

# COMMODORE CHRONICLE



VOLUME 2122

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Staff - High School

Staff-Middle School

## THE ADDAMS FAMILY

**THIS MARCH, THE FHS DRAMA CLUB PRESENTED "THE ADDAMS FAMILY" MUSICAL. THE CAST WAS LED BY MANY SENIORS AND EXPERIENCED DRAMA CLUB MEMBERS. HOWEVER, MANY NEW MEMBERS IN EVERY GRADE PARTICIPATED. IF YOU MISSED THE SHOW, YOU REALLY MISSED A FANTASTIC (AND SPOOKY) EVENING OF SINGING AND DANCING. A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO THE STAGE CREW AND ART CLUB.**

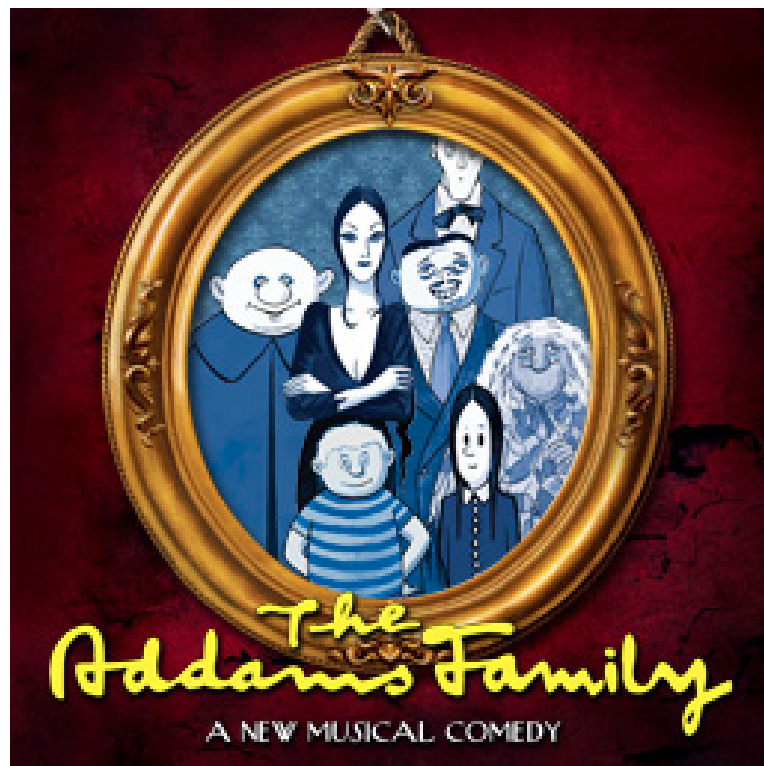
Ryan McWilliams and Alexandra Pohodich lead the cast as Gomez and Morticia Addams. The pair tangoed into our dark hearts, as well as the sewers of Paris, to shine on stage for each performance. Ginya Lombard took on the role of Wednesday, all grown up and in love with Lucas Beinke, played by newcomer, Lucas Giovannelli. Uncle Fester played by Wayne Peffer, Grandma played by Trystan Strickler, brought a bit of comic relief to

the creepy and kooky bunch. Middle school students Bryce Leachman (Lurch) and Gus Lion (Pugsly), rounded out the Addams Family. As the normal family from Ohio, Zane Whitehead and Maura Eckman as Mal and Alice Beinke, got more than they bargained for when they arrived. Ancestor Soloists were Lanie Howard and Leah Hollis, and the Ancestors were Sara Davies, Savannah Ford, Kelsey Coppetti, and Krishna Patel.

The cast was supported by a wonderful crew led by Student Director/Choreographer Maggie Varndell, Sound Crew Brayden Basso and Bonnie Little, Lighting Crew Gavin Sinal, Abby Sinal, Alauna Kessler and Backstage Crew, Hailey Bolen. The Art Club created a wonderful set to help showcase the talented actors and performers. Congratulations to the entire cast and all who participated. A special thanks goes to our supportive audiences and families.









# ATTENTION JUNIORS!!!!

## Prepare for Your Senior Year

### **10 Benefits of Community College**

**By Indeed Editorial Team**

February 11, 2022

Two-year community colleges are popular alternatives to traditional four-year colleges and universities, giving potential students options to pursue a higher education. Many community colleges offer course credits that transfer to four-year colleges, programs that can be completed in two years and schedules that offer flexibility to working or non-traditional students. In this article, we explore what community college is and its advantages so you can decide if it's the right choice for you.

