

11th Grade Summer Reading 2018

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Note to Parents

One of our district's primary goals is to develop lifelong readers and learners. Summer reading is an opportunity for students to practice the comprehension, analytical, and note-taking skills learned throughout the year while reading a thought-provoking and enjoyable book. This year, each high school student is required to read at least one book, choosing from a list of three options. Furthermore, all 11th grade Advanced Placement and Honors students will read an additional title and complete the note-taking assignment.

While reading and taking notes, students should keep the 11th grade theme of the American Dream and the guiding questions in mind. These texts were selected to provide a common foundation and reference for all rising juniors. Students will be expected to write and speak about the text in September. Thank you for encouraging your child's reading. We look forward to building on the foundation you have helped establish during the summer.

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver: Growing up in Kentucky, Taylor Greer dreams of getting away. She heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car. By the time she arrives in Tucson, she has acquired a completely unexpected child and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity for putting down roots. Hers is a story about love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, and the discovery of surprising resources in apparently empty places.

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair: In this powerful book we enter the world of Jurgis Rudkus, a young Lithuanian immigrant who arrived in America filled with dreams of wealth, freedom, and opportunity. And we discover, with him, the astonishing truth about "packingtown," the busy, flourishing, filthy Chicago stockyards, where new world visions perish in a jungle of human suffering. Upton Sinclair, master of the "muckraking" novel, here explores the workingman's lot at the turn of the century: the backbreaking labor, the injustices of "wage-slavery," the bewildering chaos of urban life. *The Jungle*, a story so shocking that it launched a government investigation, recreates this startling chapter of our history in unflinching detail. Always a vigorous champion on political reform, Sinclair is also a gripping storyteller, and his 1906 novel stands as one of the most important works in the literature of social change.

Tracks by Louise Erdrich: From award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author Louise Erdrich comes an arresting, lyrical novel set in North Dakota when Native Americans were fighting to keep their lands. At a time when Indian tribes were struggling to keep what little remained of their lands, *Tracks* is a tale of passion and deep unrest. Over the course of ten years, as tribal land and trust between people erode ceaselessly, men and women are pushed to the brink of their endurance—yet their pride and humor prohibit surrender. The

reader will experience shock and pleasure in encountering characters that are compelling and rich in their vigor, clarity, and indomitable vitality.

Required for Honors and Advanced Placement Level

In addition to selecting a text from the above list, all 11th Grade Honors and Advanced Placement students are required to read *The Grapes of Wrath* and take notes on the thematic questions. Students should be prepared to speak and write about this text as it will be the first in-depth text study of the course.

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck This Pulitzer Prize-winning epic chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma family driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to California. The novel captures the horrors of the Depression and probes the very nature of equality in America.

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11th Grade Theme: The American Dream

Guiding Questions:

- What is the American Dream? To what extent is it achievable for all Americans?
- In what ways does the American Dream mean different things for different Americans?
- How has the American Dream changed over time?

Directions: The book you have chosen to read this summer will help you to learn about the American Dream. As you read, consider the theme and guiding questions above and record your thoughts. You are responsible for identifying and recording textual evidence, as well as reflecting upon and analyzing how the evidence relates to the theme. In September, you will use these notes to write and speak about the text in class and submit them to your teacher for a grade. You may choose from any of the note-taking options listed below, but your notes must fulfill the following requirements:

- There is no minimum page requirement. However, notes must cover the entire length of the text. Be sure to include notes from the beginning, middle and end of the text.
- Notes must include textual evidence (include page number) and your thoughts, analysis, interpretation, and/or questions.
- Notes may be typed or handwritten. If you choose to type the notes, you must have a printed copy to use in class by the second day of school.

Note-Taking Options and Rubric

- 1. Dialectical Journal (Two Column Notes):** Using a two-column format, engage in a written dialogue with the text as you read. In the left-hand column, write the important text. In the right-hand column, respond to the text. This is where you can include reflections, analyses and explanations of how the text connects to the thematic questions.
- 2. In-Text Annotations:** For in-text annotations, you will need to have a physical copy of the book. Record your notes *directly* in the book or on post-it notes, reflecting how the text connects to the guiding questions. You will need to bring the book and your notes in September.
- 3. Outline:** Create a structured outline focused on the theme and supported with textual evidence. It may be helpful to organize it based on the plot or by guiding questions.
- 4. Mind Mapping:** Create a visual representation of text, important characters or plot episodes that connect to the guiding questions. Use lines, arrows, bubbles and/or sketches to link notes to the theme.

Score Points	4	2	0
Description	Notes are thorough and reflective, and appear to cover the full length of the text.	Notes are somewhat thorough and reflective, and appear to cover some of the text.	Student did not complete or submit notes.

You can find the books at these locations:
Cherry Hill Public Library • www.chplnj.org
856-667-0300

Barnes & Noble • www.barnesandnoble.com
Cherry Hill – 856-486-1492
Marlton – 856-596-7058
Moorestown – 856-608-1622

For more resources, visit the following sites:
www.chclc.org (under the Academics tab)

TeachingBooks.net <https://www.teachingbooks.net/qlvpddg>

Username: chclc
Password: books

