

**NEW BRUNSWICK HEALTH SCIENCES TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**

165 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Phone: (732) 745-5300, Ext. 4061 Fax: (732) 729-4068

Summer 2011 Reading Book List

English 9 Summer Reading Book List

**Directions:** Students entering Grade 9 English must read a minimum of two texts. All students will read the required text by Maya Angelou. Then, students will choose a second text from the list of titles which follows.

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**Required Text**

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou***

"Regarded by many to be the greatest work of one of America's greatest living authors, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is the tragic yet heart-warming story of Maya Angelou's life from birth to young adulthood [as she deals with racism, poverty, teen pregnancy, as well as, physical and emotional abuse]." (from [www.edb.utexas.edu](http://www.edb.utexas.edu))

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**Choose 1 from the following list:**

***Anthem by Ayn Rand***

"Equality 7-2521 lives in the Dark Ages of the future, where all decisions are made by committee, all people live in collectives, all traces of individualism have been wiped out. But the spark of individual thought and freedom still burns [within him], a passion which he has been taught to call sinful. In a purely egalitarian world, he dares to stand forth from the herd - to think and choose for himself, to discover electricity, and to love the woman of his choice. Now he has been marked for death for committing the ultimate sin: in a world where the great "we" reign supreme, he has rediscovered the lost and holy word "I". This provocative book is an anthem sung in praise of man's ego." (from [www.wilmettelibrary.info](http://www.wilmettelibrary.info))

***The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton***

"Peer relationships, poverty, sacrifice, and a search for self underline this story about Pony-boy, Sodapop, and Darrel--"greasers" who face death, defeat, and socioeconomic struggles. Realistically written, this action-filled novel with a touch of romance [is a must read for all young individuals]." (from [www.wilmettelibrary.info](http://www.wilmettelibrary.info))

***And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie***

"Ten people, who have previously been complicit in the deaths of others but have escaped notice or punishment, are tricked into coming onto an island. Even though the guests are the only people on the island, they are all mysteriously murdered one by one." (from [Gradesaver.com](http://Gradesaver.com))

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## English 10 Summer Reading Book List

**Directions:** Students entering Grade 10 English must read a minimum of two texts. All students will read the required text. Then, students will choose a second text from the list of titles which follows.

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### **Required Text**

#### ***The Tender Bar* by J.R. Moehringer**

"A Pulitzer-Prize winning writer for the Los Angeles Times, Moehringer grew up fatherless, in a ramshackle house crammed with cousins and ruled by an eccentric, unkind grandfather. Desperate for a paternal figure, he turns first to his father, a DJ whom he can only access via the radio (Moehringer calls him The Voice and pictures him as "talking smoke"). (*Amazon.com* Review)

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### **Choose 1 from the following list:**

#### ***Voices from the Fields* by S. Beth Atkin**

"PW called this compendium of interviews, poems and photographs spotlighting nine migrant Mexican-American children in California's Salinas Valley "a well-rounded, moving look at a small, struggling group." (*Publishers Weekly*)

#### ***How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez**

"This [is a] sensitive story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after having to flee from the Dominican Republic. Adapting to American life is difficult and causes embarrassment when friends meet their parents, anger as they are bullied and called "spics," and identity confusion following summer trips to the family compound in the Dominican Republic. These interconnected vignettes of family life, resilience, and love are skillfully intertwined and offer young adults a perspective on immigration and families as well as a look at America through Hispanic eyes." (*School Library Journal*)

#### ***Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd**

"The search for a mother, and the need to mother oneself, are crucial elements in this well-written coming-of-age story set in the early 1960s against a background of racial violence and unrest. When Lily's beloved nanny, Rosaleen, manages to insult a group of angry white men on her way to register to vote and has to skip town, Lily takes the opportunity to go with her, fleeing to the only place she can think of--Tiburon, South Carolina--determined to find out more about her dead mother." (*Amazon.com* Review)

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## Grade 11 AP English Language & Composition Summer Reading Book List

**Directions:** Students entering Grade 11 AP English Language and Composition must read a minimum of two texts. All students will read the required text by Truman Capote. Then, students will choose a second text from the list of titles which follows.

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### **Required Text**

#### ***In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote**

"[A] nonfiction book about a multiple murder of a family in Kansas in 1959." (Erin Collazo Miller, *About.com*)

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### **Choose 1 from the following list:**

#### ***Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest* by Stephen E. Ambrose**

This is a remarkable story of E company from the Summer of 1942 until their disbanding in 1945.

