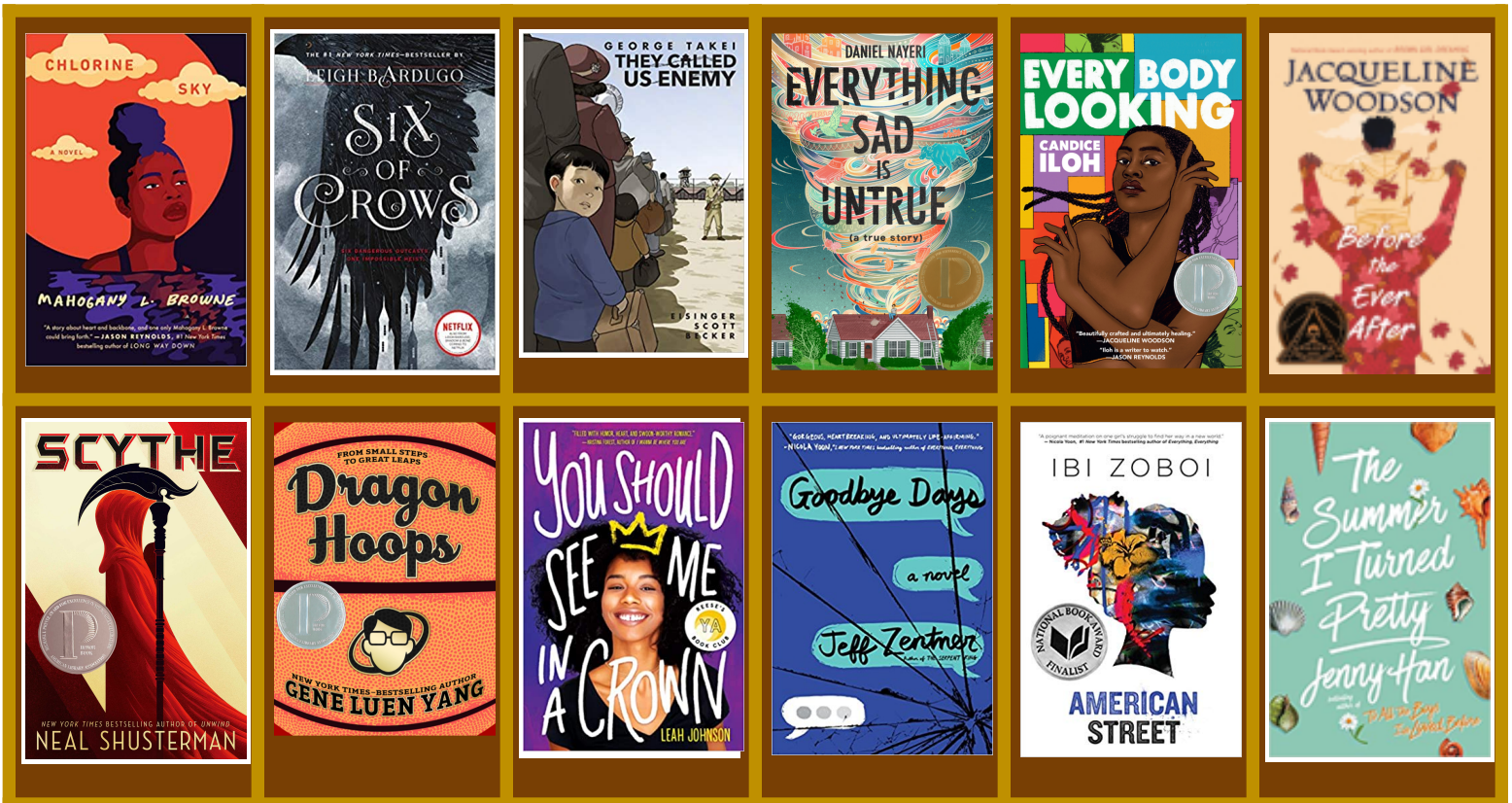


Stamford High School English Summer Reading 2021

Main Requirement: Select ONE summer reading book. The list below provides some suggestions. Click on an image in the bookshelf or scroll down in this document to learn more about the books.