### **What is a community college?**

Community colleges are two-year, postsecondary schools that provide education programs leading to associate degrees, professional training or certification in a vocational field. A community college, often called “junior college,” often provides academic programs that track toward a four-year degree at a college or university.

## **What is an associate degree?**

A community college typically offers students a two-year degree known as an associate degree. There are four types of associate degrees, each of which helps you prepare for different academic fields and occupations. Some are meant to be transferred to a four-year institution while others are career-specific and prepare you for employment after graduation.

### **1. Associate of Arts (A.A.)**

A.A. degrees focus on general education and liberal arts in fields like English, history, economics, fine art, music, psychology and sociology. These degrees usually transfer to a four-year institution where they count as preliminary studies toward a bachelor's degree or higher. You have to take general education courses, but your electives build a strong foundation in subjects such as communication, natural science, history, art and music.

### **2. Associate of Applied Arts (A.A.A.)**

An A.A.A. degree has similar requirements to an A.A. degree, but the focus is more vocational. You would pursue an A.A.A. degree if you were serious about working as a graphic artist, for example, but have no plans to transfer to a four-year institution. Your electives in this field would be more career-specific, such as advanced graphic design classes or art education.

### **3. Associate of Science (A.S.)**

Like an A.A. degree, an A.S. degree is considered a transfer degree. The A.S. degree prepares you for fields such as medicine, engineering, computer science and business. You take general education courses but your electives are focused more on science and math.

### **4. Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)**

An A.A.S. degree is more career-focused and, like an A.A.A. degree, is not designed to be transferred. This degree prepares you for employment immediately upon graduation. You might pursue an A.A.S. degree if you were interested in working as a chef, an early childhood educator, a medical assistant, or a welder. While many community colleges offer A.A.S. degree programs, they're more common at [trade schools](#).

## **Reasons to attend a community college**

Consider the advantages of attending community college to determine if it's the right educational path for you:

### **1. Cost of tuition**

Tuition costs of community colleges are often lower than four-year colleges or universities. Many community colleges offer reduced rates for in-state students, making postsecondary education programs more affordable for students who are pursuing two-year degrees. Community colleges may also provide certification programs at lower tuition costs than two-year and four-year degree programs.

## **2. Options for financial aid**

Along with lower tuition costs, most community colleges offer financial aid incentives for students who need assistance paying for college tuition, materials and even transportation or housing. Students can apply for special grant programs or student loan programs that sometimes have lower interest rates than traditional student loans.

## **3. Greater flexibility**

Attending a community college offers students a way to explore higher education at their own pace. This is especially true for students who may have struggled in high school or who aren't sure what they want to study or if college is affordable. Many junior colleges offer part-time academic coursework, allowing students to attend college classes a few days per week and work a full- or part-time job.

Flexibility also can provide a greater school-life balance. Students can build class schedules around their personal life, giving them a healthier balance between school and personal events or work. Many community colleges also provide day and night classes, giving students more ways to balance their personal or work obligations with their academic obligations.

## **4. Trade and vocational focuses**

Most community colleges also offer vocational training programs in addition to associate degree programs. Students who pursue trades in technology, engineering, health care and other vocations have many opportunities to attend specifically designed courses, so they can begin their careers after completing their education. Many of these vocational studies include programs that enable students to earn professional



certifications in a shorter time than traditional two-year and four-year degrees.

## **5. STEM education opportunities**

Many community colleges have associate degree programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), leading to careers in demand by employers. A foundation in STEM subjects allows you to solve problems, develop new ideas and conduct research. The two-year degree program helps you get started quicker in your [STEM-related career](#). Many junior colleges work with local industries and businesses to promote job placement with your new degree.

## **6. Ability to transfer credits**

Even though community colleges don't offer four-year degrees, many provide admissions agreements with public and state colleges that let students transfer their credits toward completing a bachelor's degree. As long as you meet the transferring university's qualification requirements, you can earn your two-year degree at a community college and then transfer for your bachelor's. This is also a more affordable option for many students, too, making community colleges highly advantageous.

## **7. Smaller class sizes**

Most community colleges have smaller classes than traditional universities. This can make it easier for students to get personalized instruction, additional academic support and extra time with instructors to succeed in their coursework. Another benefit to smaller class sizes is the ability to connect more with other students, allowing you to form relationships that can be supportive of your development and academic success.

With smaller classes, instructors can develop lessons that incorporate all their students' learning styles. Additionally, since community colleges

don't require instructors to participate in research and publication activities like universities often do, they can provide additional opportunities for students to seek academic support.