#### ***Black Boy* by Richard Wright**

"The book is sometimes considered a fictionalized autobiography or an autobiographical novel because of its use of novelistic techniques. *Black Boy* describes vividly Wright's often harsh, hardscrabble boyhood and youth in rural Mississippi and in Memphis, Tenn." (from *The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature*)

#### ***Blue Blood* by Edward Conlon**

"With brio and a thrilling literary style, Conlon depicts his life on the force--from his first days walking a beat in the South Bronx to his ascent to detective. The pace is relentless, the stories hypnotic, the scope nothing less than grand." (from *Advance*, the *Ingram Book Magazine*)

#### ***The Color of Water* by James McBride**

"McBride is one of 12 black children who were raised by their widowed Jewish mother in the dangerous housing projects of mid-20th-century New York. In his compelling and inspirational memoir, McBride focuses on the issue of race in his life, and how his mother, through sheer strength of will, raised all of her children to graduate from college." (Nancy Wagner, *Wilmette Public Library*)

#### ***Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science* by Atul Gawande**

"What is the view from the other side of the stethoscope? A surgical resident does a wonderful job of describing the high-stakes pressure of being a doctor-in-training. We learn what it's like to wield the scalpel the first time, what makes a good doctor, and what makes a good doctor go bad." (Nancy Wagner, *Wilmette Public Library*)

#### ***Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson**

"Murder and madness make for great fiction and for even more fascinating true stories. Set in turn-of-the-century Chicago, *Devil in the White City* tells the story of the building of Chicago's 1893 Colombian Exposition, and the grisly tale of H. H. Holmes, the serial killer who preyed upon young women drawn to life in the big city." (Nancy Wagner, *Wilmette Public Library*)

## Grade 11 AP English Language & Composition Summer Reading Book List (con't)

### ***Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser**

"In the first part of the book, Schlosser claims that the advent of fast food following the end of World War II also signaled everything from a decline in real estate values to pollution, obesity and a shift in the class structure. The second half of the book discusses the food itself, highlighting the lack of standards and enforcement in food-handling practices, and attacking the industry for allowing unsafe practices to flourish." (Wake County Public Libraries, [WAKEGOV.com](http://WAKEGOV.com))

### ***Hunger for Memory* by Richard Rodriguez**

"[T]he story of Mexican-American Richard Rodriguez, who begins his schooling in Sacramento, California, knowing just 50 words of English, and concludes his university studies in the stately quiet of the reading room of the British Museum. Here is the poignant journey of a "minority student" who pays the cost of his social assimilation and academic success with a painful alienation — from his past, his parents, his culture — and so describes the high price of "making it" in middle-class America." ([Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) Review)

### ***It's Not About the Bike* by Lance Armstrong**

"This is the story of a journey from inauspicious beginnings through triumph, tragedy, transformation and transcendence. It is the personal story of Lance Armstrong's life from childhood through early success, nearly fatal cancer, recovery, survivorship, more triumph (victory in the 1999 Tour de France)." (Wake County Public Libraries, [WAKEGOV.com](http://WAKEGOV.com))

### ***Jihad vs. McWorld* by Benjamin Barber**

"As soon as you hear the conceit of this book--that there are two great opposing forces at work in the world today, border-crossing capitalism and splintering factionalism, and that they are the two biggest threats to democracy--you know it rings true enough to be worth reading. Although capitalism could have only grown to current levels in the soil of democracies, Benjamin Barber argues that global capitalism now tends to work against the very concept of citizenship, of people thinking for themselves and with their neighbors. Too often now, how we think is the product of a transnational corporation (increasingly, a media corporation) with headquarters elsewhere." ([Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) Review)

### ***The Map that Changed the World* by Simon Winchester**

"Brilliance, plagiarism, and debt are the engines that move this story. William Smith was a self-taught country boy who mapped the geology of the earth. George Belles Greenough, president of the Geology Society, plagiarized the map and deliberately discredited Smith's version of the map, relegating Smith to bankruptcy, debtor's prison, and a long struggle for vindication." (Nancy Wagner, [Wilmette Public Library](http://Wilmette Public Library))

### ***Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich**

Barbara Ehrenreich left her home to find out what it was like to live on poverty-level wages.

