

**Incoming 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List for  
GENERAL PREPARATORY AND COLLEGE PREPARATORY ENGLISH  
Emmaus High School 2012\*2013**

All tenth grade college prep and general prep students must read **two** books from the list, one fiction, one non-fiction. The list is divided into two themes—both books should come from the same thematic group.

Dear Students:

The books you choose to read over the summer will serve as the basis for an in-class, one-hundred-point, five-paragraph essay. The mode of writing is literary analysis. The focus of the essay is character development. The following prompt will serve as the basis for the summer reading essay:

The works on this list contain memorable stories about how people develop into who they are. Choose three characters from the two books you have read. For each character, identify at least one personality trait which defines the character. Focus on the specific traits that form their identities; in other words, explain how the particular trait shapes their responses to the world around them. Do not merely describe the character's experiences or actions. In your conclusion, identify the trait which you believe is the most essential for success.

Students must illustrate an understanding of the structure of a five-paragraph essay by developing a central idea and a thesis statement, by creating fully-developed body paragraphs with specific examples from the books, and by including an introduction and conclusion. To aid you in completing your essay, you may use any **original, handwritten** notes you collect over the summer. We look forward to reading your responses to the books in September.

*Please Note: In the English Department's attempt to provide rich and varied reading experiences for our students, we have selected titles for the summer reading lists written mostly by contemporary authors. Some selections are focused toward mature readers. We encourage parents to read the book descriptions carefully with their children and assist them in selecting interesting, appropriate titles for their summer reading.*

**Identity—Fiction**

**Brown, Rosellen. *Before and After*.**

This fascinating novel concerns a family's struggle to hold itself together after a teenaged son murders his girlfriend. The story is told alternately from the viewpoint of the boy's mother, father, and sister. The story moves from initial shock and denial (our son could never have done this!) through anxiety over his disappearance and the difficulties of his capture and incarceration to the murder trial itself and finally to life "afterwards," after the family has had to relocate to another part of the country to avoid cruel gossip in the small New Hampshire town where these events took place. The family members are not only at odds with the community but frequently at odds with one another as well. Deep questions of loyalty, honesty, and love are forced to the surface in this psychologically riveting tale. *Brown won an Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters and a Guggenheim Fellowship.*

**Conroy, Pat. *The Great Santini*.**

Ben Meecham is the son of Bull Meecham, a squadron leader and expert marine fighter-pilot who demands the best from everyone, especially his son. Bull dubs himself "the Great Santini," and his family must obey when "the Great Santini has spoken." Ben can never seem to live up to his father's inhuman standards, and Bull's unbending will dominates every aspect of family life. Ben endeavors to develop his own identity in the midst of a power struggle with his domineering and sometimes vulgar and abusive father. At times hilarious and heartbreaking, this novel presents life-like portraits of an over-the-top bully who sacrifices compassion for discipline, and a young man who develops qualities that his father could never hope to possess. *Conroy won a Stanley W. Lindberg Award for Literary Contribution and was inducted into the Georgia Writer's Hall of Fame. The novel is a Random House recommendation for High School.*

**Hoffman, Alice. *Property Of*.**

In this novel, Alice Hoffman introduces a lonely outsider who wants desperately to belong. As she determinedly tries to become the "property of" a local gang's brooding leader, she will discover what can, and cannot, be possessed--and what can happen when you hand your heart over to a man who claims to care nothing about love. The main character becomes involved with the gang leader, McKay, and she stands by him through his drug use, loving her man so much she sees his habit as a way to hold him. Addicted to love, she becomes addicted to heroin too, because she cannot stand to be outside, alone. The story describes a struggle of growing up and moving on.

*Hoffman is a bestselling author.*

**Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*.**

Set in South Carolina in 1964, Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to free herself and Rosaleen. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power. *NY Times Bestseller, 2003 SEBA Award for Best Fiction Novel*

**McGuire, Gregory. *Wicked*.**

This imaginative fantasy novel retells the story of The Wizard of Oz from the point of view of Elphaba, a green-skinned, sharp-toothed witch from the West. Elphaba has always gotten a bad rap for her idiosyncrasies, but when she goes to college, she begins to find real purpose in her desire to expose the corruption in Oz. With obstacles like her shallow, materialistic roommate Glinda, Elphaba really captures the reader's sympathy. The book investigates both idealism and cynicism in its discussion of social, religious, educational,

and political issues present in Oz, and, more pointedly, present in our day and time. The idealism is whimsical and engaging; the cynicism is biting. The author occasionally uses earthy language to create a feeling of authenticity, and he does not shy away from the sexual awakening of young adults. *1995 Bestseller, 2007 New England Book Awards Fiction*

