and all student should bring the book with them and expect to use it throughout the first marking period.

Recent Releases from various genres

H is for Hawk – Helen Macdonald

No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama Bin Laden - Marc Owens

Let's Pretend This Never Happened - Jenny Lawson

The American Wife: A Memoir of Love, War, Faith, and Renewal - Taya Kyle

Among Heroes: A US Navy Seal's True Story of Friendship, Heroism & The Ultimate Sacrifice - Brandon Webb & John David Mann

An Apple a Day: A Memoir of Love and Recovery from Anorexia-Emma Woolfe

Back in Fight: The Explosive Memoir of a Special Operator Who Never Gave Up-Joseph Kapaczieski

Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir-Deborah A. Miranda

Battle Ready: A Memoir of a SEAL Warrior Medic- Mark L. Donald and Scott Mactavish


Brothers Emanuel: A Memoir of an American Family- Ezekiel J. Emanuel

Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White- Lia Quintero Weaver

Doc: A Memoir-Dwight Gooden

Francona: The Red Sox Years-Terry Francona

Hard Choices - Hillary Clinton

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood UP for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban - Malala Yousafzai

In My Skin: My Life on and Off the Basketball Court - Brittney Griner with Sue Hovey
In the Water They Can't See You Cry: A Memoir - Amanda Beard

Into Great Silence: A Memoir of Discovery and Loss among Vanishing Orcas - Eva Saulitis

Learning to Fly: An Uncommon Memoir of Human Flight, Unexpected Love, and One Amazing Day - Steph Davis

Limping through Life: A Farm Boy's Polio Memoir - Jerry Apps


Little Failure - Gary Shteyngart

Long Shot - Mike Piazza

Monkey Mind: A Memoir of Anxiety - Daniel Smith

My Beloved World - Sonia Sotomayer

Off Balance: A Memoir - Dominique Moceanu

On Writing - Stephen King

One Day It Will All Make Sense - Common

The Outsider: A Memoir - Jimmy Connors

Overtime: My Life as a Sports Writer - Frank Deford

The Shelf: From LEQ to LES Adventures in Extreme Reading by Phyllis Rose

Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter - Carmen Aguirre

A Song in the Night: A Memoir of Resilience - Bob Massie

Steal the Menu: A Memoir of Forty Years in Food - Raymond Sokolov

Stress Test: Reflections on Financial Crisis by Timothy Geithner

Stuck in the Middle with You: A Memoir of Parenting in Three Genders - Jennifer Finney Boylan

Traveling Heavy: A Memoir between Journeys - Ruth Behar

Triggered: A Memoir of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder - Fletcher Wortmann

Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat - Dan Hampton

Wave - Sonali Deraniyagala

Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal - Jeanette Witherspoon

Wild - Cheryl Strayed

The World's Strongest Librarian: A Memoir of Tourette's, Faith, Strength, and the Power of Family - Josh Hanagarne

(See next page for more titles grouped by GENRE)
Sports

**Pele: My Life and The Beautiful Game** - Pele

**Open** - Andre Agassi

**It’s Not About the Bike** – Lance Armstrong


**Born To Run-A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never** – Christopher McDougall

**My Losing Season** – Pat Conroy

**Out of Their League** – Dave Meggysey

**My Life on the Road** – Bill Bradley

**Season of Life: A Football Star, A Boy, A Journey to Manhood** – Jeffrey Marx

**Running for My Life** – Warrick Dunn

**Quiet Strength** – Tony Dungy

**John Wooden: A Lifetime of Observations and Reflections on and Off the Court** – John Wooden

**The Yankee Years** –Joe Torre

**In the Long Run: A Father, a Son, and Unintentional Lessons in Happiness** – Jim Axelrod

**Character Driven**- Derek Fisher

**To Be a Runner: How Racing Up Mountains, Running with the Bulls, or Just Taking On a 5-K Makes You a Better Person** – Martin Dugard