### **8. Growing number of college amenities**

More community colleges are adopting many of the same amenities that traditional universities and four-year colleges offer. For instance, some community colleges may have dorms like four-year universities do, along with other amenities that support college students. Food courts, sports complexes, student recreation centers and other university-style elements are making community colleges much more attractive to prospective students.

### **9. Opportunities for online classes**

Community colleges are also expanding online opportunities, making digital learning more accessible to students. In the past, junior colleges had limited opportunities for taking classes online, but with the growth in technical applications in careers and education, many junior colleges are including more approaches to online learning. This can be important for students who may have busy schedules and need to take one or two online classes to fit their education into their schedules.

### **10. Academic and personal support**

Since community colleges tend to be smaller, they often have more support services for students. Financial and academic advisors, instructors and career mentors help students navigate their post-secondary education. Many of the instructors at junior colleges also have more availability to provide assistance and support to students who need extra help in both their education and personal life. Support services like these can help make attending community college a positive experience.

**Check out the local community colleges**

**Community College of Beaver County**

<https://www.ccbc.edu/>

Community College of Allegheny County

<https://www.ccac.edu/>

Westmoreland County Community College

<https://westmoreland.edu/>

# SPOTLIGHT on WCCC



WESTMORELAND  
COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Westmoreland County Community College

<https://westmoreland.edu/>

YOUNGWOOD



ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER



FAYETTE COUNTY



INDIANA COUNTY



LATROBE

MURRYSVILLE





NEW KENSINGTON



PUBLIC TRAINING SAFETY CENTER



## Programs of Study: Degrees, Certificates & Diplomas

Westmoreland offers the associate of arts degree (AA), the associate of fine arts degree (AFA), the associate of applied science degree (AAS), the associate of science degree (AS), diploma and certificate programs.



**The associate of arts degree requires 60 credits, including 36-40 credit hours of general education courses. This degree is designed for students who are planning to transfer.**

**The associate of science degree is an academic transfer degree designed for students who want to pursue a bachelor of science (BS) degree at a four-year institution. The AS degree requires the completion of at least 60 credit hours and provides students with a foundation in science, math, and technology.**

**The associate of applied science degree requires at least 60 credit hours. Students take 15 hours of general education, one computer technology course and specific program courses.**

**The associate of fine arts degree requires 61 credits. Students**

**complete 19 general education credits in communication, mathematics, and social and natural sciences. Students also complete 24 credits in the major.**

**Diploma programs require a minimum of 30 credit hours and are designed for students interested in specific career courses. Certificate programs consist of 15-23 credits and are specialized, short-term programs which focus on work force entry and/or development of specialized career skills.**

## **Tuition and Fees**

The following may be used as a guide in calculating costs for the semester. The college reserves the right to change tuition and fees without prior notification before the beginning of any academic session.

### **2021-22 Academic Year**

#### **Tuition per credit: 1-11 credits, 19 or more credits**

- Westmoreland County residents - \$133 per credit
- Out-of-County Residents - \$266 per credit
- Out-of-State Residents - \$399 per credit

#### **Flat Rate: 12-18 credits**

- Westmoreland County residents - \$1,995
- Out-of-County Residents - \$3,990
- Out-of-State Residents - \$5,985

### **Fees**

- General Fee - \$67 per credit
- Capital Fee (Out-of-County and Out-of-State Residents) - \$6 per credit
- Lab Fees - \$70-80 per course with labs

### **2020-21 Academic Year**

#### **Tuition per credit: 1-11 credits, 19 or more credits**

- Westmoreland County residents - \$133 per credit
- Out-of-County Residents - \$266 per credit
- Out-of-State Residents - \$399 per credit

#### **Flat Rate: 12-18 credits**

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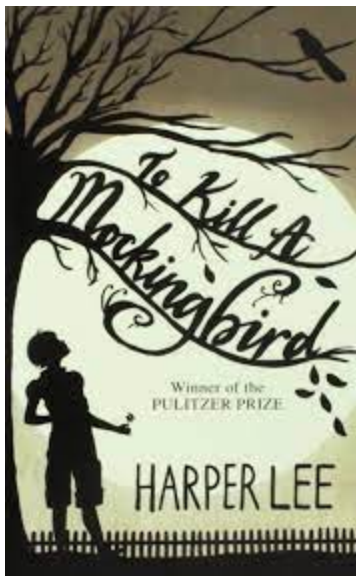
**Check out the webpage for more details**

