



# Norristown Area High School

## Summer Reading List: Grade 11 (Current 10<sup>th</sup> graders)

**All Non AP English III students** The teachers of Norristown Area High School feel that it is important for students to continue to work on acquiring, maintaining and improving reading and analysis skills through the summer months as well as appreciating literature and reading for personal enjoyment. To that end, the teachers in the English department have put together the following lists of suggested titles for grade 11.

**Non-Weighted Honors**--Choose one book from below for the Independent Reading Student Choice. **No assignment required.**

**Weighted Honors**--**Choose one book from below for the Independent Reading and complete a double entry journal of at least 20 entries for one of the following books.**

***American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang (Graphic Novel)** -- *American Born Chinese* is the first graphic novel to be nominated for a National Book Award and the first to win the American Library Association's Michael L. Printz Award. An intentionally over-the-top stereotypical Chinese character make this a better fit for teen readers who have the sophistication to understand the author's intent. Three parallel stories interlock in this graphic novel. In the first, the American-born Chinese boy of the title, Jin, moves with his family from San Francisco's Chinatown to a mostly white suburb. There he's exposed to racism, bullying, and taunts. The second story is a retelling of the story of the Monkey King, a fabled Chinese character who develops extraordinary powers in his quest to be accepted as a god. The third concerns Danny, a popular Anglo boy who's visited by his cousin, Chin-Kee, a walking, talking example of the most pernicious Asian stereotypes.

***Bossypants* by Tina Fey (Non-fiction/Autobiography)** --From her youthful days as a vicious nerd to her tour of duty on *Saturday Night Live*; from her passionately halfhearted pursuit of physical beauty to her life as a mother eating things off the floor; from her one-sided college romance to her nearly fatal honeymoon -- from the beginning of this paragraph to this final sentence. Tina Fey reveals all, and proves what we've all suspected: you're no one until someone calls you bossy.

***Crank* by Ellen Hopkins (Young Adult)**--Kristina Snow is the perfect daughter, until she meets a boy who introduces her to drugs. She becomes a very different person, struggling to control her life and her mind, as she grows up and has children of her own.

***The Essential Neruda (Bilingual edition)* by Pablo Neruda (Poetry)**-- This collection of Neruda's most essential poems, selected by a team of poets and prominent Neruda scholars in both Chile and the U.S., is a definitive selection that draws from the entire breadth and width of Neruda's various styles and themes. An impressive group of translators have come together to revisit or completely retranslate the poems; and a handful of previously untranslated works are included as well.

***Feed* by M. T. Anderson (Sci-fi)**--In the future, most people will have a Feed chip implanted in their heads that connects everyone to an evolved version of the Internet — at the cost of even basic privacy. During spring break on the moon, Titus and Violet meet and build a relationship when their Feeds are hacked.

***Flowers For Algernon* by Daniel Keyes (Literary Classic)**--When brain surgery makes a mouse into a genius, dull-witted Charlie Gordon wonders if it might also work for him. It does ... but then the mouse begins to regress.

***I Am Malala* by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai (Memoir)**-- Malala tells her own story, of her parents' love, inspiration, and encouragement and how they led her to confront Islamic fundamentalists who were trying to keep girls from going to school in her native Pakistan. Her strong Muslim faith and personal determination gain her worldwide prominence -- and make her a target.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (Non-fiction/Biography/Science)**--Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance.

***It's Kind of a Funny Story* by Ned Vizzini (Coming of Age)**--An ambitious new student at Manhattan's prestigious Executive Pre-Professional High School, Craig Gilner suddenly discovers that he has become an average kid among a group of brilliant students, a discovery that leads to increasing anxiety and a battle with clinical depression, during which he encounters a motley crew of fellow patients battling their own problems.

***Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* by Michael Lewis**—*Moneyball* is a quest for the secret of success in baseball. Following the low-budget Oakland Athletics, their larger-than-life general manager, Billy Beane, and the strange brotherhood of amateur baseball enthusiasts, Michael Lewis has written not only "the single most influential baseball book ever" (Rob Neyer, *Slate*) but also what "may be the best book ever written on business" (*Weekly Standard*).

***My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult (Fiction)**--Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures, and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.

***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline (Science Fiction/Gaming)**-- This thriller deals with a high-stakes online contest that mixes puzzles with video game violence. Set in a depressed future United States, where most people escape into virtual reality, it features a bunch of tough-talking teens fighting to keep their online playground out of the hands of an evil corporation.

***Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers* by Frank X. Walker (Nonfiction/Biography)**— Around the void left by the murder of Medgar Evers in 1963, the poems in this collection speak, unleashing the strong emotions both before and after the moment of assassination. Poems take on the voices of Evers's widow, Myrlie; his brother, Charles; his assassin, Byron De La Beckwith; and each of De La Beckwith's two wives. Except for the book's title, "Turn me loose," which were his final words, Evers remains in this collection silent. Yet the poems accumulate facets of the love and hate with which others saw this man, unghosting him in a way that only imagination makes possible

***Who Fears Death* by Nnedi Okorafor (Magical Realism/Distopia)**-- In a post-apocalyptic Africa, a woman who has survived the annihilation of her village and a terrible rape by an enemy general wanders into the desert, hoping to die. Instead, she gives birth to an angry baby girl with hair and skin the color of sand. Grippled by the certainty that her daughter is different—*special*—she names her Onyesonwu, which means "Who fears death?" in an ancient language. It doesn't take long for Onye to understand that she is physically and socially marked by the circumstances of her conception. She is *Ewu*—a child of rape who is expected to live a life of violence, a half-breed rejected by her community. But Onye is not the average *Ewu*. Even as a child, she manifests the beginnings of a remarkable and unique magic. As she grows, so do her abilities, and during an inadvertent visit to the spirit realm, she learns something terrifying: someone powerful is trying to kill her.

***Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan (Coming of Age)**--When two teens, one gay and one straight, meet accidentally and discover that they share the same name, their lives become intertwined as one begins dating the other's best friend, who produces a play revealing his relationship with them both.

***Wonder* by R. J. Palacio (Young Adult)**-- August Pullman is a fifth-grade boy with a severe facial deformity, who after being homeschooled is about to brave a real school experience. Auggie is upset and afraid to face the kids' reactions to his appearance, but there's also part of him that wants to do "normal" things.

***A Wreath for Emmett Till* by Marilyn NELSON (Poetry/Illustrated)**-- In 1955 people all over the United States knew that Emmett Louis Till was a fourteen-year-old African American boy lynched for supposedly whistling at a white woman in Mississippi. The brutality of his murder, the open-casket funeral held by his mother, Mamie Till Mobley, and the acquittal of the men tried for the crime drew wide media attention. In a profound and chilling collection of connecting poems, award-winning poet Marilyn Nelson reminds us of the boy whose fate helped spark the civil rights movement. (You will have to choose some of the pictures to complete 20 double entry journals)

**Yes, Chef by Marcus Samuelsson (Non-fiction/Memoir)**--chronicles Ethiopian-immigrant and famed-American chef Marcus Samuelsson's journey from his grandmother's kitchen to his arrival in New York City, where his outsize talent and ambition finally come together at Aquavit, earning him a *New York Times* three-star rating at the age of twenty-four. But Samuelsson's career of chasing flavors had only just begun—in the intervening years, there have been White House state dinners, career crises, reality show triumphs, and, most important, the opening of Red Rooster in Harlem.

**AP Language and Composition: NOTE: Students who are taking AP Language and Composition will be meeting with Mr. Fazzini for specific requirements at a meeting before the summer.**

AP Summer Reading Packet—given out to students at a meeting before summer

Hawthorne, Nathaniel, and Ross C. Murfin. *The Scarlet Letter*. Boston (Mass.): Bedford / St. Martin's, 2006. Print.  
ISBN 9781593082079

Strunk, William, and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1999. Print. ISBN 978-0205313426

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade/(current 10<sup>th</sup> graders) Non-Weighted Honors/Suggested Regular Summer Reading List

Choose one book from below for the Independent Reading Student Choice.

The teachers of Norristown Area High School feel that it is important for students to continue to work on acquiring, maintaining and improving reading and analysis skills through the summer months as well as appreciating literature and reading for personal enjoyment. To that end, the teachers in the English department have put together the following lists of suggested titles for grade 11.

***Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller:** Ever since it was first performed in 1949 this play has been recognized as a milestone of the American theater. In the person of Willy Loman, the aging, failing salesman who makes his living riding on a smile and a shoeshine, Arthur Miller redefined the tragic hero as a man whose dreams are at once insupportably vast and dangerously insubstantial. He has given us a figure whose name has become a symbol for a kind of majestic grandiosity—and a play that compresses epic extremes of humor and anguish, promise and loss, between the four walls of an American living room.

***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs:** A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience.

***Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer:** A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more—including Krakauer's—in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

***It* by Stephen King:** They were seven teenagers when they first stumbled upon the horror. Now they were grown-up men and women who had gone out into the big world to gain success and happiness. But none of them could withstand the force that drew them back to Derry, Maine to face the nightmare without an end, and the evil without a name. What was it? Read *It* and find out...if you dare!

***A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines:** *A Lesson Before Dying*, is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting—and defying—the expected.

***Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin:** Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, not fourteen again. She wants to get her driver's license. She wants to graduate from high school and go to college. And now that she's dead, Liz is being forced to live a life she doesn't want with a grandmother she has only just met. And it is not going well. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? Is it possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward?  
This moving, often funny book about grief, death, and loss will stay with the reader long after the last page is turned.

***Delirium* by Lauren Oliver:** Set in Portland, Maine, in an alternate present, Lena Halloway faces the dilemma of whether to follow her heart or the law. The totalitarian government teaches that love is a disease, amor deliria nervosa, commonly referred to as the delirium. A surgical cure for the delirium has been developed and is mandatory for citizens 18 years old and over. Lena has looked forward to the procedure for years, convinced as she is by the government that love is a horrible disease that must be destroyed from mankind's system. However, mere months before her scheduled procedure, Lena falls in love with an Invalid (a person over 18 who has not taken the Cure and lives in the Wilds) named Alex. He was born in the Wilds outside the city, and has pretended to be cured in order to live undetected in the city. He offers Lena the means of escape from the procedure that will destroy her ability to love.

***The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson:** Angela Johnson turns the tables in this story of a teen father's growing love for his baby daughter. Bobby is an ambitious young man. An aspiring artist with talented parents, he is poised to graduate early from high school. But when his girlfriend Nia surprises him on his sixteenth birthday with the news of her pregnancy, Bobby's whole world turns upside down. Bobby copes with heartache, childcare dilemmas, and the overwhelming insecurities of being a parent: "This little thing with the perfect face and hands doing nothing but counting on me. And me wanting nothing else but to run crying into my own mom's room and have her do the whole thing."

***A Step from Heaven* by An Na:** A first novel in which a Korean-American girl tells the story of her acculturation into American life beginning from the day she leaves Korea as a young child and ending when she is a young woman. While going up into the sky on the flight from Korea to America, four-year-old Young Ju concludes that they are on their way to heaven—America is heaven! After they arrive, however, Young Ju and her parents and little brother struggle in their new world, weighed down by the difficulty of learning English, their insular family life, and the traditions of the country they left behind. An Na's striking language authentically reflects the process of acculturation as Young Ju grows from a child to an adult.