Spend time reading a good book this summer. We have provided suggestions for inspiration, but feel free to choose a title that does not appear on the list. Chat with your friends, parents, teachers, and librarians about the books they recommend. Browse the shelves in the library and in bookstores or read reviews online. Choose a fiction or nonfiction book that interests you and that challenges you. The possibilities are nearly endless. Our purpose is to encourage you to find an enjoyable summer read. Expect that your English teacher will assess your reading when you return to school. Have a great summer! [Click here or scroll down for additional requirements for honors and advanced classes.](#)

SHS





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Click here for honors and advanced classes add-ons

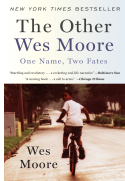


Additional Requirements for Honors and Advanced Classes

Honors Classes

In addition to your one summer reading choice, honors students are expected to read the following:

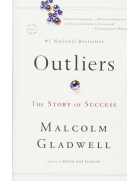
English 9 Honors:
The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates
by Wes Moore



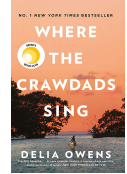
English 10 Honors:
We Were Here
by Matt de la Peña



English 11 Honors:
Outliers
by Malcolm Gladwell



English 12 Honors:
Where the Crawdads Sing
by Delia Owens



Assignments for Advanced Classes (due on the first day of school)

IB Classes (11 only)

<p>IB Team Read Read <i>Think Like a Freak</i> by Stephen J. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. Annotate with your reactions and questions as per the assignment instructions.</p>	<p>IB English A: Language and Literature (11) Read <i>Kindred</i> by Octavia Butler. Keep a dialectical journal in which you identify and explain parts of the text that trace the juxtaposition of the past and present experiences of the main character and Butler's critique of American history throughout the novel. Minimum eighteen entries (three passages from each of the novel's six chapters). This must be typed.</p>	<p>Go to www.stamfordhigh.org for more specific instructions. <i>Note: Any reading above and beyond these requirements is optional.</i></p>
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AP Language (11)

<p>Read <i>Outliers</i> by Malcolm Gladwell. Keep a dialectical journal in which you identify a passage from each of the nine chapters and analyze the language. This must be typed.</p>	<p>Read and annotate five articles from <i>The New Yorker</i> magazine or <i>Atlantic Monthly</i> magazine. Choose non-fiction articles (no fiction, blogs, or short side bar articles). Articles should be annotated with copious notes that reveal your close, detailed reading.</p>	<p>Go to www.stamfordhigh.org for more specific instructions. <i>Note: Any reading above and beyond these requirements is optional.</i></p>
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UConn ECE English (12)

<p>Read <i>The Elements of Style</i> by William Strunk and E.B. White. Then, write an essay in which you use what you learned from reading this book to assess your own writing.</p>	<p>Read the bildungsroman (coming of age) novel, <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> by Delia Owens. Then, write a well-organized 2-3 page essay analyzing how the protagonist's environment and relationships impact her identity.</p>	<p>Go to www.stamfordhigh.org for more specific instructions. <i>Note: Any reading above and beyond these requirements is optional.</i></p>
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Book Suggestion Descriptions

***Chlorine Sky* by Mahogany L. Browne**

Mahogany L Browne, friend of Stamford High School and our long-time poetry slam host, explores the experiences of a young girl coming-of-age and stepping out of the shadow of her former best friend. This novel-in-verse is about broken promises, fast rumors, and when growing up means growing apart from your best friend.

***Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo**

Ketterdam is a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price — and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone. Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction — if they don't kill each other first.

***They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei**

George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's — and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future. In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard. This graphic memoir is Takei's graphic memoir and firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future.

***Everything Sad Is Untrue (a true story)* by Daniel Nayeri**

In an autobiographical novel, middle-schooler Daniel, formerly Khosrou, tells his unimpressed and at times cruel classmates about his experience as an Iranian refugee. His story. But no one believes a word he says. To them he is a dark-skinned, hairy-armed boy with a big butt whose lunch smells funny; who makes things up and talks about poop too much.