### Identity—Non-fiction

**Colton, Larry. *Counting Coup: A True Story of Basketball and Honor on Little Big Horn.***

This is a true story of life on an American Indian reservation where despite all the stereotypical obstacles (alcohol and drug addictions, the reliance on gambling and split families, usually because of the other challenges), hope can still be found in small accomplishments and signs of progress. The author, Colton, takes on this stark world head-first and develops a wonderful inside story of both failure and accomplishment. The detailed, up-close narrative centers on one standout player in particular, Sharon LaForge, a moody teenager enduring incredible adversity. Colton portrays teenage life on a reservation with candor.

**Wieviorka, Annette. *Auschwitz Explained to My Child.***

How could people do these things to children? What's a roundup? Were the Jews the only ones marked for death? So are all Germans from that time guilty? Why didn't the Jews fight? A 13-year-old Jewish girl asks 80 blunt questions about the Holocaust, and her mother, French Holocaust scholar Wieviorka, answers with the same directness. Originally published in France, and translated here in simple, conversational style, the small, spacious book in question-and-answer format provides an honest introduction to the historical facts and the elemental moral issues. Besides the roles of victims and perpetrators in the ghettos, transports, camps, and gas chambers, the questions persist about the bystanders--individuals and nations--who allowed the Holocaust to happen. There is absolutely no rhetoric or sentimentality, and the informal, conversational tone lends itself to discussion at home or in the classroom. As Wieviorka says, the child asks questions that have haunted philosophers and historians for more than half a century.

**Wolfe, Tom. *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test.***

Tom Wolfe's much-discussed kaleidoscopic non-fiction novel chronicles the tale of novelist Ken Kesey and his band of Merry Pranksters. In the 1960s, Kesey led a group of psychedelic sympathizers around the country in a painted bus and presided over LSD-induced "acid tests" all along the way. Long considered one of the greatest books about the history of the hippies, Wolfe's ability to research like a reporter and simultaneously evoke the hallucinogenic indulgence of the era ensures that this book, written in 1967, will live long in the counter-culture canon of American literature.

**Houston, James D. and Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. *A Farewell to Manzanar.***

When the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor in 1941, seven-year-old American-born Jeanne Wakatsuki doesn't understand what has happened. But the attack transforms her life: her father is arrested, falsely accused of aiding the enemy, and the rest of her family is sent to Manzanar, an internment camp.

### Family—Fiction

**Evanovich, Janet. *One for the Money.***

An unemployed discount lingerie buyer, Stephanie Plum is a tough girl from Trenton, New Jersey, who has an interesting story to tell: her only chance out of her present financial rut is joining her revolting cousin Vinnie in his bail-bond business. She takes on a job and the often comical problems begin. She's known her primary target, Joe, since childhood, and he has the ability to charm and seduce her at his convenience. Cars start blowing up; people begin disappearing; and a sadistic lunatic adds Plum to his wish list. Stephanie's several unsuccessful attempts to involve Joe make a downright hilarious and suspenseful tale of murder and deceit. Stephanie's narrative voice offers a winning mix of vulgarity and sensitivity. This is the first in a series of crime fiction books.

*Evanovich is a bestselling author.*

**Fitch, Janet. *White Oleander.***

Astrid is the only child of a single mother, Ingrid, a brilliant obsessed poet who wields her luminous beauty to intimidate and manipulate men. Astrid worships her mother and cherishes their private world full of ritual and mystery--but their idyll is shattered when Astrid's mother falls apart over a lover. Deranged by rejection, Ingrid murders the man and is sentenced to life in prison. *White Oleander* is the unforgettable story of Astrid's journey through a series of foster homes and her efforts to find a place for herself. Each home is its own universe, with a new set of laws and lessons to be learned. This is an unforgettable story of mothers and daughters, burgeoning sexuality, the redemptive powers of art, and the unstoppable force of the emergent self.

