

English Department

All students are to read over the summer in preparation for the start of the new school year. Teachers selected these books to interest students and to enrich their literary background. The Belmont Public Library will receive copies of this list. If at all possible, students should purchase copies of their summer reading books so that they can mark them up and use them at the start of school. Summaries below are excerpted from bn.com.

Entering Freshmen

Entering freshmen taking honors English (9H) should read *The Hate U Give* by **Angie Thomas** and *Lord of the Flies* by **William Golding**.

Entering freshmen taking college preparatory English (9CP) should choose one book to read from a **choice of three novels**, listed below with publisher's summaries.

***Pop*, by Gordon Korman**

New to town, Marcus spends the summer before his junior year practicing football alone at a local park hoping to meet someone from the high school team. Instead, he meets an eccentric middle-aged man named Charlie who teaches Marcus more about football, tackling, and the art of the "pop" than he could have imagined, and the two strike up an unusual friendship... Gradually, Marcus figures out that Charlie is an ex-NFL star hiding a secret. Despite the obstacles, he is determined to help his friend.

This might be the book for you if you like football, characters who are great athletes, and themes of persistence, overcoming obstacles, and friendship.

***The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas**

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name... What everyone wants to know is: what **really** went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

This might be the book for you if you like current events, drama, strong female role models, and themes of resilience, social justice, and perspective-taking.

***Speak*, by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Divided into the four marking periods of an academic year, the novel, narrated by Melinda Sordino, begins on her first day as a high school freshman. No one will sit with Melinda on the bus. At school, students call her names and harass her; her best friends from junior high scatter to different cliques and abandon her... A girl at a school pep rally offers an explanation of the heroine's pariah status when she confronts Melinda about calling the police at a summer party, resulting in several arrests. But readers do not learn why Melinda made the call until much later... Only through her work in art class, and with the support of a compassionate teacher there, does she begin to reach out to others and eventually find her voice.

This might be the book for you if you like art, characters who face real-life teenage issues like bullying, and themes of fear, courage, identity, friendship, and trust.

(OVER)

Entering Sophomores

Entering sophomores taking English 10CP should read **one novel from the list** below.

Nicola Yoon: *The Sun is Also a Star*
Samira Ahmed: *Love, Hate, and Other Filters*
Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely: *All American Boys*
Celeste Ng: *Little Fires Everywhere*
Julia Alvarez: *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*

Students taking English 10H should read **two novels from the list** below.

Khaled Hosseini: *Kite Runner* or *And the Mountains Echoed*
Amy Tan: *Joy Luck Club* or *Kitchen God's Wife*
Jhumpa Lahiri: *Interpreter of Maladies* or *Unaccustomed Earth*
Julia Alvarez: *In the Time of the Butterflies* or *How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accent*
Isabel Allende: *House of the Spirits* or *Daughter of Fortune*
Chimamanda Adichie: *The Purple Hibiscus*
Uzodinma Iweala: *Speak No Evil*
Marjane Satrapi: *Persepolis*
Celeste Ng: *Little Fires Everywhere*
Yaa Gyasi: *Homegoing*

Entering Juniors

All entering juniors should read **at least one book about the American Dream and/or American identities from the American Literature Summer Reading list** (distributed in class and posted on the Portal and the district summer reading website). **Students entering 11H must read one contemporary AND one classic work from the list.**

Entering Seniors

All entering seniors should read the *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien.

All 12CP and 12H students should read and annotate (in the margins or on sticky notes) the text for details about story-truth, happening-truth, memory, and anything else that sparks their interest. In addition, students should brainstorm 5-10 topics or questions they may wish to research over the course of the year. Topics can range from issues of social justice to an academic area of focus to an outside interest. See [list of last year's notable capstones](#) for examples.

All seniors entering 12H must also listen to the Radiolab podcast "Limits of the Mind," and make notes about memory (noting the time elapsed to mark the spot in the podcast) as well as anything else that sparks interest.

All students entering 12AP selected at least two books to read over the summer as preparation for the senior English thesis. Each senior also identified a back-up book to read if the first book proves uninteresting. A record of these titles is on file with the English Department. Those seniors entering English 12AP **should read and annotate (in the margins or on sticky notes) at least those selected books for their senior thesis** by the start of school in the fall; many graduates have suggested that entering seniors read as many thesis books as possible over the summer before the start of senior year.

All summer reading information is also available at <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bhs/summer/>