HHS Summer Reading 2020
Required Texts for Honors Classes:

11 Honors -

- Chopin, Kate. The Awakening. (Since this book is officially in the public domain, there are many different editions of the book, including free ones online. Personally, I like the Norton Edition, which includes plenty of supplementary material).

Please use this link for directions from Mr. Abrams
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BHo8L0f461pUG2bVfkzxDTRB6Q3LVjHj0YY1-FZicg/edit#heading=h.zdt2xrej1726

AP Literature - Homegoing Yaa Gyasi

SUPA - Middlesex, Jeffrey Eugenides

Recommended Texts for English 9 - 12:

These texts are some of our current favorites. While you’re not required to read any of them, if you’re looking for something good to read this summer, we think you’ll be able to find some excellent options here. Enjoy, and please let us know what you think!!

Washington Black Esi Edugyan
An Amazon Best Book of September 2018: Washington Black is that rarest of novels: a hybrid that knows exactly what it is. The story begins as an antebellum novel about Wash, an 11-year-old slave working on a Barbados plantation run by a sadistic master. When Christopher, the master’s brother, takes Wash under his wing and teaches him to read, the novel turns more toward adventure and scientific exploration. There are inventions, twists, and turns; there is danger and intrigue; there is travel and growth. What holds everything together is author Esi Edugyan’s writing chops. She is a precise writer who has created a world that seems whole and all-embracing. Her characters are fully realized human beings. The weight of personal freedom is a theme that winds through the book, as does the opposing weight of cultural and societal expectations. There is so much to digest here, and so much to enjoy, that readers may well be tempted to read this book twice. --Chris Schluep, Amazon Book Review

Of Mice and Men John Steinbeck
Steinbeck’s tale of commitment, loneliness, hope, and loss remains one of America’s most widely read and beloved novels. While the powerlessness of the laboring class is a recurring theme in Steinbeck’s work of the late 1930s, he narrowed his focus when composing Of Mice and Men (1937), creating an intimate portrait of two men facing a world marked by petty tyranny, misunderstanding, jealousy, and callousness. But though the scope is narrow, the theme is universal: a friendship and shared dream that make an individual’s existence meaningful. Amazon.com

The Poet X Elizabeth Acevedo
Winner of the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, and the Pura Belpre Award! Fans of Jacqueline Woodson, Meg Medina, and Jason Reynolds will fall hard for this astonishing New York Times-bestselling novel-in-verse by an award-winning slam poet, about an Afro-Latina heroine who tells her story with blazing words and powerful truth.
Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about.

With Mami’s determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school’s slam poetry club, she doesn’t know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can’t stop thinking about performing her poems.

Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.

Hearts Unbroken

Cynthia Leitich Smith

Winner of an American Indian Youth Literature Award. New York Times best-selling author Cynthia Leitich Smith turns to realistic fiction with the thoughtful story of a Native teen navigating the complicated, confusing waters of high school — and first love.

When Louise Wolfe’s first real boyfriend mocks and disrespects Native people in front of her, she breaks things off and dumps him over e-mail. It’s her senior year, anyway, and she’d rather spend her time with her family and friends and working on the school newspaper. The editors pair her up with Joey Kairouz, the ambitious new photojournalist, and in no time the paper’s staff find themselves with a major story to cover: the school musical director’s inclusive approach to casting The Wizard of Oz has been provoking backlash in their mostly white, middle-class Kansas town. From the newly formed Parents Against Revisionist Theater to anonymous threats, long-held prejudices are being laid bare and hostilities are spreading against teachers, parents, and students — especially the cast members at the center of the controversy, including Lou’s little brother, who’s playing the Tin Man. As tensions mount at school, so does a romance between Lou and Joey — but as she’s learned, “dating while Native” can be difficult. In trying to protect her own heart, will Lou break Joey’s? Amazon.com

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Mary Ann Shaffer

January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she’s never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb....

As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends - and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society - born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island - boasts a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all. Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society’s members, learning about their island, their taste in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.

Written with warmth and humor as a series of letters, this novel is a celebration of the written word in all its guises and of finding connection in the most surprising ways. Amazon.com

Hillbilly Elegy

JD Vance

From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class.

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis - that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over 40 years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside.
J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.  

**Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine**  
Gail Honeyman  
Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she’s thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy.

But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond’s big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one.

Soon to be a major motion picture produced by Reese Witherspoon, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is the smart, warm, and uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes.

*The only way to survive is to open your heart.*

**Improvement**  
Joan Silber  
A beautiful book that has won oodles of awards this year, including the Pen/Faulkner Award for fiction, *Improvement* tells the story of a woman in love with a convict who has to choose between helping the man she loves get back on his feet and her sense of what is best for her four-year-old daughter. This is a book without heroes and villains and yet it still seems to get at big issues of morality.

**Indian Killer**  
Sherman Alexie  
Some of you may have read Alexie’s YA novel *An Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* and know that Alexie is a writer with great voice and humor. *Indian Killer* is a pseudo-mystery about a serial killer in the Seattle area but is as much about the identity work and confusion of its Indian and white protagonists as it is about the rollicking good mystery at its center.

**The Heart Goes Last**  
Margaret Atwood  
As a fan of the dystopian *Handmaid’s Tale*, I was excited when I heard that Atwood had written another futuristic book. This one may not be as powerful as *HT*, but is a fast compelling read. The world has fallen into economic disrepair, and the couple at the center of the story has decided to join an experimental company where they get to live in a great town for one month and serve in a prison for the alternating months, producing the goods needed for the rest of the town. The story takes some really weird turns from there!

**I am not your Perfect Mexican Daughter**  
Erika Sanchez  
I’m just finishing up this book now. For fans of *Catcher in the Rye*, this novel provides another complicated, unforgettable narrator, desperate to figure out how to grow into her own shoes and survive the contradictory desires of the adults and kids around her. A killer narrative voice.