*Oprah's Book Club*

**Letts, Billie. *Where the Heart Is.***

Seventeen-year-old Novalee Nation finds herself pregnant, abandoned, and penniless at a Wal-Mart in a small town. Within no time, she meets many friends and mentors, and she finds love. Though she has many happy times in Oklahoma, sudden storms, domestic violence, kidnapping, deadly fires, and the loss of innocence punctuate Novalee's progress from a homeless, unwed teen mom, to a successful, happy member of the community. The novel features several memorable characters, and celebrates the life-affirming qualities of reading, the importance of education, the power of love and kindness to change lives, and the true meaning of "home."

*Oprah's Book Club*

**McLaughlin, Emma and Nicola Kraus. *The Nanny Diaries.***

Co-written by two former nannies, the novel follows the adventures of a college senior, Nan, as she works as a nanny for a wealthy, crumbling New York City family. Her charge is a four-year-old boy who cannot control his mom's scheduling him for every activity known to the Upper East Side, including ice skating, French lessons, and a Mommy and Me group largely attended by nannies. Nan also finds a love interest, referred to as "Harvard Hottie." What makes the book so impossible to put down is the suspense of finding out what the unbelievably inconsiderate Mrs. X or the adulterous, distant Mr. X will demand of Nan next. Will Nanny continue to work for Mrs. X and let the job take control of her life or will she be forced to abandon the little boy who so desperately needs her?

**Picoult, Jodi. *My Sister's Keeper*.**

Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Since birth, the 13-year-old has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow as part of her family's struggle to lengthen Kate's life. Anna is now being considered as a kidney donor in a last-ditch attempt to save her 16-year-old sister. As this compelling story opens, Anna has hired a lawyer to represent her in a medical emancipation suit to allow her to have control over her own body. Picoult skillfully relates the ensuing drama from multiple points of view. Everyone's quandary is explicated and each of the characters is fully developed. There seems to be no easy answer, and readers are likely to be sympathetic to all sides of the case. This is a real page-turner and frighteningly thought-provoking. *Alex Award, Vermont Green Mountain Book Award, Best Book of the Year (Bookbrowse.com), IMPAC Dublin Literary Reward nominee*

**Russo, Richard. *Empire Falls*.**

Miles Roby has been slinging burgers at the Empire Grill for twenty years, a job that cost him his college education and much of his self-respect. What keeps him there? It could be his bright, sensitive daughter, Tick, who needs all his help surviving the local high school. Or maybe it's Janine, his soon-to-be ex-wife, who's taken up with a noxiously vain health-club proprietor. Or perhaps it's the overbearing Francine Whiting, who owns everything in town—and seems to believe that “everything” includes Miles. In *Empire Falls*, Richard Russo delves deep into the blue-collar heart of America in a work that overflows with hilarity, heartache, and grace. The everyday life in this novel is realistic, and at times, the author uses strong language. *2002 Pulitzer Prize*

**Family—Non-fiction**

**Grogan, John. *Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog*.**

This book is a tribute to a Labrador Retriever, Marley, who doesn't fit the mold of an even-tempered, calm and reliable dog-companion. Newlyweds, John and Jennie Grogan, adopted the sweet, affectionate puppy who grew into a lovably naughty and hyperactive dog. This story tells the adventures the parents and children (eventually three) enjoyed with the overly energetic but endearing dog. *2006 Quill Award*

**Hickam, Homer. *Rocket Boys*.**

Inspired by Werner von Braun and his Cape Canaveral team, 14-year-old Homer Hickam decided in 1957 to build his own rockets. They were his ticket out of Coalwood, West Virginia, a mining town that everyone knew was dying--everyone except Sonny's father, the mine superintendent and a company man so dedicated that his family rarely saw him. Hickam's smart, iconoclastic mother wanted her son to become something more than a miner and, along with a female science teacher, encouraged the efforts of his grandiosely named Big Creek Missile Agency. He grew up to be a NASA engineer and his memoir of the bumpy ride toward a gold medal at the National Science Fair in 1960--an unprecedented honor for a miner's kid--is rich in humor as well as warm sentiment. Hickam vividly evokes a world of close communal ties in which a storekeeper who sold him saltpeter warned, "Listen, rocket boy. This stuff can blow you to kingdom come." Hickam is candid about the deep disagreements and tensions in his parents' marriage, even as he movingly depicts their quiet loyalty to each other. The portrait of his ultimately successful campaign to win his aloof father's respect is equally affecting.

