

NHS Honors American Literature & Composition

Summer Reading 2023

Why should I read over the summer?

There are two kinds of writers: writers who read a lot, and writers who don't. Since 11th Honors is a class where you will experiment with different formats of creative and analytical writing, I highly encourage you to expand the kinds of texts that you read over the summer. Within 30 seconds of the first writing task this fall it is always apparent which of you have kept up with a reading habit over the summer and which of you have not. Reading consistently over the summer won't transform your writing overnight. But if you become the *kind of person* who reads things over the summer, it eventually will.

Where should I start?

11th Honors Literature is a survey of American Literature over the course of the last three hundred years. My strong recommendation is that you read works of American literature either in the form of longform novels, short story collections or creative nonfiction. I've done my best to collect a list of texts that you might find interesting to reference in a college essay or an in-depth discussion.

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| <i>The Nickel Boys</i> , Colson Whitehead |
| <i>The Goldfinch</i> , Donna Tartt |
| <i>The Known World</i> , Edward P. Jones |
| <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i> , Robert Pirsig |
| <i>Evicted</i> , Matthew Desmond |
| <i>Between the World and Me</i> , Ta-Nahesi Coates |
| <i>The Writing Life</i> , Annie Dillard |
| <i>Best American Essay Series</i> , Multiple Authors & Release Years |
| <i>Best American Short Stories Series</i> , Multiple Authors & Release Years |
| <i>On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft</i> , Stephen King |

Note: These are options for you to explore, not endorsements of content, ideology or craft. If you don't like something about one of these books, contact its author and choose another text to explore.