

John Marshall High School

Home of the Fighting Rams

8000 Lobo Lane, San Antonio, Texas 78240

(210) 397-7100

English I Pre-AP Summer Reading Expectations 2018

This summer, incoming Marshall High School English I Pre-AP students are expected to closely read a fictional novel of their own choosing. The novel must be one that is grade-level appropriate and has literary merit. We **strongly recommend** that you have your own hard/electronic copy of the book annotated and with you the first day of school. Additional assignments in connection with the book will start on the first day of school.

Close reading means that you highlight important passages, think deeply about themes, characters, settings, etc..., make connections (text to world, texts, self) ask questions of the text, and are prepared to have in-depth conversations about your reading.

Suggested Titles

The reader may choose a book that is **not** on this list. Think of this as a guide to help you choose a fiction novel with literary merit. Please contact Jessi Lane, English Coordinator, with any questions, jessica.lane@nisd.net.

*[Scythe, Neal Shusterman](#)
*[Everlost, Neal Shusterman](#)
*[Unwind, Neal Shusterman](#)
*[The Hate U Give, Angie Thomas](#)
*[Brown Girl Dreaming, Jacqueline Woodson](#)
*[Turtles All the Way Down, John Green](#)
*[One of Us is Lying, Karen McManus](#)
*[All American Boys, Jason Reynolds](#)
*[A Long Way Down, Jason Reynolds](#)
*[Piecing Me Together, Renee Watson](#)
*[Ghost, Jason Reynolds](#)
*[The Boy in the Black Suit, Jason Reynolds](#)
*[People Like Us, Dana Mele](#)
*[Three Dark Crowns, Kendare Blake](#)

*[City of Saints and Thieves, Natalie Anderson](#)
*[We are Okay, Nina LaCour](#)
*[American Street, Ibi Zoboi](#)
*[I Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter, Erika Sanchez](#)
*[A Wizard of Earthsea, Ursula LeGuin](#)
*[Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, Benjamin Saenz](#)
*[The Love Interest, Cale Dietrich](#)
*[The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie](#)
*[The House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer](#)
*[The Chocolate War, Robert Cormier](#)
*[The Book Thief, Markus Zusak](#)
*[Wintergirls, Laurie Halse Anderson](#)
*[The Raven Boys, Maggie Steifvater](#)

Books that would be considered **unacceptable** are:

1. Books commonly taught in middle school. For examples, *The Lightning Thief*, *The Outsiders*, *Touching Spirit Bear*, *The Giver*, etc...
2. Although we don't discourage the reading of graphic novels for independent reading, they will not be considered acceptable for this particular assignment.
3. Non-fiction titles.

Marshall Summer Reading FAQ – 9th grade Pre-AP

Logistics

- You will need a copy of the book in class for the first two weeks.
- We **highly recommend** that you have your own copy of the book to annotate.
- If you are unsure about what to annotate for, use the fictional signposts.
- The list of novels on the assignment are recommendations only.
- You may read **any fictional novel** within the confines explained on the assignment.
- We recommend that you read the book or review your annotations in August so your ideas and responses are prepared for the first days of school.

Literary Merit

Literary merit implies the following qualities in a fictional text.

- The story explores universal themes.
- The author uses advanced [literary devices](#) to develop meaning.
- Advanced [diction](#)
- Introduces [complex](#) conflicts that help readers understand the world around them
- There is some responsibility on the reader to be able to articulate the merit of their book.

What should I do when I read?

- Notice the passages that create merit in your novel and annotate them.
- Ask leveled questions as you read.
- Think about ideas, characters, perspectives, literary choices, or any other idea connected to the text you would like to discuss with a small group.
- Identify themes and how they are revealed in the text.

What will we do with the summer reading at the start of school?

- Small group discussions
- Written responses
- Review of important literary analysis skills
- Student identified passage analysis
- Reading conferences

***Ideally we would just like you to read and critically think about your book. If you do that and come prepared to discuss and respond, you will be prepared for the class activities and assignments.**