**Pelzer, David. *A Child Called It*.**

This autobiographical account charts the abuse of a young boy as his alcoholic mother first isolates him from the rest of the family; then torments him; and finally nearly kills him through starvation, poisoning, and one dramatic stabbing. Pelzer's portrayal of domestic tyranny and eventual escape is unforgettable. This author has overcome mammoth obstacles and succeeded in life. However, while personal accounts of child maltreatment provide crucial information about the realities of childhood, youngsters need insight and hope in order to digest the raw material of abuse.

*NY Times bestseller, Pelzer Outstanding Young Person of the World 1994*

**Wolff, Tobias. *This Boy's Life: A Memoir***

Wolff begins his finely written memoir recounting the journey he and his mother made from Florida to Washington State in search of a better life. However, as has happened several times before, his mother gravitates toward an abusive man whom she eventually marries. Toby spends much of his youth in a battle of wills with his unhinged stepfather, using any means available to emerge victorious, including inventing an alter ego (Jack), lying, and stealing. Toby grapples with the typical experiences of young adulthood: trying to “fit in,” learning what's right, and searching for acceptance from peers, parents, and other adults. Wolff creates a classic coming of age story told in gritty and beautiful prose.

*New York Times Notable Book of the Year Award, O'Henry Prize Winner for three short stories*

**Alternate Titles (Classics)**

**Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*.**

Widely recognized as **Willa Cather's** greatest novel, *My Antonia* is a soulful and rich portrait of a pioneer woman's simple yet heroic life. The spirited daughter of Bohemian immigrants, Antonia must adapt to a hard existence on the desolate prairies of the Midwest. Enduring childhood poverty, teenage seduction, and family tragedy, she eventually becomes a wife and mother on a Nebraska farm. A fictional record of how women helped forge the communities that formed a nation, *My Antonia* is also a hauntingly eloquent celebration of the strength, courage, and spirit of America's early pioneers. —Gordon Tapper for Barnes & Noble Classics

**Hemingway, Ernest. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.**

*For Whom the Bell Tolls* begins and ends in a pine-scented forest, somewhere in Spain. The year is 1937 and the Spanish Civil War is in full swing. Robert Jordan, a demolitions expert attached to the International Brigades...has come to blow up a bridge on behalf of the antifascist guerilla forces. He hopes he'll be able to rely on their local leader, Pablo, to help carry out the mission, but upon meeting him, Jordan has his doubts...*For Whom the Bell Tolls* combines two of the author's recurring obsessions: war and personal honor. The pivotal battle scene involving El Sordo's last stand is a showcase for Hemingway's narrative powers, but the quieter, ongoing conflict within Robert Jordan as he struggles to fulfill his mission perhaps at the cost of his own life is a testament to his creator's psychological acuity. By turns brutal and compassionate, it is arguably Hemingway's most mature work and one of the best war novels of the 20th century. --*Alix Wilber for Barnes & Noble Classics*

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### Resources

Below are some ways to acquire free or inexpensive copies of the required summer reading, provided for your reference:

- 1 – Students with demonstrated financial need should see their guidance counselor, as the books can be generously provided by the Emmaus High School Angel Network.
- 2 – The Emmaus High School Library has purchased copies of all books on the list and they are available to borrow free of charge. Your local public library also has copies of most of them. Note: If you wait until the last minute, your selection will likely be limited.
- 3 - There are a number of websites where new or used copies of books can be purchased at up to a 90% discount. Hundreds such sites are available on the web. A few sites we have used and can recommend are listed below:
  - Ebay ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)) - Type in the title of your book and bid on copies available from individual sellers around the country.
  - Half.com (<http://www.half.ebay.com/>) - Type in the title of your book and directly purchase new or used copies directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings. No bidding required
  - Amazon.com marketplace ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) - Select 'books' in the menu and type in the title of your book. You can purchase the book new from amazon.com or click on 'buy used and new' and purchase a copy directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings. No bidding required.
  - Book Closeouts.com ([www.bookcloseouts.com](http://www.bookcloseouts.com)) - This site sells books at bargain prices. They have a limited selection of titles but those they do carry are very inexpensive.