**[https://westmoreland.edu/admissions\\_aid/tuition-and-fees/index.html](https://westmoreland.edu/admissions_aid/tuition-and-fees/index.html)**



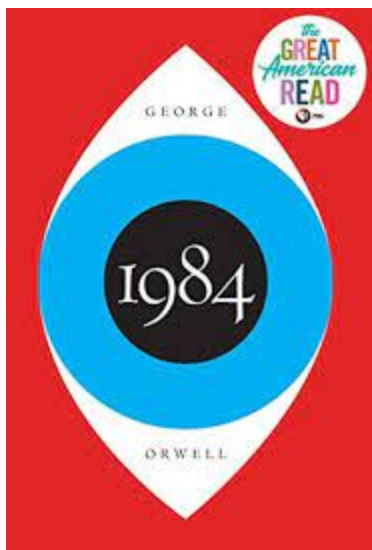
# Check out these classics! How many have you read?

THE LIST OF INDISPENSABLE BOOKS TO CHECK OUT.



## To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee's seminal coming-of-age story set in the fictional southern town of Maycomb, Alabama. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: racial injustice, moral and spiritual growth, courage and integrity, innocence and experience.



## **Nineteen Eighty-Four**

**George Orwell's vision of a totalitarian future, not long after the Atomic Wars have reduced the geopolitical map to three superstates: Eurasia, Oceania, and Eastasia. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: totalitarianism and state power, surveillance, individual freedom, the nature of truth, the power of propaganda.**



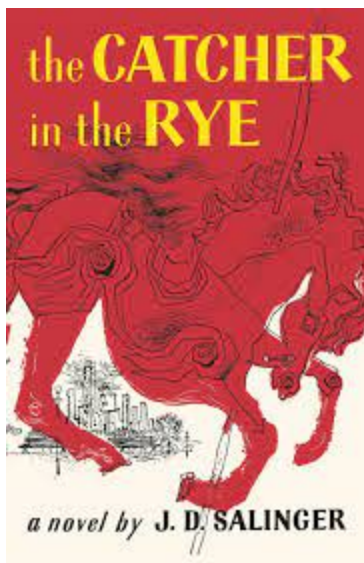
## **Lord of the Flies**

**William Golding's tale of child castaways who establish a violent social order on a deserted island. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: civilization and governance, social and moral order, savagery and primitivism, cruelty, leadership, injustice.**



## **Animal Farm**

**George Orwell's allegory tracing the formation of Soviet Russia. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: totalitarianism and state power, individual freedom, the mutability of historical truth, the power of propaganda, the cult of personality.**



## **Catcher in the Rye**

**The reclusive J.D. Salinger's most popular novel, told through the eyes of the notoriously irreverent teenager Holden Caulfield. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: unreliable narrators, individuality and identity, social alienation and rebellion, social mores and rules.**



## **The Grapes of Wrath**

**John Steinbeck's Depression-era classic, which follows the travels of impoverished Dust Bowl refugees as they flee westward to California.**

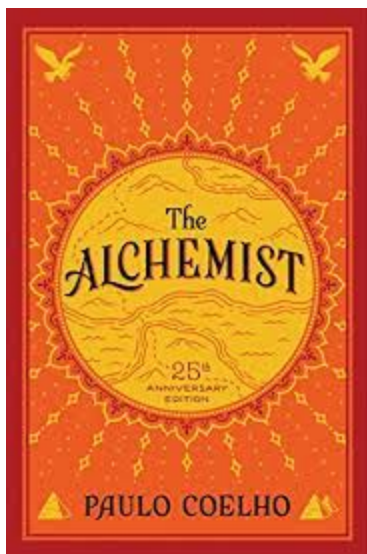
**Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: wealth and poverty, injustice, social and political policy and governance, biblical themes such as judgment and redemption.**



## **Invisible Man**

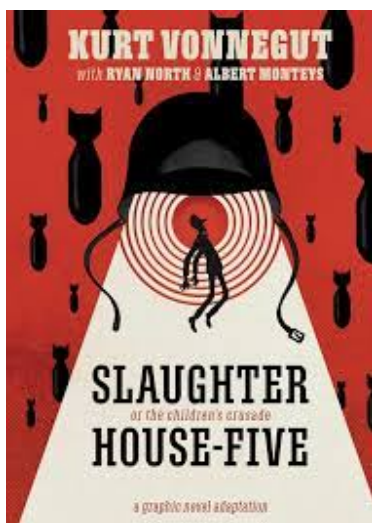
**Ralph Ellison's meditation on the effects of race, told from the perspective of an African American narrator rendered invisible by his skin color. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: race and racial injustice, identity, ideology and belief systems.**





