

LEGEND HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

Purpose, Expectations & Resources:

Reading stimulates the mind and keeps us thinking about how we endure and thrive in our world. Legend High School's summer reading program is in place to honor your individual tastes in literature while offering opportunity to explore new texts. During the first week of school, you will be expected to present your understanding and reaction to the book you choose. So, choose the kind of story you enjoy and then sink into your summer reading!

Local bookstores keep most of these books on their shelves or can order one with a week's notice. Amazon.com and other online bookstores carry new copies or used texts at great discounts. Libraries around town have been notified of our summer reading and will assist by keeping books on their shelves. We also encourage parents to read along and discuss the selection with their students. Enjoy!

Incoming 9th Grade (English I) - Choose One:

[Percy Jackson and The Young Olympians Series, Rick Riordan \(Fantasy\)](#)

Percy is a hero many 12-year-olds can identify with. Adventurous, kind-hearted, dyslexic and diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, he leads a life that is no piece of cake. As the story begins in *The Lightning Thief* (book #1), Percy learns that it's not going to get any easier. He already has a hard time with school, some of the other kids, and his obnoxious stepfather. As if that weren't bad enough, he suddenly finds himself in a fight to the death with his math teacher-turned-horrible-monster and, surviving that, he learns that his real father is Poseidon, god of the sea. Read any other sequential book in the series, other than *The Lightning Thief* (since the movie has already been made we are asking that you read a different book in the series).

[Monster, Walter Dean Myers \(Screenplay/Fiction\)](#)

Grade 7 Up-Steve Harmon, 16, is accused of serving as a lookout for a robbery of a Harlem drugstore. The owner was shot and killed, and now Steve is in prison awaiting trial for murder. From there, he tells about his case and his incarceration. Steve searches deep within his soul to prove to himself that he is not the "monster" the prosecutor presented him as to the jury.

[Make Lemonade, Virginia Euwer Wolff \(Fiction\)](#)

Living in the projects, but determined to be the first person in her family to go to college, LaVaughn takes a job babysitting for Jolly, the teenage mother of 2-year-old Jeremy and baby Jilly. Gritty, but conveys a message of inspiration.

[Between a Rock and a Hard Place, Aron Ralston \(Non-fiction\)](#)

For five days, Ralston was pinned between a boulder and a canyon wall in a remote area of Canyonlands National Park. That "uninterrupted experience" tested to the fullest his physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual being. He chose a dramatic means of escape: by severing his arm with a dull, dirty knife.

Incoming 10th Grade (English II)- Choose One:

[How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents, Julia Alvarez \(Fiction\)](#)

Four sisters must adjust to life in America after fleeing from the Dominican Republic. This story is told through a series of episodes beginning with their U.S. adulthood, and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island.

[It's Not About the Bike, Lance Armstrong \(Autobiography\)](#)

This is Armstrong's personal story from childhood to early success, nearly fatal cancer, recovery, and the art of surviving.

[Ender's Game, Orson Scott Card \(SciFi\)](#)

Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses -- and then training them in the arts of war... The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of 'games'... Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games... He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet?

[Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd \(Fiction\)](#)

14-year-old Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their South Carolina peach farm, spends hours imagining a blissful infancy when she was loved and nurtured by her mother, Deborah, whom she barely remembers. When Lily's beloved nanny, Rosaleen, manages to insult a group of angry white men on her way to register to vote and has to skip town, Lily takes the opportunity to go with her, fleeing to the only place she can think of--Tiburon, South Carolina--determined to find out more about her dead mother.

Sources: <http://www.matrifocus.com>, <http://www.amazon.com>,
www.bn.com/classics

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Incoming 11th Grade - Choose One:

[Frankenstein](#), *Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley* (SciFi/Fantasy)

Young Victor Frankenstein attempts to become a god by creating a man. His creation is a horrible disappointment and Victor banishes the monster from his sight. His flawed, confused creation wanders in exile seeking meaning to his existence.

[Into Thin Air](#), *Jon Krakauer* (Non-Fiction)

In March 1996, *Outside* magazine sent veteran journalist and seasoned climber Jon Krakauer on an expedition led by celebrated Everest guide Rob Hall. Despite the expertise of Hall and the other leaders, by the end of summit day eight people were dead.

[Joy Luck Club](#), *Amy Tan* (Fiction)

Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money.

[City of Beasts](#), *Isabel Allende* (Fiction)

When Alexander Cold is sent to stay with his eccentric grandmother, Kate, he is more than a little reluctant to accompany her on a writing assignment in South America to search for a legendary nine-foot-tall "Beast." However, once the expedition down the Amazon begins, Alexander's doubts are pushed out of his mind by more immediate concerns, such as keeping an eye on two suspicious members of the party. The two teens are kidnapped by the "People of the Mist," a tribe possessing the power of turning invisible, and enter a mountain to discover the mythical city of El Dorado and the enigmatic "Beasts."

Honors / AP Classes:

This summer book is part of your curriculum. You are only expected to read this/these assignment(s). You do not need to choose one from the lists above. Additional projects and assignments accompany each of these books. Please see the [LegendTitans.org](http://www.legendtitans.org) website for the complete assignment.

Incoming 9th Grade (English I Honors): Choose one.

Either [Night](#), *Elie Weisel*,

In Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*, a scholarly, pious teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family.

OR [Farewell to Manzanar](#), *Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston*

Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942 when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp--with 10,000 other Japanese Americans. *Farewell to Manzanar* is the true story of one spirited Japanese-American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention.

Incoming 10th Grade (English II Honors): Do both assignments.

[Catcher in the Rye](#), *J.D. Salinger*,

The influential and widely acclaimed story details the two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, he searches for truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world.

AND [House on Mango Street](#), *Sandra Cisneros*

Esperanza Cordero, a girl coming of age in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, uses poems and stories to express thoughts and emotions about her oppressive environment.

Incoming AP Language & Composition Students: Do both assignments.

[In Cold Blood](#), *Truman Capote*

"The best documentary account of an American crime ever written. . . . The book chills the blood and exercises the intelligence . . . harrowing." —*The New York Review of Books*

And [Billy Budd](#), *Herman Melville*

This complex short novel tells the story of "the handsome sailor" Billy who, provoked by a false charge, accidentally kills the satanic master-at-arms.