## Grade 11 AP English Language & Composition Summer Reading Book List (con't)

### ***The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean**

"John Laroche is a renegade plant dealer and sharply handsome guy, in spite of the fact that he is missing his front teeth and has the posture of al dente spaghetti. In 1994, Laroche and three Seminole Indians were arrested with rare orchids they had stolen from a wild swamp in south Florida that is filled with some of the world's most extraordinary plants and trees. Laroche had planned to clone the orchids and then sell them for a small fortune to impassioned collectors. After he was caught in the act, Laroche set off one of the oddest legal controversies in recent memory, which brought together environmentalists, Native American activists, and devoted orchid collectors. The result is a true tale that is strange, compelling, and hilarious." (Central Rappahannock Public Library)

### ***Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell**

"[Gladwell] examines the phenomenon of high achievement, fantastic stories of success often attributed to the tenacity, hard work, and innate individual talent. Gladwell doesn't discount the necessity of innate ability, and he points to hard work as a crucial factor for success in any endeavor. But he finds in these success stories that factors such as timing, circumstance, and cultural heritage play an oft-overlooked yet critical role." (by Mark Flanagan, from *About.com*)

### ***The Poet and the Murderer* by Simon Worrall**

"Follow Simon Worrall as he unravels the mystery of a forged Emily Dickinson poem that appears so authentic that it fools the experts at Sotheby's. The skills of master forger, Mark Hofmann, don't stop at Emily Dickinson. He skillfully replicates writing by George Washington, Daniel Boone, and others. His forgery of the Salamander letter, a document that could rock the Mormon Church to its foundations, would lead to murder." (Nancy Wagner, *Wilmette Public Library*)

### ***The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* by Simon Winchester**

"There are two tales in this page-turner. One is how the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) was compiled, which is fascinating in itself; and the other is a gripping story of a convicted murderer who spends his life sentence as a major contributor to the OED." (Central Rappahannock Public Library)

### ***Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi**

"In 1995, after resigning from her job as a professor at a university in Tehran due to repressive policies, Azar Nafisi invited seven of her best female students to attend a weekly study of great Western literature in her home. Since the books they read were officially banned by the government, the women were forced to meet in secret, often sharing photocopied pages of the illegal novels. For two years they met to talk, share, and "shed their mandatory veils and robes and burst into color." Though most of the women were shy and intimidated at first, they soon became emboldened by the forum and used the meetings as a springboard for debating the social, cultural, and political realities of living under strict Islamic rule." (Shawn Carkonen, *Amazon.com Review*)

### ***Seabiscuit: An American Legend* by Laura Hillenbrand**

"This is the story of a homely, Depression-era racehorse that captured the public's imagination and heart as he competed to be best in the land. Hillenbrand's entrancing tale of the horse, his trainers and jockeys, and the conditions they inhabited has something for everyone: drama, adventure, suspense, and history." (Nancy Wagner, *Wilmette Public Library*)

**Grade 11 AP English Language & Composition Summer Reading Book List (con't)**

***Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* by Mary Roach**

A few of the chapter titles provide a sense of what this book includes: A Head is a Terrible Thing to Waste; The Cadaver That Joined the Army; and Out of the Fire, into the Compost Bin.

***Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West* by Stephen Ambrose**

“Meriwether Lewis led an expedition that was both a success and a failure. In his trek across the American continent, he mapped and recorded a journey that had never been recorded before. But none of his goals were reached, and it haunted him until his death.” (Wake County Public Libraries, *WAKEGOV.com*)

***Walden* by Henry David Thoreau**

“One of the great books of American letters and a masterpiece of reflective philosophizing. Accounts of Thoreau's daily life on the shores of Walden Pond outside Concord, Massachusetts, are interwoven with musings on the virtues of self-reliance and individual freedom, on society, government, and other topics.” (*Amazon.com* Review)

***The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston**

“*The Woman Warrior* is a pungent, bitter, but beautifully written memoir of growing up Chinese American in Stockton, California. Maxine Hong Kingston distills the dire lessons of her mother's mesmerizing "talk-story" tales of a China where girls are worthless, tradition is exalted and only a strong, wily woman can scratch her way upward. The author's America is a landscape of confounding white "ghosts"--the policeman ghost, the social worker ghost--with equally rigid, but very different rules.” (*Amazon.com* Review)

***The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas L. Friedman**

Friedman considers developments and politically significant moments of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, from 9/11 and the Iraq war to technology and globalization, exploring their global impact.

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## Honors English 12 Summer Reading Book List

**Directions:** Students entering Grade 12 Honors English must read a minimum of two texts. All students will read the required text by Khaled Hosseini. Then, students will choose a second text from the list of titles which follows.

