

Pre-AP English II Summer Reading List

Over the summer you will be required to read one of the novels listed below. 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 attached to this document.

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. The following are great sources for used books:

- Goodwill
 - Eastside location: 102 S. Garnett Road, Tulsa 437-4663
 - Westside location: 2800 Southwest Boulevard, Tulsa 584-3699
- Gardner's Used Books
 - 4421 S. Mingo, Tulsa 627-7323
- www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com
 - You can often purchase used books at greatly reduced prices at either of these online sources. Make sure you order them in plenty of time to finish the reading before the first day of school, keeping in mind that shipping may take several days.

You can also buy new copies of novels in Tulsa at Borders, or Barnes and Noble, Steve's Sundry, or any number of other book stores.

Keep in mind that some of the books listed below are considered classics, which means they may be published by more than one publishing house. Some publishers offer versions that include extra notes or forwards that may be helpful while reading. If you are going to purchase a new copy of any of the novels below, browse several different publishers' versions of the novel to determine which publication is best for you, if more than one version exists. 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. Each 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. 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@skiatookschools.org.

- ***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 Memory Keeper’s Daughter* by Kim Edwards (432 pages)**

- *From the Barnes and Noble website:* “On a winter night in 1964, Dr. David Henry is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy. Yet when his daughter is born, he sees immediately that she has Down’s Syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect Norah, his wife, he makes a split-second decision that will alter all of their lives forever. He asks his nurse to take the baby away to an institution and never to reveal the secret.

But Caroline, the nurse, cannot leave the infant. Instead, she disappears into another city to raise the child herself. So begins this beautifully told story that unfolds over a quarter of a century in which these two families, ignorant of each other, are yet bound by the fateful decision made that long-ago winter night.

A brilliantly crafted, stunning debut, *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter* explores the way life takes unexpected turns, and how the mysterious ties that hold a family together help us survive the heartache that occurs when long-buried secrets burst into the open.”

- ***Native Son* by Richard Wright (544 pages)**

- *The following synopsis is from Amazon.com:* “Bigger Thomas is doomed, trapped in a downward spiral that will lead to arrest, prison, or death, driven by despair, frustration, poverty, and incomprehension. As a young black man in the Chicago of the '30s, he has no way out of the walls of poverty and racism that surround him, and after he murders a young white woman in a moment of panic, these walls begin to close in. There is no help for him--not from his hapless family; not from liberal do-gooders or from his well-meaning yet naive friend Jan; certainly not from the police, prosecutors, or judges. Bigger is debased, aggressive, dangerous, and a violent criminal. As such, he has no claim upon our compassion or sympathy. And yet...”
- **NOTE:** There is an abridged copy of this novel. However, students should not read the abridged version. To determine if a book is an abridged version, look carefully at the front cover and the back cover. Also, look at the spine of the book, and at the title page that is typically the first or second page of the book. If the word “abridged” is not found in any those places, then the book should not be an abridged version.

- ***In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez (325 Pages)**

- *From the Publishers Weekly review posted on the Amazon website:* “During the last days of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, three young women, members of a conservative, pious Catholic family, who had become committed to the revolutionary overthrow of the regime, were ambushed and assassinated as they drove back from visiting their jailed husbands. Thus martyred, the Mirabal sisters have become mythical figures in their country, where they are known as las mariposas (the butterflies), from their underground code names. Herself a native of the Dominican Republic, the author Julia Alvarez has fictionalized their story in a narrative that starts slowly but builds to a gripping intensity. Each of the girls--Patria, Minerva and Maria Terese (Mate) Mirabal--speaks in her own voice, beginning in their girlhood in the 1940s; their surviving sister, Dede, frames the narrative with her own tale of suffering and dedication to their memory. Alvarez captures the terrorized atmosphere of a police state, in which people live under the sword of terrible fear and atrocities cannot be acknowledged. As the sisters' energetic fervor turns to anguish, Alvarez conveys their courage and their desperation, and the full import of their tragedy.”

- ***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.”