

# American Literature Summer Reading List

## Summer 2016

Profile High School English Department

The following list was compiled from the recommendations of the Profile High School English department and contains some of the best-known works of American literature. Each book addresses the American Dream and/or American identities theme. All students entering 10th grade American Studies must read at least one book from the list below over the summer. We encourage all students to preview a book and discuss with a parent/guardian before making a choice in order to determine that the content, writing style and narrative voice will be a good fit. Please email Mrs. Sweeney with the choice you have made at [erswee@profile.k12.nh.us](mailto:erswee@profile.k12.nh.us).

You may check out these titles at the [Profile Media Center](#), the [Bethlehem Public Library](#), the [Abbie Greenleaf Public Library](#) and in digital format using Overdrive ([directions are here](#)) or [The Project Gutenberg](#) (classics).

Author	Title	Genre	Era
Joan Didion	The White Album: Essays	Essays	Classic
Jack Kerouac	The Dharma Bums	Memoir	Classic
Jack Kerouac	On the Road	Memoir	Classic
Truman Capote	In Cold Blood	Nonfiction	Classic
Edith Wharton	The Age of Innocence	Novel	Classic
Stephen Crane	The Red Badge of Courage	Novel	Classic
Ayn Rand	Atlas Shrugged	Novel	Classic
Ayn Rand	Anthem	Novel	Classic
Alex Haley	Roots	Novel	Classic
E.L. Doctorow	Ragtime	Novel	Classic
F. Scott Fitzgerald	Tender is the Night	Novel	Classic
F. Scott Fitzgerald	This Side of Paradise	Novel	Classic
James Baldwin	Go Tell it on the Mountain	Novel	Classic
James Weldon Johnson	Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man	Novel	Classic
John Steinbeck	The Grapes of Wrath	Novel	Classic
Ken Kesey	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	Novel	Classic
N. Scott Momaday	House Made of Dawn	Novel	Classic
Norman Mailer	An American Dream	Novel	Classic
Willa Cather	My Antonia	Novel	Classic
Willa Cather	O Pioneers!	Novel	Classic
Mark Twain	The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Novel	Classic

JD Salinger	The Catcher in the Rye	Novel	Classic
David Guterson	Snow Falling on Cedars	Novel	Classic
Annie Dillard	An American Childhood	Memoir	Contemporary
Barack Obama	Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance	Memoir	Contemporary
Jeannette Walls	The Glass Castle	Memoir	Contemporary
Bob Dylan	Chronicles, Vol. I	Memoir	Contemporary
James McBride	The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother	Memoir	Contemporary
Jay-Z	Decoded	Memoir	Contemporary
John Edgar Wideman	Brothers and Keepers	Memoir	Contemporary
Luis Rodriguez	Always Running: La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A	Memoir	Contemporary
Maxine Hong Kingston	The Woman Warrior	Memoir	Contemporary
Richard Rodriguez	Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez	Memoir	Contemporary
Laura Hillenbrand	Unbroken	Memoir	Contemporary
Barbara Ehrenreich	Nickled and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America	Nonfiction	Contemporary
Nathaniel Philbrick	In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex	Nonfiction/History	Contemporary
Bill Bryson	One Summer: America 1927	Nonfiction/History	Contemporary
Dave Eggers	Zeitoun	Nonfiction	Contemporary
Erik Larsen	Devil in the White City	Nonfiction	Contemporary
Greil Marcus	The Old, Weird America: The World of Bob Dylan's Basement Tapes	Nonfiction	Contemporary
John Berendt	Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil	Nonfiction	Contemporary
Neil Swidey	The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives	Nonfiction	Contemporary
Tom Wolfe	The Right Stuff	Nonfiction	Contemporary
Amy Tan	The Joy Luck Club	Novel	Contemporary
Leslie Marmon Silko	Ceremony	Novel	Contemporary

Annie Proulx	The Shipping News	Novel	Contemporary
Audrey Niffenegger	The Time Traveller's Wife	Novel	Contemporary
Barbara Kingsolver	The Bean Trees	Novel	Contemporary
Barbara Kingsolver	Animal Dreams	Novel	Contemporary
Barbara Kingsolver	The Poisonwood Bible	Novel	Contemporary
Chad Harbach	The Art of Fielding	Novel	Contemporary
Chang-rae Lee	Native Speaker	Novel	Contemporary
Cormac McCarthy	Blood Meridian	Novel	Contemporary
Daniel Wallace	Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions	Novel	Contemporary
Danzy Senna	Caucasia	Novel	Contemporary
Dave Eggers	What is the What	Novel	Contemporary
David Sheff	Beautiful Boy	Novel	Contemporary
Edward P. Jones	The Known World	Novel	Contemporary
Gish Jen	Typical American	Novel	Contemporary
Jhumpa Lahiri	The Namesake	Novel	Contemporary
John Irving	A Prayer for Owen Meany	Novel	Contemporary
Jonathan Safran Foer	Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Novel	Contemporary
Don DeLillo	The Falling Man	Novel	Contemporary
Julia Alvarez	How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents	Novel	Contemporary
Steven Millhauser	Martin Dressler: The Tale of an American Dreamer	Novel	Contemporary
Sherman Alexie	Reservation Blues	Novel	Contemporary
Sherman Alexie	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian	Novel	Contemporary
T.C. Boyle	The Tortilla Curtain	Novel	Contemporary
Americanah	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Novel	Contemporary
Philip Roth	American Pastoral	Novel	Contemporary
Tom Wolfe	Bonfire of the Vanities	Novel	Contemporary
Toni Morrison	Beloved	Novel	Contemporary

Toni Morrison	Song of Solomon	Novel	Contemporary
Tommy Orange	There, There	Novel	Contemporary
Annie Proulx	Close Range: Wyoming Stories	Short Stories	Contemporary
Jhumpa Lahiri	Interpreter of Maladies	Short Stories	Contemporary
Raymond Carver	What We Talk About When We Talk About Love	Short Stories	Contemporary
Howard Frank Mosher	Where the Rivers Flow North	Short Stories	Contemporary

[American Studies Summer Reading Assignment/ Rubric](#)

This will be completed upon return to school in the fall. Use the objectives of the assignment to guide your note-taking and annotations on the book you choose to read.