**Incoming 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List**  
**HONORS ENGLISH**  
**Emmaus High School 2012-2013**

Students electing to take tenth grade honors English should come to school in September having read TWO novels or plays—or any combination thereof—from this reading list. **Additionally, all students must read *To Kill a Mockingbird* over the summer break.** During the school year 10 honors English students will be reading *The Scarlet Letter*, *Julius Caesar*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; while you are certainly not forbidden to read one or more of these works during the summer, you will still have to complete two other works (three, including *To Kill a Mockingbird*) before school opens. The school year will begin with writing assignments inspired by your summer readings.

Some of these novels may be discouraging due to the length or author's style. The aim here is that you begin to become familiar with some of America's great literary works. Browse around, find books you think you'll enjoy, and read on!

**Required reading for all students:**

*Some of the synopses below are provided courtesy of Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.com*

**Lee, Harper. *To Kill A Mockingbird*.**

Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus--three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though her story explores big themes, Harper Lee chooses to tell it through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up. One of the best-loved stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has earned many distinctions since its original publication in 1960. It won the Pulitzer Prize, has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than thirty million copies worldwide, and been made into an enormously popular movie. Most recently, librarians across the country gave the book the highest of honors by voting it the best novel of the twentieth century.

**Acceptable additional reading selections include:**

**Buck, Pearl S. *The Good Earth*.**

Though more than sixty years have passed since this remarkable novel won the Pulitzer Prize, it has retained its popularity and become one of the great modern classics. In *The Good Earth*, Buck presents a graphic view of a China when the last emperor reigned and the vast political and social upheavals of the twentieth century were but distant rumblings for the ordinary people. This moving, classic story of the honest farmer Wang Lung and his selfless wife O-lan is must reading for those who would fully appreciate the sweeping changes that have occurred in the lives of the Chinese people during this century. Nobel Prize winner Pearl S. Buck traces the whole cycle of life: its terrors, its passions, its ambitions and rewards. Her brilliant novel -- beloved by millions of readers -- is a universal tale of the destiny of man.

**Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*.**

Widely recognized as **Willa Cather's** greatest novel, *My Antonia* is a soulful and rich portrait of a pioneer woman's simple yet heroic life. The spirited daughter of Bohemian immigrants, Antonia must adapt to a hard existence on the desolate prairies of the Midwest. Enduring childhood poverty, teenage seduction, and family tragedy, she eventually becomes a wife and mother on a Nebraska farm. A fictional record of how women helped forge the communities that formed a nation, *My Antonia* is also a hauntingly eloquent celebration of the strength, courage, and spirit of America's early pioneers. —Gordon Tapper for Barnes & Noble Classics

**Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*.**

First published in 1899, this beautiful, brief novel so disturbed critics and the public that it was banished for decades afterward. Now widely read and admired, *The Awakening* has been hailed as an early vision of woman's emancipation. This sensuous book tells of a woman's abandonment of her family, her seduction, and her awakening to desires and passions that threatened to consume her. Originally entitled "A Solitary Soul," this portrait of twenty-eight-year-old Edna Pontellier is a landmark in American fiction, rooted firmly in the romantic tradition of Herman Melville and Emily Dickinson. Here, a woman in search of self-discovery turns away from convention and society, and toward the primal, irresistibly attracted to nature and the senses.

**Dorris, Michael. *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*.**

[This is] a powerful novel of three generations of American Indian women, each seeking her own identity while forever cognizant of family responsibilities, loyalty, and love. Rayona, half-Indian half-black daughter of Christine, reacts to feelings of rejection and abandonment by running away, not knowing that her mother had acted in a similar fashion some 15 years before. However, family ties draw Rayona home to the Montana reservation as they drew Christine, and as they had drawn Ida many years earlier. As the three recount their lives, often repeating incidents but adding new perspectives, a total picture emerges. —T. L. Kilpatrick for Library Journal

**Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*.**

When it was first produced in 1959, *A Raisin in the Sun* was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for that season and hailed as a watershed in American drama. A pioneering work by an African-American playwright, the play was a radically new representation of black life. *Raisin* had something for everyone, and for this reason it was the recipient of the prestigious New York Drama Critics Circle Award. The New York Times called it, "A play that changed American theater forever."

