

LONG BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL
English Department
Grade 11 Summer Reading List

All students are required to read two books during the summer. In addition to reading, students are responsible for completing a reading response journal as they read throughout the summer. These reading response journals should be written in a notebook and will be collected and graded the first week of school. In September each student will give an oral presentation based on their journal entries and the books they read.

Directions for Reading Response Journals:

You will be required to complete a reading response journal for the summer reading book(s) of your choice. Each entry should have a heading which includes the date, the title of the work under discussion, and the section/page numbers of the work. Topics for responses can center on, but are not limited to:

- What parts of the book did you find interesting or confusing in the reading?
- Explain a character's thoughts or actions at key points in the story.
- Describe any characters you can personally relate to.
- Connect themes or characters to other books or stories you have read.
- Describe any characters you can relate to a real world context.
- Write diary entries from a major character's point of view.
- Discuss any social relevance you discover in the themes or events of the play.
- Respond to key developments of the plot.
- Predict a conflict's resolution.

Your responses should begin to reflect informed opinions about the book(s) being read and should use passages from the text to support your opinions. It will be important to discuss in your responses various literary techniques and elements including, but not limited to, structure, diction, syntax, tone, figurative language, and poetic and rhetorical devices.

Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin

This book chronicles the history of a few generations of an Afro-American family and a young boy's efforts to gain some approval from his Bible-thumping, disciplinarian father. The story is told in a series of flashbacks. It begins in 1935 with young Southerner Gabriel Grimes running away from home.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Bradbury's novel details the eternal war between censorship and freedom of thought and continues to be relevant today more than ever. In Bradbury's future, books are illegal and

happily so—citizens are too busy watching their wall-sized televisions and listening to their in ear “seashell” radios to care about the loss of good literature.

My Antonia by Willa Cather

Willa Cather’s masterful portrait of prairie culture, based on her own life. Against Nebraska’s panoramic landscape, Cather recreates the life of an immigrant girl who becomes, in the memories of narrator Jim Burden, the epitome of strong and dignified womanhood.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Notorious when first published in 1899, *The Awakening* is a landmark novel of female emancipation and self-determination. This beautiful, brief novel so disturbed critics and the public that it was banished for decades afterward. Now widely read and admired, *The Awakening* has been hailed as an early version of woman’s emancipation.

Maggie: A Girl of the Streets by Stephen Crane

In concerns Maggie Johnson, a tenement girl, who is treated brutally as a child by her alcoholic mother. She eventually escapes her brother’s friend Pete, who seduces her. Because she has dishonored herself, the family disowns her; when Pete leaves her, Maggie becomes a prostitute.

The Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

Ellison won the National Book Award for this searing story of a black man’s fervent quest for personal identity and social visibility that takes him on a journey through the Southern U.S. and later to New York City.

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

In the fall of 1959, John Howard Griffin darkened the color of his skin and then set out on an odyssey through Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, a white man traveling as a black man in order to find out first-hand what it was like “to be a Negro in the Deep South.”

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

The best American novel to emerge from World War I, *A Farewell to Arms* is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his love for a beautiful English nurse. His description of the German attack on Caporetto—of lines of fired men marching in the rain, hungry, weary, and demoralized—is one of the greatest moments in literary history.

Hiroshima by John R. Hersey

On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey’s journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told throughout the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic “that stirs the conscience of humanity.”

Elmer Gantry by Sinclair Lewis

Lewis' portrait of a golden-tongued evangelist who rises to power within his church—a saver of souls who lives a life of hypocrisy, sensuality, and ruthless self-indulgence—is also the record of a period, a reign of grotesque vulgarity, which but for Lewis would have left no record of itself. *Elmer Gantry* has been called the greatest, most vital, and most penetrating study of hypocrisy that has been written since Voltaire.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

This book tells the gripping tale of a dog named Buck who is wrenched out of his life of ease and luxury to become a sled dog in Alaska. Drawing on his wolf heritage, Buck must fight for survival in an alien environment.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X

The absorbing personal story of the man who rose from a life of poverty and disadvantage to become the most dynamic leader of the Black Revolution, only to have his life cut short by an assassin's bullets. When his own conscience forced him to break with Elijah Muhammed, Malcolm founded the Organization of Afro-American Unity, to reach African Americans across the country with an inspiring message of pride, power, and self-determination. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* defines American culture and the African-American struggle for social and economic equality that has now become a battle for survival.

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers

Four lonely individuals, marginalized misfits in their families/communities, each obsessed with a vision of his or her place in the world, collect about a single deaf-mute with whom they share their deepest secrets. Wonderfully attuned to the spiritual isolation that underlies the human condition, and with a deft sense for racial tensions in the South, McCullers spins a haunting, unforgettable story that gives voice to the rejected, the forgotten, and the mistreated—and, through Mick Kelly, gives voice to the quiet, intensely personal search for beauty.

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

This is the odyssey from boyhood to manhood for two Jewish boys amidst the conflict between generations and religious traditions. As the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again.

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

One of the best selling books of all time, the heart-wrenching story of Eliza Harris and Uncle Tome, published in 1852, exposed the horrors of slavery and helped bring about the Civil War.

Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington

Up from Slavery chronicles the life and times of Booker T. Washington. In this captivating autobiography, Washington recounts his personal voyage from the shackles

of slavery to the pinnacle of prominence. The Tuskegee Institute, later to become today's Tuskegee University, plays a large role in the book, so much so that the latter half of *Up From Slavery* is as much about Tuskegee as it is about Washington.

The Natural by Bernard Malamud

The Natural is widely considered to be the premier baseball novel of all time. It tells the story of Roy Hobbs—an athlete born with rare and wondrous gifts—who is robbed of his prime playing years by a youthful indiscretion that nearly costs him his life. But at an age when most players are considering retirement, Roy reenters the game, lifting the lowly New York Knights from last place into pennant contention and becoming an instant hero in the process. Now all he has to worry about are the fixers, the boss, the slump, the jinx, the fans—and the dangerously seductive Memo Paris, the one woman Roy can't seem to get out of his mind.

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

In 1949, four Chinese women begin meeting in San Francisco for fun. Nearly 40 years later, their daughters continue to meet as the Joy Luck Club. Their stories ultimately display the double happiness that can be found in being both Chinese and American.

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Neither a novel nor a short story collection, it is an arc of fictional episodes, taking place in the childhoods of its characters, in the jungles of Vietnam and back home in America two decades later.

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Sethe, an escaped slave, kills her own daughter to prevent her from being claimed as a slave in this stunningly rendered story. Beloved returns to her mother as a ghost 20 years later. Any fans of Morrison's early work, *The Bluest Eye* will surely enjoy this book.

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

In the summer of 1953, during a Little League baseball game, 11-year-old Owen Meany hits a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother. What happens to him after that fateful day makes *A Prayer for Owen Meany* extraordinary, terrifying, and unforgettable.