

Monroe Township High School

200 Schoolhouse Road · Monroe Township, NJ 08831

732.521.2882

www.monroe.k12.nj.us

June 2017

Dear Parents or Guardians:

The Language Arts Department of Monroe Township High School is dedicated to preparing college and career-ready students, but more importantly, fostering a love of reading that will last a lifetime. To achieve these goals, teachers have worked collaboratively to design a summer reading program that will provide students with a choice of high-interest literature that is linked by genre or theme to the grade-level curriculum. Students should choose a book from the recommended list and read as many books, articles, essays and other forms of text of their choice over the summer. Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to take notes and annotate text by using post-it notes or marking it directly (if the copy belongs to the student). On the attached pages are recommended titles for each grade level; students are encouraged to seek out books they want to read and continue to hone their personal reading preferences. Students will engage in class activities in the fall that utilize their range of reading, helping to build a community of readers in every classroom.

Books are available at the Monroe Township Public Library, local bookstores, or internet booksellers (Amazon, BN.com). Audio versions of many titles are also available through the Monroe Township Public Library. We strongly encourage parents to take an active role in helping their children select literature. In order to do this effectively, we recommend Good Reads (www.goodreads.com), Common Sense Media (www.common Sense Media.org), and School Library Journal (www.slj.com). These sites contain synopses, reviews, and recommended discussion points for thousands of titles. The librarians at the Monroe Township Public Library are also valuable resources to help find engaging titles.

This information will also be published on the district homepage. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you and enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Kelly F. Roselle, Ed.D.
Supervisor of Language Arts,
World Language, and Media Literacy

Excellence is Our Expectation

Monroe Township High School Summer Reading 2017

Synopsis provided by the descriptions available on the Monroe Township Public Library catalog.

Grade 9	
Title and Synopsis	Author(s)
<p>Pop <i>Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.</i></p>	Gordon Korman
<p>A Lesson Before Dying <i>Grant Wiggins, a college-educated man who returns to his hometown to teach, forms an unlikely bond with Jefferson, a young Black man convicted of murder and sentenced to death, when he is asked to impart his learning and pride to the condemned man.</i></p>	Ernest Gaines
<p>Big Mouth, Ugly Girl <i>When sixteen-year-old Matt is falsely accused of threatening to blow up his high school and his friends turn against him, an unlikely classmate comes to his aid.</i></p>	Joyce Carol Oates
<p>Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans <i>On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage -- and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. Don Brown's kinetic art and as-it-happens narrative capture both the tragedy and triumph of one of the worst natural disasters in American history.</i></p>	Don Brown
<p>Scythe: The Arc of Scythe Book 1 <i>In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed ('gleaned') by professional reapers ('scythes'). Two teens must compete with each other to become a scythe--a position neither of them wants. The one who becomes a scythe must kill the one who doesn't.</i></p>	Neal Shusterman
<p>Eleanor & Park <i>Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.</i></p>	Rainbow Rowell
<p>Holding up the Universe <i>A boy with face blindness and a girl who struggles with weight fall in love.</i></p>	Jennifer Niven
<p>In The Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives <i>An examination of American slavery through the true stories of five enslaved people who were considered the property of some of our best-known presidents.</i></p>	Kenneth C. Davis
<p>Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal <i>A journalist explores the homogenization of American culture and the impact of the fast food industry on modern-day health, economy, politics, popular culture, entertainment, and food production.</i></p>	Eric Schlosser
<p>The Final Four <i>Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.</i></p>	Paul Volponi