## **The Alchemist**

**Paulo Coelho's tale of a Spanish shepherd who hopes to find his destiny on a journey to Egypt. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: adventure and courage, hope, destiny.**



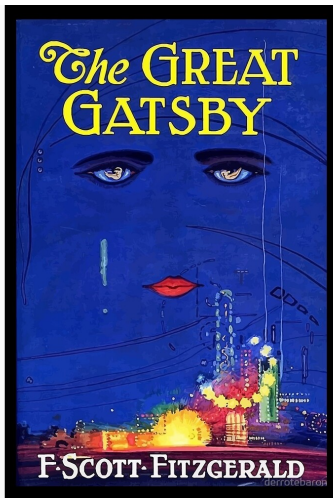
## **Slaughterhouse-Five**

**Kurt Vonnegut's dark, absurdist comedy centered on the devastating firebombing of Dresden, Germany, during World War II. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: nonlinear narratives, unreliable narrators, existentialism and absurdism, the true nature of warfare.**



## **The Handmaid's Tale**

**Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel depicting the rise, in the United States, of a theocratic government dedicated to the oppression of women. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: totalitarianism, patriarchy and misogyny, surveillance, politics and governance, gender roles.**



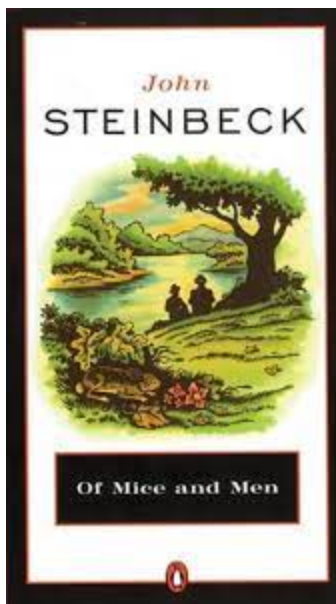
## **The Great Gatsby**

**F. Scott Fitzgerald's lyrical, Jazz Age novel about the idealist James Gatsby—and the nature of the American Dream. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: the Jazz Age, the American Dream, wealth and class, idealism.**



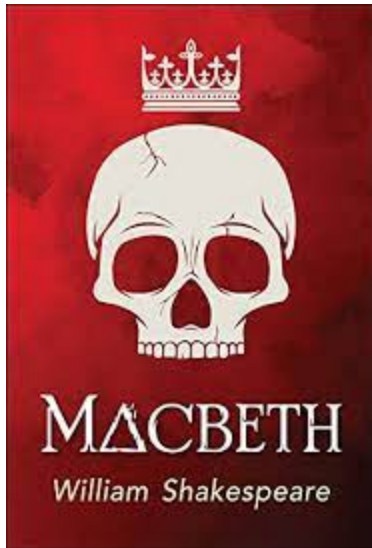
## **The Bluest Eye**

**Toni Morrison's story of Pecola Breedlove, a young, often-abused African American girl who dreams of having blue eyes—a tangible sign of acceptance in a world dominated by white conceptions of beauty and belonging. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: identity, race and racial injustice, the effects of abuse, beauty and ugliness, insanity.**



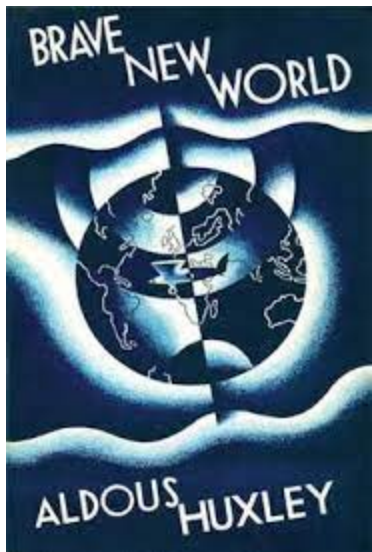
## **Of Mice and Men**

**John Steinbeck's story of an unlikely—and tragically fated—friendship between two men of remarkably different intellectual abilities. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: friendship and loyalty, character, cruelty and mercy.**