**Hemingway, Ernest. *The Sun Also Rises.***

The quintessential novel of the Lost Generation, *The Sun Also Rises* is one of Ernest Hemingway's masterpieces and a classic example of his spare but powerful writing style. A poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I generation, the novel introduces two of Hemingway's most unforgettable characters: Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley. The story follows the flamboyant Brett and the hapless Jake as they journey from the wild nightlife of 1920s Paris to the brutal bullfighting rings of Spain with a motley group of expatriates. It is an age of moral bankruptcy, spiritual dissolution, unrealized love, and vanishing illusions. First published in 1926, *The Sun Also Rises* helped to establish Hemingway as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century. – *Amazon.com*

**Hemingway, Ernest. *For Whom the Bell Tolls.***

*For Whom the Bell Tolls* begins and ends in a pine-scented forest, somewhere in Spain. The year is 1937 and the Spanish Civil War is in full swing. Robert Jordan, a demolitions expert attached to the International Brigades...has come to blow up a bridge on behalf of the antifascist guerilla forces. He hopes he'll be able to rely on their local leader, Pablo, to help carry out the mission, but upon meeting him, Jordan has his doubts...*For Whom the Bell Tolls* combines two of the author's recurring obsessions: war and personal honor. The pivotal battle scene involving El Sordo's last stand is a showcase for Hemingway's narrative powers, but the quieter, ongoing conflict within Robert Jordan as he struggles to fulfill his mission perhaps at the cost of his own life is a testament to his creator's psychological acuity. By turns brutal and compassionate, it is arguably Hemingway's most mature work and one of the best war novels of the 20th century. --*Alix Wilber for Barnes & Noble Classics*

**Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle.***

Upton Sinclair's muckraking masterpiece *The Jungle* centers on Jurgis Rudkus, a Lithuanian immigrant working in Chicago's infamous Packingtown. Instead of finding the American Dream, Rudkus and his family inhabit a brutal, soul-crushing urban jungle dominated by greedy bosses, pitiless con-men, and corrupt politicians. While Sinclair's main target was the industry's appalling labor conditions, the reading public was most outraged by the disgusting filth and contamination in American food that his novel exposed. Today, *The Jungle* remains a relevant portrait of capitalism at its worst and an impassioned account of the human spirit facing nearly insurmountable challenges. –*Maura Spiegel for Barnes & Noble Classics*

**London, Jack. *The Sea Wolf.***

Humphrey Van Weyden, a San Francisco sophisticate and an intellectual finds himself the captive voyager aboard the *Ghost*, captained by the brutal and barbaric Wolf Larsen. The desperate character of Van Weyden's voyage is defined by the fact that he is out of his element, in unimaginable peril, and the slave of this cynical and wild soul, Larsen. The rights of man vanish as the coast of California vanishes over the horizon. Almost immediately, the slave plots his freedom--and must confront the weakness in his soul, mind and body. Generations have been spellbound by this harrowing story of danger on the sea, psychological confrontation, and the dual nature of humankind.

**Twain, Mark. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court***

The hit on the head that sent protagonist Hank Morgan back through 13 centuries did not affect his natural resourcefulness. Using his knowledge of an upcoming eclipse, Hank escapes a death sentence, and secures an important position at [King Arthur's] court. Gradually, he introduces 19th century technology so the clever Morgan soon has an easy life. That does not stop him from making disparaging, tongue-in-cheek remarks about the inequalities and imperfections of life in Camelot. Twain weaves many of the well-known Arthurian characters into his story, and he includes a pitched battle between Morgan's men and the nobility. A delightful and enchanting tale, this book shows Twain at his satirical best. –*School Library Journal*

**Twain, Mark. *The Prince and the Pauper.***

A pauper caught up in the pomp of the royal court. A prince wandering horror-stricken through the lower depths of English society. Out of the theme of switched identities, Mark Twain fashioned both a scathing attack upon social hypocrisy and injustice, and an irresistible comedy imbued with the sense of high-spirited play that belongs to his happiest creative period.

