

Oak Mountain High School Required Summer Reading 2016

ALL STUDENTS IN ALL ENGLISH CLASSES are required to choose **ONE of the following books** to read this summer. In order to help you choose, blurbs (taken from Amazon) about each book are on the back of this sheet. You will have an assignment to complete in class the first week of school.

- ***The Boys in Brown*** by Jon J. Kerr (non-fiction)
- ***The Color of Water*** by James McBride (non-fiction)
- ***Go Set a Watchman*** by Harper Lee (fiction)
- ***Steelheart*** by Brandon Sanderson (fiction)
- ***What Stands in a Storm*** by Kim Cross (non-fiction)

*AP Language 11 students MUST choose one of the three non-fiction selections.

Honors and AP Required Summer Reading Selections 2016

Please note that this assignment is in addition to the one mentioned above and is REQUIRED for all Honors and AP students. Honors students will be given an assessment upon returning to school, while AP students have actual assignments to complete during the summer.

Honors English 9:

- *Alas, Babylon* by Pat Frank

Honors English 10:

- *Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

* Honors English 10 students will begin reading *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd the first week of school. Please have a copy on the first day of school.

AP Language 11:

- *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton
- *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs
- AP Lang students MUST choose one of the three **non-fiction choices** from the list at the top of the page.

* AP Language 11 students **MUST** see Ms. Blakemore (Room 230) or Ms. Hart (Room 223) for the actual summer reading assignment.

AP Literature 12:

- *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
- *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton

* AP Literature 12 students **MUST** see Ms. Dixon (Room 226) for the actual summer reading assignment.

The Boys in Brown by Jon J. Kerr

Behind the rules and the fanfare, one football team believes in the basics. Coach Andy Bitto says his football players are lucky. "You get to express your love for each other through the game of football," he says, "That is a gift." In Mundelein, Illinois, the heart of Midwestern America, the parents and fans know the success at Carmel Catholic High School has to do with more than fundamentals. Call it love. Call it faith. Call it a certain way of life you just can't find anywhere else. Local football star LaRon Biere was born addicted to drugs. After his natural mother abandoned him, retired healthcare worker Marion and her husband Jim adopted the infant and nursed him back to health. Marion wants just two things in life: for LaRon to be educated in a religious environment and to see her son graduate from Carmel. With the help of LaRon's teammates and the community, could both wishes actually be possible? *The Boys in Brown* is sportswriter Jon J. Kerr's gritty, in-depth narrative that follows the Corsairs through an unforgettable season of teamwork, sacrifice, and life's imperfections.

The Color of Water by James McBride

Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared "light-skinned" woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her twelve black children. James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful debut, *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*.

The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in "orchestrated chaos" with his eleven siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. "Mommy," a fiercely protective woman with "dark eyes full of pep and fire," herded her brood to Manhattan's free cultural events, sent them off on buses to the best (and mainly Jewish) schools, demanded good grades, and commanded respect. As a young man, McBride saw his mother as a source of embarrassment, worry, and confusion—and reached thirty before he began to discover the truth about her early life and long-buried pain.

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

Maycomb, Alabama. Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch—"Scout"—returns home from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town, and the people dearest to her. Memories from her childhood flood back, and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt. Featuring many of the iconic characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Go Set a Watchman* perfectly captures a young woman, and a world, in painful yet necessary transition out of the illusions of the past—a journey that can only be guided by one's own conscience.

Steelheart by Brandon Sanderson

Brandon Sanderson, the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Words of Radiance*, coauthor of Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time* series, and creator of the internationally bestselling *Mistborn* trilogy, presents *Steelheart*, the first book in the *Reckoners* series, an action-packed thrill ride that will leave readers breathless. How far would you go for revenge if someone killed your father? If someone destroyed your city? If everything you ever loved was taken from you? David Charleston will go to any lengths to stop Steelheart. But to exact revenge in Steelheart's world, David will need the Reckoners—a shadowy group of rebels bent on maintaining justice. And it turns out that the Reckoners might just need David too.

What Stands in a Storm by Kim Cross

April 27, 2011, marked the climax of a superstorm that saw a record 358 tornadoes rip through twenty-one states in three days, seven hours, and eighteen minutes. It was the deadliest day of the biggest tornado outbreak in recorded history, which saw 348 people killed, entire neighborhoods erased, and \$11 billion in damage. The biggest of the tornadoes left scars across the land so wide they could be seen from space. But from the terrible destruction emerged everyday heroes, neighbors and strangers who rescued each other from hell on earth.

Cross's immersive reporting and dramatic storytelling sets you right in the middle of the very worst hit areas of Alabama, where thousands of ordinary people witnessed the sky falling around them. Yet from the disaster comes a redemptive message that's just as real: In times of trouble, the things that tear our world apart also reveal what holds us together.