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### Required Text

#### **The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini**

"*The Kite Runner* follows the story of Amir and Hassan. They spend idyllic days running kites and telling stories of mystical places and powerful warriors until an unspeakable event changes the nature of their relationship forever. In part, it is these demons and the sometimes impossible quest for forgiveness that bring him back to his war-torn native land after it comes under Taliban rule." (*Amazon.com* Review)

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### Choose 1 from the following list:

#### **The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls**

"The Walls children learned to support themselves, eating out of trashcans at school or painting their skin so the holes in their pants didn't show. Buck-toothed Jeannette even tried making her own braces when she heard what orthodontia cost. One by one, each child escaped to New York City. Still, it wasn't long before their parents appeared on their doorsteps." (*Publishers Weekly*)

#### **In the Time of Butterflies by Julia Alvarez**

"A skillful blend of fact and fiction, *In the Time of the Butterflies* is inspired by the true story of the three Mirabal sisters who, in 1960, were murdered for their part in an underground plot to overthrow the [Trujillo] government." (*Amazon.com* Review)

#### **How to Read Literature Like a Professor by Thomas C. Foster**

"Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun." (*Amazon.com* Review)

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## Grade 12 AP English Literature and Composition

**Directions:** Students entering Grade 12 AP English Literature and Composition must read a minimum of three texts. The required texts are listed below. As students read, they should complete the written assignments which are detailed in the packet distributed at the end of the school year. It is strongly recommended that students annotate as they read, either marking up the book (if it belongs to the student) or by using post-it notes or a notebook to record thoughts, reactions, key quotes, etc.

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### **Required Texts**

#### ***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

"*The Kite Runner* follows the story of Amir and Hassan. They spend idyllic days running kites and telling stories of mystical places and powerful warriors until an unspeakable event changes the nature of their relationship forever. In part, it is these demons and the sometimes impossible quest for forgiveness that bring him back to his war-torn native land after it comes under Taliban rule." (*Amazon.com* Review)

#### ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster**

"Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun." (*Amazon.com* Review)

#### ***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho**

"Brazilian storyteller Paulo Coelho introduces Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who one night dreams of a distant treasure in the Egyptian pyramids. And so he's off: leaving Spain to literally follow his dream. Along the way he meets many spiritual messengers, who come in unassuming forms such as a camel driver and a well-read Englishman. In one of the Englishman's books, Santiago first learns about the alchemists--men who believed that if a metal were heated for many years, it would free itself of all its individual properties, and what was left would be the "Soul of the World." Of course he does eventually meet an alchemist, and the ensuing student-teacher relationship clarifies much of the boy's misguided agenda, while also emboldening him to stay true to his dreams." (*Amazon.com* Review)

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## Grade 12 AP English Expository Writing

**Directions:** Students entering Grade 12 AP English Expository Writing must read a minimum of three texts. The required texts are listed below. As students read, they should complete the written assignments which are detailed in the packet distributed at the end of the school year. It is strongly recommended that students annotate as they read, either marking up the book (if it belongs to the student) or by using post-it notes or a notebook to record thoughts, reactions, key quotes, etc.

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### **Required Texts**

#### ***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

"*The Kite Runner* follows the story of Amir and Hassan. They spend idyllic days running kites and telling stories of mystical places and powerful warriors until an unspeakable event changes the nature of their relationship forever. In part, it is these demons and the sometimes impossible quest for forgiveness that bring him back to his war-torn native land after it comes under Taliban rule." (*Amazon.com* Review)

#### ***Beyond the Narrow Gate* by Leslie Chang**

"The Chinese this century have endured traumas inconceivable to modern Western generations. *Beyond the Narrow Gate* is the story of four girls who fled extreme violence, privation, and the Communist Red Army in 1948. Author Leslie Chang hoped to uncover the family history that her mother, one of the girls, was unwilling to talk about and learn her own identity in the process. The gulf between their experiences is profound. As Chang says of her orphaned mother, "At thirteen, she had learned to expect only the worst from life; at thirteen, I thought the greatest tragedy was losing a contact lens." Chang's tale weaves together several themes: her mother's passage from Chinese student to American housewife; the varied experiences of three friends her mother made at an elite girls' school in Taiwan; the mother-daughter relationship; and growing up in an alien culture." (*Amazon.com* Review)

#### ***The Spirit Catches You and Then You Fall Down* by Ann Fadiman**

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction. "Brilliantly reported and beautifully crafted, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* explores the clash between the Merced Community Medical Center in California and a refugee family from Laos over the care of Lia Lee, a Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy. Lia's parents and her doctors both wanted what was best for Lia, but the lack of understanding between them led to tragedy." (*Amazon.com* Review)

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