

## 10th Grade Summer Reading

The Nicotra Early College Charter School English Department has decided to offer students an opportunity to engage in a Summer Reading Program. This summer, students will select one book from the list below, read the book, and then complete the attached assignment below that demonstrates what they took away from their chosen text. This assignment will be collected in September and graded for credit toward your 2022-2023 ELA Class.

### [10th Grade Summer Reading Assignment](#)

The list that follows is designed to offer students a broad range of reading experiences that represent a variety of genres and cover topics of current interest to high school students. With this approach, we hope to see all students find a book that they can be excited to read as they enjoy the leisure time that summer provides.

The attached book list has Amazon links included for each entry for easy purchase. However, I have included a link to sign up for a NYC Public Library Card if you do not already own one, to expand your options! [NYPL Card Application](#)

For any questions, concerns or if you need any advisement please contact me, [Taylor Wittick](#) at any time.

Wishing everyone a very safe, healthy, and fun filled summer and we look forward to discussing your reading selections in September!

**\*Disclaimer for Parents/Guardians:** The following books vary in terms of content, message, language, and maturity level. Please guide your child in selecting a book that you feel is both beneficial and appropriate. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to find a book that fits these criteria, please email me and I will be happy to help you find an alternative solution.

**Students entering 10th Grade may select from the following list of books:**

### ***The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros**

**Genre: Fiction**

Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, *The House on Mango Street* is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero. Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous—it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.

[Order Here!](#)

### ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz**

#### **Genre: Domestic Fiction**

Things have never been easy for Oscar, a sweet but disastrously overweight, lovesick Dominican ghetto nerd. From his home in New Jersey, where he lives with his old-world mother and rebellious sister, Oscar dreams of becoming the Dominican J. R. R. Tolkien and, most of all, of finding love. But he may never get what he wants, thanks to the *Fukø*—the curse that has haunted the Oscar's family for generations, dooming them to prison, torture, tragic accidents, and, above all, ill-starred love. Oscar, still waiting for his first kiss, is just its most recent victim. Diaz immerses us in the tumultuous life of Oscar and the history of the family at large, rendering with genuine warmth and dazzling energy, humor, and insight the Dominican-American experience, and, ultimately, the endless human capacity to persevere in the face of heartbreak and loss. A true literary triumph, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* confirms Junot Diaz as one of the best and most exciting voices of our time.

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### ***1984* by George Orwell**

#### **Genre: Dystopian Fiction**

Among the seminal texts of the 20th century, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a rare work that grows more haunting as its futuristic purgatory becomes more real. Published in 1949, the book offers political satirist George Orwell's nightmarish vision of a totalitarian, bureaucratic world and one poor stiff's attempt to find individuality. The brilliance of the novel is Orwell's prescience of modern life—the ubiquity of television, the distortion of the language—and his ability to construct such a thorough version of hell. Required reading for students since it was published, it ranks among the most terrifying novels ever written.

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### ***Night* by Elie Wiesel**

#### **Genre: Memoir, Autobiography**

Born in the town of Sighet, Transylvania, Elie Wiesel was a teenager when he and his family were taken from their home in 1944 to Auschwitz concentration camp, and then to Buchenwald. *Night* is the terrifying record of Elie Wiesel's memories of the death of his family, the death of his own innocence, and his despair as a deeply observant Jew confronting the absolute evil of man. This new translation by his wife and most frequent translator, Marion Wiesel, corrects important details and presents the most accurate rendering in English of Elie Wiesel's testimony to what happened in the camps and of his unforgettable message that this horror must simply never be allowed to happen again.

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### ***The Crucible* by Arthur Miller**

#### **Genre: Tragedy**

"I believe that the reader will discover here the essential nature of one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history," Arthur Miller wrote of his classic play about the witch-hunts and trials in seventeenth-century Salem, Massachusetts. Based on historical people and real events, Miller's drama is a searing portrait of a community engulfed by hysteria. In the rigid theocracy of Salem, rumors that women are practicing witchcraft galvanize the town's most basic fears and suspicions; and when a young girl accuses Elizabeth Proctor of being a witch, self-righteous church leaders and townspeople insist that Elizabeth be brought to trial. The ruthlessness of the prosecutors and the eagerness of neighbor to testify against neighbor brilliantly illuminates the destructive power of socially sanctioned violence. Written in 1953, *The Crucible* is a mirror Miller uses to reflect the anti-communist hysteria inspired by Senator Joseph McCarthy's "witch-hunts" in the United States.

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

**Genre: Autobiography**

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide. Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

[Order Here!](#)

***Lord of the Flies* by William Golding**

**Genre: Allegory, Psychological Fiction**

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate; this far from civilization the boys can do anything they want. Anything. They attempt to forge their own society, failing, however, in the face of terror, sin and evil. And as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued. Labeled a parable, an allegory, a myth, a morality tale, a parody, a political treatise, even a vision of the apocalypse, *Lord of the Flies* is perhaps our most memorable novel about "the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart."

[Order Here!](#)

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night* by Mark Haddon**

**Genre: Mystery and Crime Fiction**

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

[Order Here!](#)

***The Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson**

**Genre: Poetry, Autobiography**

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

[Order Here!](#)

**March: Book One by Andrew Aydin and John Lewis**

**Genre: Graphic Novel, Autobiography**

March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. Book One spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall. Many years ago, John Lewis and other student activists drew inspiration from the 1950s comic book *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story*. Now, his own comics bring those days to life for a new audience, testifying to a movement whose echoes will be heard for generations.

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