

2025-2026 Honors English Summer Reading

12th grade honors summer reading – different perspective. *Pick two of the six

Stalking Jack the Ripper by Kerri Maniscalco – Mystery. 337 pages. T/W dead bodies (graphic), drug abuse, medical images. ISBN 978-0316273497

<https://www.amazon.com/Stalking-Jack-Ripper-Kerri-Maniscalco/dp/031627349X>

Seventeen-year-old Audrey Rose Wadsworth was born a lord's daughter, with a life of wealth and privilege stretched out before her. But between the social teas and silk dress fittings, she leads a forbidden secret life.

Against her stern father's wishes and society's expectations, Audrey often slips away to her uncle's laboratory to study the gruesome practice of forensic medicine. When her work on a string of savagely killed corpses drags Audrey into the investigation of a serial murderer, her search for answers brings her close to her own sheltered world.

Dear Justyce by Nic Stone – Dear Martin #2. Realistic Fiction. 288 pages. T/W domestic violence. ISBN 978-1984829665

<https://www.amazon.com/Dear-Justyce-Nic-Stone/dp/1984829661>

Shortly after teenager Quan enters a not guilty plea for the shooting death of a police officer, he is placed in a holding cell to await trial. Through a series of flashbacks and letters to Justyce, the protagonist of *Dear Martin*, Quan's story unravels.

From a troubled childhood and bad timing to a coerced confession and prejudiced police work, Nic Stone's newest novel takes an unflinching look at the flawed practices and ideologies that discriminate against African American boys and minorities in the American justice system.

A Land of Permanent Goodbyes by Atia Abawi – Historical Fiction. 288 pages. ISBN 978-0399546839

<https://www.amazon.com/Land-Permanent-Goodbyes-Atia-Abawi/dp/0399546839>

In a country ripped apart by war, Tareq lives with his big and loving family . . . until the bombs strike. His city is in ruins. His life is destroyed. And those who have survived are left to figure out their uncertain future.

In the wake of destruction, he's threatened by Daesh fighters and witnesses a public beheading. Tareq's family knows that to continue to stay alive, they must leave. As they travel as refugees from Syria to Turkey to Greece, facing danger at every turn, Tareq must find the resilience and courage to complete his harrowing journey.

But while this is one family's story, it is also the timeless tale of all wars, of all tragedy, and of all strife. When you are a refugee, success is outliving your loss.

Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo – Fantasy. 465 pages. T/W graphic violence, genocide. ISBN 978-1627795098

<https://www.amazon.com/Six-Crows-leigh-bardugo/dp/162779509X>

Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price—and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone.

A convict with a thirst for revenge

A sharpshooter who can't walk away from a wager
A runaway with a privileged past
A spy known as the Wraith
A Heartrender using her magic to survive the slums
A thief with a gift for unlikely escapes

Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury – Science Fiction, Classic Literature. 249 pages. ISBN 978-1451673319

<https://www.amazon.com/Fahrenheit-451-Ray-Bradbury/dp/1451673310>

Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson – Horror, Classic Literature. 205 pages. ISBN 978-0199536221

<https://www.amazon.com/Strange-Jekyll-Classics-Stevenson-Paperback/dp/B00YDJ4I1Y>

Robert Louis Stevenson's short novel, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, first published in 1886, became an instant classic, a Gothic horror originating in a feverish nightmare whose hallucinatory setting in the back streets of London gripped a nation mesmerized by crime and violence. Its revelatory ending is one of the most original and thrilling in English Literature. This new edition of Stevenson's most famous work includes three additional short stories, two short essays, and extracts from contemporary writing on psychological disorders. The introduction considers the reasons for the book's popularity, “the double,” and psychoanalytic interpretations, as well as crime, sex, class, and urbanism in the 1880s. Appendixes provide contextual historical material by Henry Maudsley, Frederic Myers, and W.T. Stead. This edition also provides an up-to-date bibliography and full notes, including details of the initial responses of Stevenson's contemporaries, such as John Addington Symonds, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Rider Haggard.

11th grade honors summer reading – growing up/coming of age *Pick two of the six

One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus – Mystery. 416 pages. **T/W drug use.** ISBN 978-1524714680

<https://www.amazon.com/One-Us-Lying-Karen-McManus/dp/1524714682>

Pay close attention and you might solve this.
On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention.
Bronwyn, **the brain**, is Yale-bound and never breaks a rule.
Addy, **the beauty**, is the picture-perfect homecoming princess.
Nate, **the criminal**, is already on probation for dealing.
Cooper, **the athlete**, is the all-star baseball pitcher.
And Simon, **the outcast**, is the creator of Bayview High's notorious gossip app.

Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention Simon's dead. And

according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Monday, he died. But on Tuesday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they the perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose?

Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you would go to protect them.

Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell – Romance. 483 pages. T/W eating disorders, alcohol use. ISBN 978-1250042613

<https://www.amazon.com/Fangirl-Novel-Rainbow-Rowell/dp/1250042615>

Cath is a Simon Snow fan. Okay, the whole world is a Simon Snow fan.... But for Cath, being a fan is her life—and she's really good at it. She and her twin, Wren, ensconced themselves in the Simon Snow series when they were just kids; it's what got them through their mother leaving.

Reading. Rereading. Hanging out in Simon Snow forums, writing Simon Snow fanfiction, dressing up like the characters for every movie premiere. Cath's sister has mostly grown away from fandom, but Cath can't let go. She doesn't want to.

Now that they're going to college, Wren has told Cath she doesn't want to be roommates. Cath is on her own, completely outside of her comfort zone. She's got a surly roommate with a charming, always-around boyfriend; a fiction-writing professor who thinks fanfiction is the end of the civilized world; a handsome classmate who only wants to talk about words... and she can't stop worrying about her dad, who's loving and fragile and has never really been alone.

For Cath, the question is: Can she do this? Can she make it without Wren holding her hand? Is she ready to start living her own life? And does she even want to move on if it means leaving Simon Snow behind?

Mosquitoland by David Arnold – Realistic Fiction. 336 pages. ISBN 978-8817094245

<https://www.amazon.com/Mosquitoland-David-Arnold/dp/8817094242>

After the sudden collapse of her family, Mim Malone is dragged from her home in northern Ohio to the "wastelands" of Mississippi, where she lives in a medicated milieu with her dad and new stepmom. Before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back in Cleveland.

So she ditches her new life and hops aboard a northbound Greyhound bus to her real home and her real mother, meeting a quirky cast of fellow travelers along the way. But when her thousand-mile journey takes a few turns she could never see coming, Mim must confront her own demons, redefining her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

In the Wild Light by Jeff Zentner – Realistic Fiction. 432 pages. ISBN 978-1839130847

<https://www.amazon.com/Wild-Light-Zentner-Jeff/dp/1839130849>

Life in a small Appalachian town is not easy. Cash lost his mother to an opioid addiction and his Papaw is dying slowly from emphysema. Dodging drug dealers and watching out for his best friend, Delaney, is second nature. He's been spending his summer mowing lawns while she works at Dairy Queen.

But when Delaney manages to secure both of them full rides to an elite prep school in Connecticut, Cash will have to grapple with his need to protect and love Delaney, and his love for the grandparents who saved him and the town he would have to leave behind.

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry – Historical Drama, Classic Literature. 151 pages. ISBN 978-0451161376

https://www.amazon.com/Raisin-Sun-Lorraine-Hansberry/dp/0451161378/ref=monarch_sidesheet

"The play that changed American theater forever... A seething interplay of past and present, of wisdom and passion." First produced in 1959, *A Raisin in the Sun* was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and hailed as a watershed in American drama. Not only a pioneering work by an African-American playwright - Lorraine Hansberry's play was also a radically new representation of black life, resolutely authentic, fiercely unsentimental, and unflinching in its vision of what happens to people whose dreams are constantly deferred. In her portrait of an embattled Chicago family, Hansberry anticipated issues that range from generational clashes to the civil rights and women's movements. She also posed the essential questions - about identity, justice, and moral responsibility - at the heart of these great struggles. The result is an American classic.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen – Romance. 208 pages, Classic Literature. ISBN 978-1727118872

<https://www.amazon.com/Pride-Prejudice-Special-Austen-Collection/dp/1727118871/>

In a publishing career that spanned less than a decade, Jane Austen revolutionized the literary romance, using it as a stage from which to address issues of gender politics and class-consciousness rarely expressed in her day. The Collection included 'Sense and Sensibility', 'Pride and Prejudice', 'Mansfield Park', 'Emma', 'Northanger Abbey', 'Persuasion', and 'Lady Susan' - represent all of Austen's mature work as a novelist, and provide the reader with an introduction to the world she and her memorable characters inhabited. Also added to this beautiful collection the readers can find the Letters of Jane Austen and a Memoir made by James Edward Austen-Leigh.