**Wharton, Edith. *Ethan Frome.***

One of Edith Wharton's few works of fiction that takes place outside of an urban, upper-class setting, *Ethan Frome* draws upon the bleak, barren landscape of rural New England. A poor farmer, Ethan finds himself stuck in a miserable marriage to Zeenie, a sickly, tyrannical woman, until he falls in love with her visiting cousin, the vivacious Mattie Silver. As Mattie is forced to leave his household, Frome steals one last afternoon with her—one that culminates in a ruinous sled ride with unspeakably tragic results. Unhappily married herself, **Edith Wharton** projected her dark views of love onto people far removed from her social class in *Ethan Frome*. Her sensitivity to natural beauty and human psychology, however, make this slim novel a convincing and compelling portrait of rural life. A powerful tale of passion and loss—and the wretched consequences thereof—*Ethan Frome* is one of American literatures great tragic love stories. –*Kent P. Ljungquist for Barnes & Noble Classics*

**Wright, Richard. *Native Son.***

After 58 years in print, Wright's *Native Son* has acquired classic status. It has not, however, lost its power to shock or provoke controversy. Bigger Thomas is a young black man in 1940s Chicago who accidentally kills the daughter of his wealthy white employer. He tries to frame the young woman's fiancé for the crime and attempts to extort ransom from the victim's family, but his guilt is discovered, and he is forced into hiding. After a terrifying manhunt, he is arrested and brought to trial. Though his fate is certain, he finds that his crimes have given meaning and energy to his previously aimless life, and he goes to his execution unrepentant. Wright avoids the trap of making his hero a martyr, for Bigger is a vicious and violent bully. But out of this tale the author develops a profoundly disturbing image of racism and its results that puts Bigger's experience in horrifying perspective. This novel includes violent language and situations. –*John Owen for School Library Journal*

## For those who are undismayed by long novels:

### **Dreiser, Theodore. *An American Tragedy*.**

A tremendous bestseller when it was published in 1925, *An American Tragedy* is the culmination of Theodore Dreiser's elementally powerful fictional art. Taking as his point of departure a notorious murder case of 1910, Dreiser immersed himself in the social background of the crime to produce a book that is both a remarkable work of reportage and a monumental study of character. Few novels have undertaken to track so relentlessly the process by which an ordinary young man becomes capable of committing a ruthless murder, and the further process by which social and political forces come into play after his arrest. In Clyde Griffiths, the impoverished, restless offspring of a family of street preachers, Dreiser created an unforgettable portrait of a man whose circumstances and dreams of self-betterment conspire to pull him toward an act of unforgivable violence.

### **Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone With the Wind*.**

Margaret Mitchell's epic novel of love and war won the Pulitzer Prize and went on to give rise to two authorized sequels and one of the most popular and celebrated movies of all time. Many novels have been written about the Civil War and its aftermath. None take us into the burning fields and cities of the American South as *Gone With the Wind* does, creating haunting scenes and thrilling portraits of characters so vivid that we remember their words and feel their fear and hunger for the rest of our lives. In the two main characters, the white-shouldered, irresistible Scarlett and the flashy, contemptuous Rhett, Margaret Mitchell not only conveyed a timeless story of survival under the harshest of circumstances, she also created two of the most famous lovers in the English-speaking world since Romeo and Juliet.

### **Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*.**

Although it follows the movement of thousands of men and women and the transformation of an entire nation, *The Grapes of Wrath* is also the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, who are driven off their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots, Steinbeck created a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its insistence on human dignity.

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## Resources

Below are some ways to acquire free or inexpensive copies of the required summer reading, provided for your reference:

1 – Students with demonstrated financial need should see their guidance counselor, as the books can be generously provided by the Emmaus High School Angel Network

2 – The Emmaus High School Library has purchased copies of all books on the list and they are available to borrow free of charge. Your local public library also has copies of most of them. Note: If you wait until the last minute, your selection will likely be limited.

3 - There are a number of websites where new or used copies of books can be purchased at up to a 90% discount. Hundreds such sites are available on the web. A few sites we have used and can recommend are listed below:

- Ebay ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com))  
*Type in the title of your book and bid on copies available from individual sellers around the country.*
- Half.com (<http://www.half.ebay.com/>)  
*Type in the title of your book and directly purchase new or used copies directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings. No bidding required*
- Amazon.com marketplace ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))  
*Select 'books' in the menu and type in the title of your book. You can purchase the book new from amazon.com or click on 'buy used and new' and purchase a copy directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings. No bidding required.*
- Book Closeouts.com ([www.bookcloseouts.com](http://www.bookcloseouts.com))  
*This site sells books at bargain prices. They have a limited selection of titles but those they do carry are very inexpensive*