But Khosrou's stories, stretching back years, and decades, and centuries, are beautiful, and terrifying, from the moment he, his mother, and sister fled Iran in the middle of the night, stretching all the way back to family tales set in the jasmine-scented city of Isfahan, the palaces of semi-ancient kings, and even the land of stories. Printz Award Winner 2021

***Every Body Looking* by Candice Iloh**

In this novel in verse, Ada recounts her freshman year as a first generation student attending a Historically Black College, while simultaneously taking the reader through her younger life. Ada feels the pressure to make money from her major, but she ultimately realizes that dance is what connects, energizes, and sustains her. Printz Honor Book 2021; National Book Award Finalist 2020 for Young People's Literature



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***Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson**

For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ's mom explains it's because of all the head injuries his dad sustained during his career. ZJ can understand that — but it doesn't make the sting any less real when his own father forgets his name. As ZJ contemplates his new reality, he has to figure out how to hold on tight to family traditions and recollections of the glory days, all the while wondering what their past amounts to if his father can't remember it. And most importantly, can those happy feelings ever be reclaimed when they are all so busy aching for the past? Coretta Scott King Award 2021

***Scythe* by Neil Shusterman**

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life — and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe — a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own. Printz Honor Book 2017

***Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang**

Gene Luen Yang never would have guessed that he would be working on a graphic novel about a basketball team, but he found inspiration in the men's varsity team at Bishop O'Dowd High School. The games are only a small portion of the story, though, as readers learn about the history of basketball as well as Yang's personal journey. Printz Honor Book 2021

***You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson**

Liz Lighty has always believed she's too black, too poor, too awkward to shine in her small, rich, prom-obsessed midwestern town. But it's okay — Liz has a plan that will get her out of Campbell, Indiana, forever: attend the uber-elite Pennington College, play in their world-famous orchestra, and become a doctor. But when the financial aid she was counting on unexpectedly falls through, Liz's plans come crashing down, until she's reminded of her school's scholarship for prom king and queen. There's nothing Liz wants to do less than endure a gauntlet of social media trolls, catty competitors, and humiliating public events, but despite her devastating fear of the spotlight she's willing to do whatever it takes to get to Pennington. The only thing that makes it halfway bearable is the new girl in school, Mack. She's smart, funny, and just as much of an outsider as Liz. But Mack is also in the running for queen. Will falling for the competition keep Liz from her dreams or make them come true? Stonewall Honor Book



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***Goodbye Days* by Jeff Zentner**

"Where are you guys? Text me back." That's the last message Carver Briggs will ever send his three best friends, Mars, Eli, and Blake. He never thought it would lead to their death. Now Carver can't stop blaming himself for the accident, and he's not the only one. Eli's twin sister is trying to freeze him out of school with her death-ray stare. And Mars's father, a powerful judge, is pressuring the district attorney to open a criminal investigation into Carver's actions. Luckily, Carver has some unexpected allies: Eli's girlfriend, the only person to stand by him at school; Dr. Mendez, his new therapist; and Blake's grandmother, who asks Carver to spend a Goodbye Day with her to share their memories and say a proper goodbye to his friend. Will they all be able to make peace with their losses, or will these Goodbye Days bring Carver one step closer to a complete breakdown or — even worse — prison?

***American Street* by Ibi Zoboi**

Fabiola and her mother are on their way to the United States when her mother is detained and sent back to Haiti. Fabiola is left to navigate her three boisterous cousins, Detroit's west side, a new school, and an unpredictable romance — with only her faith as solace. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream? National Book Award Finalist 2017

***The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han**

Belly measures her life in summers. Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August. Winters are simply a time to count the weeks until the next summer, a place away from the beach house, away from Susannah, and most importantly, away from Jeremiah and Conrad. They are the boys that Belly has known since her very first summer — they have been her brother figures, her crushes, and everything in between. But one summer, one wonderful and terrible summer, the more everything changes, the more it all ends up just the way it should have been all along.