10th grade honors summer reading – survival *Pick two of the six

Legend by Marie Lu – Science Fiction. 305 pages. T/W torture. ISBN 978-0142422076

<https://www.amazon.com/Legend-Marie-Lu/dp/014242207X>

What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem.

From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths—until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.

I Am Still Alive by Kate Alice Marshall – Thriller. 331 pages ISBN 978-0425291009

<https://www.amazon.com/Still-Alive-Kate-Alice-Marshall/dp/0425291006>

After - Jess is alone. Her cabin has burned to the ground. She knows if she doesn't act fast, the cold will kill her before she has time to worry about food. But she is still alive—for now.

Before - Jess hadn't seen her survivalist, off-the-grid dad in over a decade. But after a car crash killed

her mother and left her injured, she was forced to move to his cabin in the remote Canadian wilderness. Just as Jess was beginning to get to know him, a secret from his past paid them a visit, leaving her father dead and Jess stranded.

After - With only her father's dog for company, Jess must forage and hunt for food, build shelter, and keep herself warm. Some days it feels like the wild is out to destroy her, but she's stronger than she ever imagined.

Jess will survive. She has to. She knows who killed her father... and she wants revenge.

Dry by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman – Science Fiction. 390 pages. ISBN 978-1481481977

<https://www.amazon.com/Dry-Neal-Shusterman/dp/1481481975>

When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family in this harrowing story of survival,

The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone's lives have become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, don't fill up your pool, don't take long showers.

Until the taps run dry.

Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don't return and her life—and the life of her brother—is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she's going to survive.

Not Even Bones by Rebecca Schaeffer – Horror. 368 pages. ISBN 978-0358108252

<https://www.amazon.com/Not-Even-Bones-Market-Monsters/dp/035810825X>

Nita doesn't murder supernatural beings and sell their body parts on the internet—her mother does that. Nita just dissects the bodies after they've been “acquired.” But when her mom brings home a live specimen, Nita decides she wants out — dissecting living people is a step too far.

But when she tries to save her mother's victim, she ends up sold on the black market in his place — because Nita herself is a supernatural being. Now Nita is on the other side of the bars, and there is no line she won't cross to escape and make sure no one can ever capture her again.

Nita did a good deed, and it cost her everything. Now she's going to do a lot of bad deeds to get it all back.

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens – Historical Fiction, Classic Literature. 489 pages. ISBN 978-0199536238

https://www.amazon.com/Tale-Cities-Oxford-Worlds-Classics/dp/0199536236/ref=monarch_sidesheet

Unjustly imprisoned for 18 years in the Bastille, Dr. Alexandre Manette is reunited with his daughter, Lucie, and safely transported from France to England. It would seem that they could take up the threads of their lives in peace. As fate would have it though, the pair are summoned to the Old Bailey to testify against a young Frenchman — Charles Darnay — falsely accused of treason. Strangely enough, Darnay bears an uncanny resemblance to another man in the courtroom, the dissolute lawyer's

clerk Sydney Carton. It is a coincidence that saves Darnay from certain doom more than once.

This classic novel is brilliantly plotted, rich in drama, romance, and heroics that culminate in a daring prison escape in the guillotine's shadow. "*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times*" when injustice was met by a lust for vengeance, and rarely was a distinction made between the innocent and the guilty. In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Dickens critiques both the conditions leading up to the French Revolution (abuse of power by the aristocracy) and the Revolution itself (the Reign of Terror), offering dualities of political commentary as the ultimate backdrop for an engrossing work of historical fiction.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe – Historical Fiction, Classic Literature. 320 pages. ISBN 978-0451530776

<https://www.amazon.com/Robinson-Crusoe-Illustrated-Classic-Anniversary/dp/194946069X/>

Daniel Defoe's classic tale of a solitary castaway's survival and triumph, widely considered to be the first English novel.

"I, poor miserable Robinson Crusoe, being shipwrecked, came on shore on this dismal unfortunate island, all the rest of the ship's company being drowned. In despair of any relief, I saw nothing but death before me..."

Thus Crusoe begins his journal in Daniel Defoe's classic novel: the vividly realistic account of a solitary castaway's triumph over nature—and over the fears, self-doubt and loneliness that are parts of human nature.