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Grade 10	
Title and Synopsis	Author(s)
<p>Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School At a Time <i>Traces how the author, having been rescued and resuscitated by Himalayan villagers after a failed attempt to climb K2, worked to build schools that would benefit the young girls who were forbidden an education by Taliban restrictions.</i></p>	Greg Mortenson & Oliver Relin
<p>All American Boys <i>When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.</i></p>	Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
<p>Every Day <i>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.</i></p>	David Levithan
<p>The Sun is Also a Star <i>Two teens--Daniel, the son of Korean shopkeepers, and Natasha, whose family is here illegally from Jamaica--cross paths in New York City on an eventful day in their lives--Daniel is on his way to an interview with a Yale alum, Natasha is meeting with a lawyer to try and prevent her family's deportation to Jamaica--and fall in love.</i></p>	Nicola Yoon
<p>The 5th Wave <i>Cassie Sullivan, the survivor of an alien invasion, must rescue her young brother from the enemy with help from a boy who may be one of them.</i></p>	Rick Yancey
<p>Black Like Me <i>In the Deep South of the 1950s, a color line was etched in blood across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Journalist John Howard Griffin decided to cross that line. Using medication that darkened his skin to deep brown, he exchanged his privileged life as a Southern white man for the disenfranchised world of an unemployed black man. What happened to John Howard Griffin, from the outside and within himself, as he made his way through the segregated Deep South is recorded in this searing work of nonfiction.</i></p>	John Howard Griffin
<p>The Serpent King <i>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.</i></p>	Jeff Zenther
<p>Hush <i>Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.</i></p>	Jacqueline Woodson
<p>Monster <i>While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.</i></p>	Walter Dean Myers
<p>The Good Braider <i>Follows Viola as she survives brutality in war-torn Sudan, makes a perilous journey, lives as a refugee in Egypt, and finally reaches Portland, Maine, where her quest for freedom and security is hampered by memories of past horrors and the traditions her mother and other Sudanese adults hold dear. Includes historical facts and a map of Sudan.</i></p>	Terry Farish

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Grade 11	
Title and Synopsis	Author(s)
<p><i>Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity</i> <i>Abdul, a reflective and enterprising Muslim teenager, sees fortune in the recyclable garbage of richer people. Asha, a woman of formidable wit and deep scars from a rural childhood, has identified an alternate route to the middle class: political corruption. And even the poorest Annawadians, like Kalu, a fifteen-year-old scrap-metal thief, believe themselves inching closer to good times. But then, as the tenderest individual hopes intersect with the greatest global truths, the true contours of a competitive age are revealed.</i></p>	Katherine Boo
<p><i>All American Boys</i> <i>When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.</i></p>	Jason Reynolds & Brandon Kiely
<p><i>Where'd You Go, Bernadette</i> <i>When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her.</i></p>	Maria Semple
<p><i>The Architect's Apprentice</i> <i>A colorful, magical tale set during the height of the Ottoman Empire. In her latest novel, Turkey's preeminent female writer spins an epic tale spanning nearly a century in the life of the Ottoman Empire.</i></p>	Elif Shafak
<p><i>The Unexpected Everything</i> <i>When a scandal surrounding her father upsets all her carefully laid plans for her future, Andie must learn to accept a new relationship with her father and to embrace a little chaos in her life.</i></p>	Morgan Matson
<p><i>Something Like Normal</i> <i>When Travis returns home from Afghanistan, his parents are splitting up, his brother has stolen his girlfriend and car, and he has nightmares of his best friend getting killed. But when he runs into Harper, a girl who has despised him since middle school, life actually starts looking up.</i></p>	Trish Doller
<p><i>A Taste for Monsters</i> <i>In 1888 seventeen-year-old Evelyn Fallow, herself disfigured by the phosphorus in the match factory where she worked, has been hired as a maid to Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man--but when the Jack the Ripper murders begin she and Merrick find themselves haunted by the ghosts of the slain women, and Evelyn is caught up in the mystery of Jack's identity.</i></p>	Matthew J. Kirby
<p><i>Nimona</i> <i>In this graphic novel, Lord Blackheart, a villain with a vendetta, and his sidekick, Nimona, an impulsive young shapeshifter, must prove to the kingdom that Sir Goldenloin and the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are.</i></p>	Noelle Stevenson
<p><i>The Color of Water</i> <i>Who was Ruth McBride Jordan? Not even her son knew the answer to that question until he embarked on a twelve-year journey that changed himself and his family forever. Her son James tells of growing up with inner confusions, chaos, and financial hardships; of his own flirtation with drugs and violence; of the love and faith his mother gave her twelve children; and of his belated coming to terms with her Jewish heritage. The result is a powerful portrait of growing up, a meditation on race and identity, and a poignant, beautifully crafted hymn from a son to his mother.</i></p>	James McBride
<p><i>The Glass Castle</i> <i>The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.</i></p>	Jeanette Walls

