

Summer Reading 2017

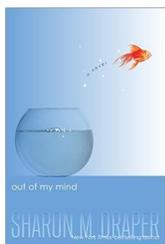
Reading is a workout for the brain that brings many benefits, not the least of which is having a common story to discuss with friends you haven't seen for a few months.

This summer, all of you will be reading **two** books: one “community read” that your entire grade-level will read, and one geared specifically to the English course you will be taking in the fall. The course summer reading will be extensively discussed, analyzed, and written about during the first two weeks of school, so you want to come prepared with discussion questions and quotes to facilitate those discussions.

Community Read

In our community reads, we will explore the theme of voices for the voiceless. Both of the selected novels explore protagonists whose stories are often ignored.

Incoming 9th and 10th graders

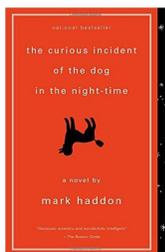


***Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper**

[iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)

This year, all of La Porte has been invited to read this novel as part of the “One Community, One Book” program. We can see why. It is a poetic, beautiful novel exploring the life of eleven-year-old Melody, a brilliant girl who, despite having a photographic memory, cannot talk, walk, or write. The story examines how she finds her voice. As you read, highlight or underline parts of the book that stand out to you because of their power, their significance, or their beauty. When you finish reading, make a list of five things that you would like to discuss about the book with your teachers and peers. These five “Discussion Items” should be your own questions, comments, or feelings. Be ready to share these during Orientation Week!

Incoming 11th and 12th graders



***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon**

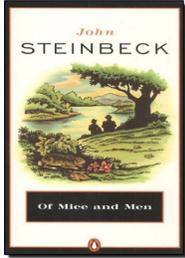
[iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)

Amazon introduces the book with the following blurb: “Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.” I can tell you that, once I picked up the novel a few years ago, I could not put it down until I finished it. Enjoy the compelling read of another voiceless young character who finds his voice while solving a mystery. As you read, jot down 8-10 quotes that stand out to you for either their power, their significance, or their beauty. After reading, write 5-6 questions based on either the content or style of the novel. Be ready to share those quotes and questions during Orientation!

For the rest of your summer reading, see what you will be reading based on the class you will be taking during the fall semester.

Introduction to Literature and Composition (9th Grade)

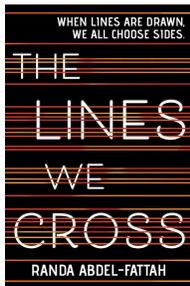
***Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck | [iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)**



Set in California during the Great Depression, this short novel tells the story of George and Lennie, two unlikely friends who have a dream that one day things will be different. As you read, highlight or underline parts of the book that stand out to you. You may highlight sections that you find powerful, beautiful, or meaningful, or you may highlight sections that you find confusing, strange, or unexpected. After you finish reading the novel, complete the following short writing assignment: In about ½ a page (and no more than 1 page), describe a connection that you see between *Of Mice and Men* and another story. This connection can be with a book, a movie, a TV show, or a real life story. Any kind of story will do. You might see a connection between characters, plot, setting, tone, or even the meaning of the story. Bring your short composition with you to the first day of Introduction to Literature and Composition.

Literature and Composition (10th Grade)

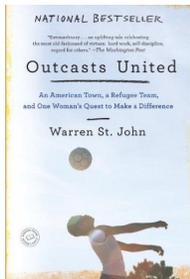
***The Lines We Cross* by Randa Abdel Fattah | [iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)**



It's Romeo and Juliet revisited, but the lines being crossed are not merely familial: the lines are cultural and political as well. Set in a prep school in Australia, the story explores the developing relationship between Michael, whose parents are on the front lines of anti-immigrant protests, and Mina, an Afghanistan refugee who struggles to fit in at her new prep school and who changes the way that Michael views the world. As you read, jot down 8-10 quotes related to the themes discussed in *Romeo and Juliet* this year or to the ways that relationships affect political ideas. After reading, craft 4-5 discussion questions on both the content and style of the novel. Bring this to your first day of Literature and Composition!

The Underdog and the American Dream

***Outcasts United* by Warren St. Jean | [iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)**

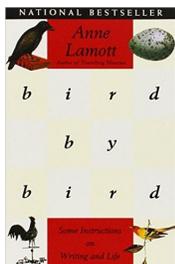


Please read the full edition, not the "young reader's edition."

Warren St. Jean chronicles a soccer team in Clarkston, Atlanta, home of refugees from all over the world. Coached by the indomitable Luma, the team comes together in ways that provide hope in dark times. I've loved the initial chapters, and look forward to discussing the "underdog theme" as it emerges in this when you return in the fall. Please jot down about 1-2 pages of significant quotes relating either to the theme of the American Dream or the idea of rooting for the underdogs, and bring those to class on the first day we meet. When you finish reading, craft 4-6 questions on the content and or style of the piece. Be prepared to discuss your lists on day one of classes!

Rhetoric

***Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott | [iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)**



Irreverent but wise, Anne Lamott deconstructs the "magic" of writing for the everyday reader. Please read this book over the summer, jotting down about a page of discussion questions and a page of powerful quotes related to writing (or to thinking like a writer) as you go. Be ready to discuss your list on day one of class, as we will focus both on her tips for writing and on how she constructs the text!

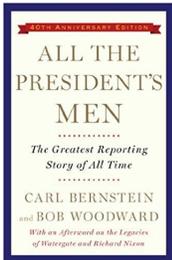
Passions and Pastimes



Ready Player One by Ernest Cline | [iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)

What do you get when you cross an eccentric millionaire, 80's video game and music nostalgia, and a Virtual Reality winner-gets-billions competition eerily reminiscent of Hunger Games? You get this novel. As you read, jot down 8-10 quotes that strike you for their nostalgia, significance, power, or beauty. After you read, craft 4-5 discussion questions around the content and style of the novel. Hint: how do our passions and pastimes shape our lives?

Journalism and New Media

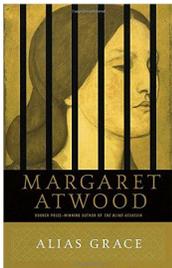


All the President's Men by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein | [iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)

Why does journalism matter? Read the compelling story of the journalists who exposed corruption and brought Watergate to light. As you read, jot down 8-10 quotes related to the challenges and political pressures journalists face in the quest to reveal the truth.

When you have completed your reading, craft 4-6 discussion questions on the content and style of the text.

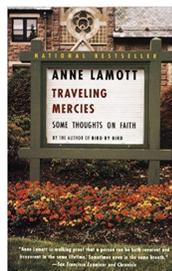
Women Writers



Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood | [iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)

Atwood's novel is inspired by the true story of Grace Marks, a housemaid and immigrant from Ireland who was imprisoned in 1843, perhaps wrongly, for the murder of her employer. As you read, look for developing themes of power, identity, and the sources of evil. Collect 8-10 passages that seem to speak to these issues and be ready to analyze their significance. After reading, craft 4-5 discussion questions based on your observations of the novel's content or style.

Spiritual Autobiography



Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamott | [iBooks](#) | [Amazon](#)

In a memoir studded with humor and poetry, Lamott tells how, against all odds, she came to believe in God, and, even more miraculously, in herself. As you read, mark 8-10 passages that strike you for their content or style. After reading, write a 2-page personal response to Lamott's memoir.