

AP English Literature  
Summer Reading 2018  
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Welcome to AP Literature! As the course description suggests, AP Literature is for people who love (or want to love) fiction and poetry. Your summer reading should be spent rediscovering your passion for reading fiction. With that in mind, all I want you to do for your summer reading is READ FOR FUN. I will give your assigned reading syllabus for the year during the first week of school. Because AP literature must cover ancient literature to the present, I do not want you to attempt these often convoluted and esoteric works without my help.

**For your summer reading you may read ANY work of fiction that has won a Booker Prize, a National Book Award, an American Library Award, the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, or the Nobel Prize for Literature.** Please avoid "best sellers" unless they are also award winning. You may not read Young Adult Literature (YA) Winners such as Caldecott or Newbery Winners because those are generally written below your reading level and are not testable on the AP Literature exam. You can easily do a Google search for award winning fiction. However, if you have a question about any book, please email me at [cjoyce@dcbe.org](mailto:cjoyce@dcbe.org)

If you or your parents disapprove of a book for any reason, please make another selection. Contemporary award-winning fiction is vast, so you should have no problems finding something that you enjoy. If you aren't enjoying reading it, then get another book! **You can expect a book project over your summer reading in the first weeks of school, so the more you immerse yourself in the reading the better.** Transfer students from other schools are encouraged to take this course and will be given a reading extension.

Here are some suggestions for contemporary fiction prize winners. These are only suggestions and you are not limited to these choices. Have a fantastic summer; I look forward to seeing you August 1st! --CJ

#### BOOKER PRIZE

##### -The Blind Assassin

A novel by the Canadian writer Margaret Atwood. It was first published by McClelland and Stewart in 2000. Set in Canada, it is narrated from the present day, referring to previous events that span the twentieth century.

##### -Life of Pi

A Canadian fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001. The protagonist is Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, an Indian boy from Pondicherry who explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age.

## PULITZER PRIZE

### Less

-A struggling novelist travels the world to avoid an awkward wedding in this hilarious Pulitzer Prize-winning novel full of "arresting lyricism and beauty" (New York Times Book Review).

### The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

-Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar's family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. Encapsulating Dominican-American history, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* opens our eyes to an astonishing vision of the contemporary American experience and explores the endless human capacity to persevere—and risk it all—in the name of love.

### The Goldfinch

-Theo Decker, a 13-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Bewildered by his strange new home on Park Avenue, disturbed by schoolmates who don't know how to talk to him, and tormented above all by his longing for his mother, he clings to the one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art.

## AMERICAN LIBRARY AWARD

### -The Secret Life of Bees

In the summer of 1964, just after Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law, fourteen-year-old motherless Lily Owens breaks her black caretaker, Rosaleen, out of jail after a failed attempt to register to vote and they run off, finding a home with the beekeeping Calendar Sisters of Tiburon, S. Carolina

### -The Kite Runner

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.