

Summer Reading Assignment
English 3 & English 3 Honors

Students registered for regular level English 3 should choose any two titles from those listed below. Both of these novels should be read before the start of the school year.

Students registered for English 3 Honors must choose one starred (*) item and two other titles. All three of these novels should be read before the start of the school year.

We recommend that students take notes on their reading. Assessment of the required summer reading will take place in all English classes in September.

NOVELS

Invisible Man* - Ralph Ellison

This is a searing story of a black man's fervent quest for personal identity and social visibility that takes him on a journey through the Southern U.S. and later to New York City.

The Deerslayer* - James Fenimore Cooper

Recounting the story of the bloody conflict between the British and the French on the early North American frontier, this classic narrative was written in 1826 by the man who is today considered our first great American novelist.

Going After Cacciato – Tim O'Brien

Going After Cacciato captures the peculiar blend of horror and hallucinatory comedy that marked the Vietnam War.

Yellow Raft in Blue Water – Michael Dorris

In consecutive narratives beginning with fifteen-year-old Rayona, followed by her mother Christine and Ida, the family matriarch, three generations of Indian women offer varying perspectives of their lives on a Montana reservation.

The Chosen* - Chaim Potok

The Chosen chronicles the friendship between Danny Saunders, a boy from a Hasidic family, and the more assimilated Reuven Malter, as they come of age in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

The Color Purple – Alice Walker

The Color Purple is foremost the story of Celie, a poor barely literate Southern black woman who struggles to escape the brutality and degradation of her treatment by men.

An American Childhood – Annie Dillard

This autobiography is Annie Dillard's memoir of growing up in Pittsburgh in the 1950's.

View From the Bridge – Arthur Miller

In this Tony Award winning play, longshoreman Eddie Carone is obsessed with his niece, Catherine, and his unhealthy and inappropriate feelings for her are inflamed when his wife's relatives arrive from Italy.

This Side of Paradise* - F. Scott Fitzgerald

This story of a privileged but aimless young man traces his formative years in the Midwest and at Princeton, then follows him as he is dumped unceremoniously into WWI and an everyday world at complete odds with his lofty aspirations.

Animal Dreams – Barbara Kingsolver

Blending flashback, dreams, and Native American legends, *Animal Dreams* is a suspenseful love story and a moving exploration of life's largest commitments.

Their Eyes Were Watching God* - Zora Neale Hurston

Initially published in 1937, this novel is about a proud, independent black woman's quest for identity, a journey that takes her through three marriages and back to her roots.

China Boy – Gus Lee

Warm, funny and deeply moving, Gus Lee's semi-autobiographical account of growing up in a conflict-ridden family, unable to fully embrace either American or Chinese culture is an enthralling story of family relationships, the perils of boyhood, and the difficulty of being Chinese in 1950's San Francisco.