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Grade 12

Title and Synopsis	Author(s)
<p>Orphan Train <i>Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to 'aging out' out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse. As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be.</i></p>	Christina Baker-Kline
<p>Dracula <i>The vampire novel that started it all, Bram Stoker's Dracula probes deeply into human identity, sanity, and the dark corners of Victorian sexuality and desire. When Jonathan Harker visits Transylvania to help Count Dracula purchase a London house, he makes horrifying discoveries about his client.</i></p>	Bram Stoker
<p>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy <i>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.</i></p>	Douglas Adams
<p>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance <i>One of the most important and influential books written in the past half-century, Robert M. Pirsig's Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance is a powerful, moving, and penetrating examination of how we live, and a breathtaking meditation on how to live better. Here is the book that transformed a generation: an unforgettable narration of a summer motorcycle trip across America's Northwest, undertaken by a father and his young son.</i></p>	Robert L. Persig
<p>Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City <i>A Harvard sociologist examines the challenge of eviction as a cause of poverty in America, revealing how people are forced from their homes and reduced to cycles of extreme disadvantage that are reinforced by legal systems.</i></p>	Matthew Desmond
<p>Rogue Lawyer <i>A nomadic lawyer because of frequent death threats, Sebastian Rudd takes on a case involving a brain-damaged young man accused of murdering two little girls.</i></p>	John Grisham
<p>Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress <i>At the height of Mao's infamous Cultural Revolution in China, two boys are exiled to the countryside for "re-education." The boys find their salvation in two discoveries: a hidden cache of Chinese translations of Western classics and the beautiful daughter of the local tailor.</i></p>	Dai Sijie
<p>A Stir of Echoes <i>Tom Wallace lived an ordinary life, until a chance event awakened psychic abilities he never knew he possessed. Now, he's hearing the private thoughts of the people around him—and learning shocking secrets he never wanted to know. But as Tom's existence becomes a waking nightmare, even greater jolts are in store, as he becomes the unwilling recipient of a compelling message from beyond the grave.</i></p>	Richard Matheson
<p>Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders <i>In the summer of 1969, in Los Angeles, a series of brutal, seemingly random murders captured headlines across America. The murders marked the end of the sixties and became an immediate symbol of the dark underside of that era. Follow the crime, investigation and trial in this best-selling true crime book.</i></p>	Vincent Bugliosi and Curt Gentry
<p>The Underground Railroad <i>Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hell for all the slaves, but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape.</i></p>	Colson Whitehead

Excellence is Our Expectation

AP: Language and Composition (Grade 11)

Students are required to read the title below AND at least one book from the Grade 11 list.

Title	Author
<p><i>The Life That You Can Save</i> <i>Arguing that our current response to world poverty is not only insufficient but ethically indefensible, philosopher Peter Singer offers a seven-point plan that mixes personal philanthropy (figuring how much to give and how best to give it), local activism (spreading the word in your community), and political awareness (contacting your representatives to ensure that your nation's foreign aid is really directed to the world's poorest people).</i></p>	Peter Singer

AP: Literature and Composition (Grade 12)

Students are required to read BOTH titles below.

Title	Author
<p><i>Mother Night</i> <i>Truth and justice are blurred when American spy Howard Campbell is tried in Israel as a Nazi war criminal after World War II</i></p>	Kurt Vonnegut
<p><i>Sanctuary</i> <i>A powerful novel examining the nature of true evil, through the prisms of mythology, local lore, and hard-boiled detective fiction. This is the dark, at times brutal, story of the kidnapping of Mississippi debutante Temple Drake, who introduces her own form of venality into the Memphis underworld where she is being held.</i></p>	William Faulkner