

Pre-AP English II Summer Reading List 2016

Over the summer you will be required to read **one** of the novels listed on the following pages. You must have all of your reading done by the time we return to school for the first day of the next school year. **Also, while reading you must complete the Quotes Project Assignment, which will be due on the first day of school next year.** The details for that assignment are handed out separately.

Acquiring a copy of the novel you choose to read this summer is your responsibility. The Tulsa County Library has copies of all of the novels below, so you can choose to check out the work you choose to read. My recommendation, however, is that you buy a copy of the novel you choose, so that you can annotate the work as you read. There are several good sources in Tulsa for purchasing inexpensive paperback copies of novels, or you can always use Amazon.com.

You may choose whichever publisher/edition that you like. **Be careful, however, to not purchase an abridged copy of any of the works, unless I have specifically stated below that an abridged copy is acceptable.**

Please devise a reading schedule for yourself this summer. Don't wait until the week before school starts to attempt to read this novel. We will begin working on this novel during the first days of school next year. Annotating, or making notes to yourself in the margin of the novel, will help you as we begin working next year.

A Note about “questionable” language or situations:

I have taken care to choose books for our summer reading list that have been featured on the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) tests. Since the goal of your time in the Pre-AP and AP classes is to eventually pass the College Board's AP test and earn college credit for high school classes, it is vital that you read as many works as possible that have appeared in questions on the AP test. Most of the below books have appeared on those tests at least twice. However, some of the books listed below present adult language or adult situations. I trust that you and your parent or guardian will make an educated decision regarding which books are right for you. You can read reviews of all of the novels online to determine if there are examples of language or situations in the works that you might find offensive. An excellent website for this is www.commonsemmedia.org. Also, you can consult the local Tulsa City County Library. Their librarians are extremely well-read and knowledgeable about all sorts of books; they will likely have great advice or know how to find great advice. You may also email me at agarrison@skiatoolschools.org.

Choose ONE of the following books as your summer reading selection:

- ***The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas (608 pages or 1462 pages):**

- *The following synopsis for the novel is from the Barnes and Noble Classic Series publishing company:* “Dashing young Edmond Dantès has everything. He is engaged to a beautiful woman, is about to become the captain of a ship, and is well liked by almost everyone. But his perfect life is shattered when he is framed by a jealous rival and thrown into a dark prison cell for fourteen years.

The greatest tale of betrayal, adventure, and revenge ever written, *The Count of Monte Cristo* continues to dazzle readers with its thrilling and memorable scenes, including Dantès’ miraculous escape from prison, his amazing discovery of a vast hidden treasure, and his transformation into the mysterious and wealthy Count of Monte Cristo—a man whose astonishing thirst for vengeance is as cruel as it is just.”

- **You may read either the abridged copy of this novel, or the full version.** The abridged version has certain parts of the novel removed for the purpose of creating a shorter version. The abridged version is about 608 pages. The full version, which includes all the original text and several additional story lines, is about 1462 pages long.

- ***Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier (464 pages)**

- *The following synopsis is from the Barnes and Noble website:* “Sorely wounded and fatally disillusioned in the fighting at Petersburg, a Confederate soldier named Inman decides to walk back to his home in the Blue Ridge Mountains to Ada, the woman he loves. His trek across the disintegrating South brings him into intimate and sometimes lethal converse with slaves and marauders, bounty hunters and witches, both helpful and malign. At the same time, the intrepid Ada is trying to revive her father’s derelict farm and learning to survive in a world where the old certainties have been swept away. As it interweaves their stories, *Cold Mountain* asserts itself as an authentic odyssey, hugely powerful, majestically lovely, and keenly moving.”

- ***The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway (251 pages)**

- ***From Amazon.com:*** “The quintessential novel of the Lost Generation, *The Sun Also Rises* is one of Ernest Hemingway's masterpieces and a classic example of his spare but powerful writing style. A poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I generation, the novel introduces two of Hemingway's most unforgettable characters: Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley. The story follows the flamboyant Brett and the hapless Jake as they journey from the wild nightlife of 1920s Paris to the brutal bullfighting rings of Spain with a motley group of expatriates. It is an age of moral bankruptcy, spiritual dissolution, unrealized love, and vanishing illusions. First published in 1926, *The Sun Also Rises* helped to establish Hemingway as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century.”

- ***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan (288 pages)**

- From Amazon.com: “Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.”

- ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (381 pages)**

- From Amazon.com: “#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER. Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. This phenomenal New York Times bestseller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.”

Note: to my knowledge, this book has not been on the AP exam. However, I feel it's a book of literary merit, and it will be especially enjoyed by students with an interest in biology. This book is simply fascinating.

- ***All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy (301 pages)**

- From the Publishers Weekly review posted on the Amazon website: “John Grady Cole is a 16-year-old boy who leaves his Texas home when his grandfather dies. With his parents already split up and his mother working in theater out of town, there is no longer reason for him to stay. He and his friend Lacey Rawlins ride their horses south into Mexico; they are joined by another boy, the mysterious Jimmy Blevins, a 14-year-old sharpshooter. Although the year is 1948, the landscape--at some moments parched and unforgiving, at others verdant and gentled by rain--seems out of time, somewhere before history or after it. These likable boys affect the cowboy's taciturnity--they roll cigarettes and say what they mean--and yet amongst themselves are given to terse, comic exchanges about life and death. In McCarthy's unblinking imagination the boys suffer truly harrowing encounters with corrupt Mexican officials, enigmatic bandits and a desert weather that roils like an angry god. As a bonus, Grady endures a tragic love affair with the daughter of a rich Spanish Hacendado, a romance, one hopes, to be resumed later in the trilogy.”