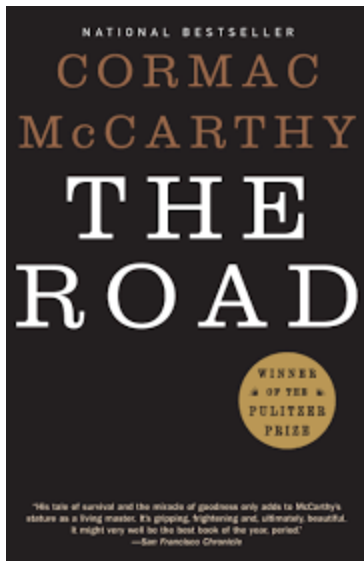
## Macbeth

Shakespeare's portrait of an ambitious Scottish warrior who wants to be king—and is goaded to murder to achieve his goal. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: the nature of evil, power and ambition, insanity, chaos and disorder.



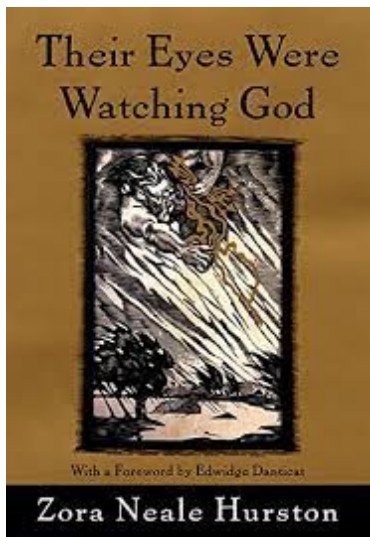
## Brave New World

Aldous Huxley's slim novel envisioning a future "utopia" with perverse qualities—as the human race succumbs to overdoses of pleasure, amusement, and hedonism. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: genetic manipulation, state power, drug use, individualism and society.



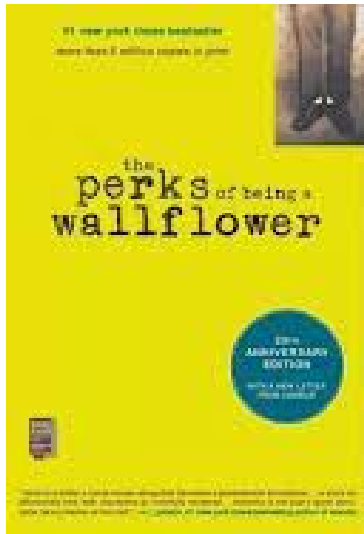
## **The Road**

**Cormac McCarthy's bleak novel about a boy and his father seeking safety in a post-apocalyptic world. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: good and evil, death, apocalypse, cruelty, hope and hopelessness.**



## **Their Eyes Were Watching God**

**Zora Neale Hurston's heavily vernacular novel depicting the life of Janie Crawford, an African American woman in the Jim Crow South at the turn of the 20th century. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: gender roles, race and racial injustice, the effects of abuse, the representation of American dialects, the nature of love.**



## The Perks of Being a Wallflower

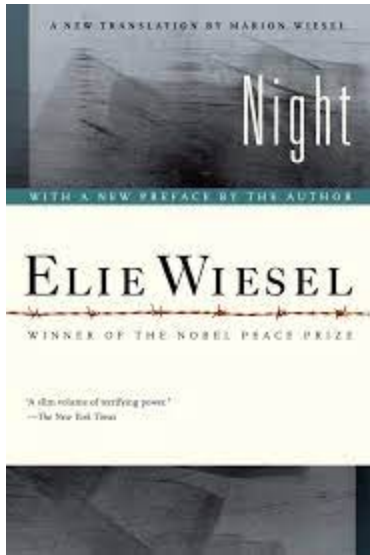
Stephen Chbosky's epistolary, coming-of-age novel about an introverted, emotionally scarred high school freshman named Charlie. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: introverts and extroverts, teen romance, alcohol and drug use, the effects of abuse.



## Persepolis

Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel, an autobiography that describes growing up in Tehran, Iran, during the era of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: graphic novels, Iranian culture, politics and religion, war.





## Night

Elie Wiesel's spare memoir-novel based on his experiences in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Primary themes of interest to high schoolers: good and evil, the Holocaust, faith and faithlessness, the Jewish experience.

Do you have a book you would like to recommend? Please email the title, author, and a summary (max 500 words) to [vrafail@fraziersd.org](mailto:vrafail@fraziersd.org).

Frazier School District's motto is

# Inspire Frazier Empower

Who INSPIRES you?  
How do you EMPOWER others?

Submit your thoughts to [vrafail@fraziersd.org](mailto:vrafail@fraziersd.org) and we will publish them in the next issue.