

## **Statement on Book Selection and Objectionable Material**

The Runnels English faculty has as its first mission to teach novels that engage, inspire, inform, uplift, and above all educate our students. While our first consideration is always the merit of an assigned novel, sometimes those books could contain material that some may find objectionable. In fact, almost every classic novel has been challenged at some point, and modern books are even more frequently challenged because of objectionable content. As Runnels is a school that embraces those of many faiths, cultures, and value systems, content that is deemed to be offensive will vary from family to family. As educators, we have made every effort to give students choices in their summer reading assignments, as we understand that student engagement strongly correlates with the ability to have ownership over reading choices. Please be aware, however, that this list includes books with language, themes, or situations that some students or families may find offensive. Therefore, in the spirit of academic freedom, we leave it up to each student and his or her family to make the reading selections that best fit their unique value system and interests.

## **Summer Assignments**

Summer Reading is a long tradition in many schools including Runnels. Research has shown conclusively that continued reading over long breaks keeps students from falling behind in reading skills. Because students will be expected to retain key information from their summer reading, many teachers assign corresponding work to help students remember what they read and to provide guidance and scaffolding for how to read the book closely. These assignments are mandatory. All English teachers in Junior and Senior High will require summer assignments for the summer of 2018. Additional copies of the assignments will be available through a link the Runnels Web Page at [www.runnels.org](http://www.runnels.org). Teachers will be available (via email) over the summer to answer questions concerning their assignments. English teachers will also meet with currently enrolled students before the end of the 2017-2018 school year to discuss the requirements for these assignments. Students who are new to Runnels should contact the administration and/or Norma Marsh, Dept. Head, English and Social Studies, at [n.marsh@runnels.org](mailto:n.marsh@runnels.org) for more information. All students will be expected to have completed these assignments upon their return to school for the 2018-2019 school year.

## **AP Assignments**

Many AP classes require summer assignments. Please check the Advanced Placement Summer Assignment for each course for more information. For students who are new to Runnels in the 2018-2019 year, please contact the administration for more information concerning summer assignments. AP teachers will be available via email to answer any questions concerning summer assignments as well.

Norma Marsh  
Department Head, English & Social Studies  
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**11th grade Summer Reading**  
Mrs. Wilks  
English III- College Prep (American Literature)  
(2 Books)  
\*Summer Assignments Required

Parents, please be aware that the list of novels provided is very broad, containing traditional classics alongside more modern works, and there may be books within this list you may find objectionable. Please work with your child to select novels within the guidelines that you find appropriate.

**REQUIRED:**

\* *Midnight at the Electric* — Jodi Lynn Anderson

**Choose 1 book to read from either the fiction or non-fiction list below:**

**FICTION:**

- *All the King's Men* — Robert Penn Warren
- *My Antonia* — Willa Cather
- *A Confederacy of Dunces* — John Kennedy O'Toole
- *The Maltese Falcon* — Dashiell Hammett
- *The Things They Carried* — Tim O'Brien
- *Blood Meridian* — Cormac McCarthy
- *A Lesson Before Dying* — Ernest Gaines
- *Girl, Stolen* — April Henry
- *Where Things Come Back* — John Corey Whaley
- *Piecing Me Together* — Renee Watson
- *Code Name Verity* — Elizabeth E. Wein
- *There's Someone Inside Your House* — Stephanie Perkins
- *Not If I Save You First* — Ally Carter
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* — Sherman Alexie
- *Moxie* — Jennifer Mathieu
- *Turtles All the Way Down* — John Green
- *The Time Traveler's Wife* — Audrey Niffenegger
- *Love and First Sight* — Josh Sundquist
- *Agent of Chaos* — Kami Garcia

**NON-FICTION:**

- *Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers* — Deborah Heiligman
- *Into the Wild* — Jon Krakauer
- *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* — Jeannette Walls
- *Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team* — Steve Sheinkin
- *Sinking the Sultana* — Sally M. Walker
- *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives* — Dashka Slater
- *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* — Laura Hillenbrand
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* — Rebecca Skloot
- *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* — Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- *Super Women: Six Scientists Who Changed the World* — Laurie Lawlor
- *The Magician and the Spirits: Harry Houdini and the Curious Pastime of Communicating With the Dead* — Deborah Noyes

\*Complete the graphic organizer for the required novel. This is not a small undertaking, and is not the kind of reading that can be completed the night before it is due. Parents, I will need your assistance to make sure that your child works throughout the summer in order to ensure their success.

English III – College Prep (American Literature)  
Summer Reading Worksheet

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete the following graphic organizer by hand as thoroughly as possible using your own words. Please be aware that I am quite familiar with all of the online study aids, such as Schmoop and Spark Notes. I know what these sites say about each of the books chosen, but in this graphic organizer I want to see what YOU THINK about the book, in YOUR OWN WORDS, from YOUR OWN READING of the text. Please be to the point but thorough. This graphic organizer will help you study for any tests or quizzes on the books, but will also be graded for originality (i.e. it's your own thinking, not Schmoop's) as well as completion, so please answer the questions quite thoroughly. I will be readily available throughout the summer to answer any questions you have, so please don't hesitate to contact me at [s.wilks@runnels.org](mailto:s.wilks@runnels.org) if you have a question or need more guidance.**

**Characterization**

<b>Protagonist (Name)</b>	<b>4 adjectives to describe the protagonist's personality and character</b>  •  •  •	<b>Physical description and function?</b>
<b>Antagonist (Name)</b>	<b>2 adjectives to describe the antagonist</b>  •  •	<b>Physical description and function? How does this character affect others in the book?</b>

Other Major & Important Minor Characters	2 adjectives for each of the major characters	2 important actions or characteristics that help to define this character?	Physical description/function of this character? How do these characters' actions affect others in the book?
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•			
•			
•			
•			

**Setting: Describe the setting(s) of the book**

<b>WHERE</b> (place, climate, buildings, etc.)	<b>WHEN</b> (time period, social situation, etc.)	<b>IMPACT</b> (effect of setting on the plot)

**Conflict, Symbolism and Narration**

**Characters & Conflict:**

- What obstacles/struggles must the major characters overcome in the book?
- Identify and explain the main conflict (man v. \_\_\_\_\_ )

**Symbolism:**

- Reoccurrences of symbols seen throughout the story
- (For instance the color black can be symbolic of death, the sun rising can be symbolic of a fresh start, etc.)

**Narration:**

- Who is the narrator of the story?
- How is the story narrated?  
(1<sup>st</sup> person/3<sup>rd</sup> person)
- How reliable is the narration?

**Important Quotes**

Choose 5 quotes, which stand out to you as being important to the novel. Also, record the page it is located.

1. (page \_\_\_\_\_)

2. (page \_\_\_\_\_)

3. (page \_\_\_\_\_)

4. (page \_\_\_\_\_)

5. (page \_\_\_\_\_)

**Important Plot Points/ Major events (Take Notes as You Read)**

**Exposition (Explain time/place and characters):**

**Rising action (List 4 events):**

**Climax (Identify the turning point):**

**Falling Action (List 3 events):**

**Resolution (Identify the ending of the book and how the main conflict is resolved):**