**The Big Fight: My Life In and Out of the Ring** – Sugar Ray Leonard

**What I Talk About When I Talk About Running** – Haruki Murakami

Music

**The Rice Room: Growing Up Chinese-American: from number two son to rock ‘n’roll** – Ben Fong-Torres

**Clapton: The Autobiography** – Eric Clapton

**Big in China** – Allan Paul

**Just Kids** – Patti Smith

Humorists / Comedians

**Me Talk Pretty One Day** – David Sedaris

**The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir** – Bill Bryson

Humorous

**Let’s Pretend This Never Happened** - Jenny Lawson

**Funny in Farsi**- Firoozah Dumas

**A Girl Named Zippy, Growing Up Small in Mooreland, Indiana** – Haven Kimmel

**She Got Up Off The Couch & Other Heroic Acts from Mooreland, Indiana** (sequel to Zippy)- Haven Kimmel

**I’m Down** – Misha Wolff

**“Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman!” Adventures of a Curious Character**-Richard Feynman

Travel/Food

**A Walk in the Woods**-Bill Bryson

**Road From Coorain** – Jill Ker Conway

**Blood, Bones, and Butter** – Gabrielle Hamilton

**Cakewalk: A Memoir** – Kate Moses

**Neither Here nor There: Travels in Europe**-Bill Bryson
Stuffed: Adventures of a Restaurant Family – Patricia Volk

**Psychological and Physical Struggles**

The American Wife: A Memoir of Love, War, Faith, and Renewal - Taya Kyle

Awakenings-Oliver Sacks

Look Me In The Eye-John Elder Robison

Be Different - John Elder Robison

Thinking in Pictures-Temple Grandin

Diving Bell and the Butterfly- Jean-Dominique Bauby

Stitches-David Small

Lucky – Alice Sebold

The Last Lecture – Randy Pausch

The Glass Castle- Jeannette Walls

Hungry – Crystal Renn

Tweak – Nic Sheff

Half a Life – Darin Strauss

**Racial/Cultural/Regional Differences**

Born To Run-A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen-Christopher McDougall

Always Running-Luis Rodriguez

Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy- Carlos Eire

Red Azalea-Anchee Min

I’m Down-Mishna Wolff

Wild Swans- Jung Chang

Woman Warrior- Maxine Hong Kingston

Chinese Cinderella- Adeline Mah

Falling Leaves- Adeline Mah

Dreams From My Father-Barack Obama

Funny in Farsi - Firoozah Dumas

Infidel – Ayan Kirsi Ali

The Rice Room: Growing Up Chinese-American: from number two to rock ’n’roll – Ben Fong-Torres

The Color of Water – James McBride

My Korean Deli: Risking It All For A Convenience Store - Ben Ryder Howe

The Opposite of Fate – Amy Tan

Rocket Boy – Homer Hickam

Blue Blood – Edward Conlon

**Women**

Personal History – Katherine Graham

The Legacy of Luna: The Story of a Tree, a Woman, and the Struggle to Save the Redwoods – Julia Butterfly Hill

Unbowed: A Memoir – Wangari Maathai

Hungry – Crystal Renn

Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family – Condoleezza Rice

The Opposite of Fate – Amy Tan


Graphic Novels

Persepolis - Marjane Satrapi

Stitches – David Small

War Experiences

No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama Bin Laden - Marc Owens

Among Heroes: A US Navy Seal's True Story of Friendship, Heroism & The Ultimate Sacrifice – Brandon Webb & John David Mann

The American Wife: A Memoir of Love, War, Faith, and Renewal - Taya Kyle

The Good Soldiers – David Finkel

A Long Way Home: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier – Ishmael Beah

If I Die in a Combat Zone: Box Me Up and Ship Me Home – Tim O’Brien

The Translator - Daoud Hari

History/Politics/Global Affairs/Environmental & Social Issues

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood –Marjane Satrapi

Wild Swans:Three Daughters of China – Jung Chang

A Long Way Home: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier – Ishmael Beah

An Exclusive Love – Johanna Adorjan

The Hare With Amber Eyes: A Family’s Century of Art and Loss –Edmund deWaal

How Starbucks Saved My Life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else – Michael G. Gill

The Translator - Daoud Hari

Enemies of the People – Kati Marton

Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family – Condoleezza Rice

The Legacy of Luna: The Story of a Tree, a Woman, and the Struggle to Save the Redwoods – Julia Butterfly Hill

Unbowed: A Memoir – Wangari Maathai


Blue Blood – Edward Conlon

A House in the Sky- Amanda Lindhout

Family

Stitches – David Small

A Girl Named Zippy, Growing Up Small in Mooreland, Indiana – Haven Kimmel

She Got Up Off The Couch & Other Heroic Acts from Mooreland, Indiana (sequel to Zippy)- Haven Kimmel

I’m Down – Misha Wolff

The Liars Club – Mary Karr

Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy – Carlos Eire

All Over But the Shoutin’- Rick Bragg

Name All the Animals – Alison Smith

The Tender Bar – J.R. Moehringer

Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China – Jung Chang

Road From Coorain-Jill Ker Conway

Woman Warrior- Maxine Hong Kingston

Angela’s Ashes- Frank McCourt
This Boy’s Life - Tobias Wolff
The Glass Castle - Jeannette Walls
Falling Leaves – Adeline Mah
An Exclusive Love – Johanna Adorjan
A Girl from Yamhill – Beverly Cleary
The Hare With Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss – Edmund deWaal
Townie – Andre Dubus III
Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family – Condoleezza Rice
My Korean Deli: Risking It All For A Convenience Store - Ben Ryder Howe
Enemies of the People – Kati Marton
Cakewalk: A Memoir – Kate Moses
Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life – Amy Krause Rosenthal
The Opposite of Fate – Amy Tan
Stuffed: Adventures of a Restaurant Family – Patricia Volk
Rocket Boy – Homer Hickam

Science and Medicine:

Rocket Boy – Homer Hickam

“Surely You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman!” Adventures of a Curious Character – Richard Feynman
Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood – Oliver Sachs