

NHS Honors American Literature & Composition

SUMMER READING 2022

Why should I read over the summer?

There are two kinds of writers: writers who read a lot, and writers who don't. Within 30 seconds of reading the first thing you write this fall, your English teacher will be able to tell which one you are. So which one are you? Or more importantly, which one do you *want* to be? Reading consistently this summer won't change your writing in a big way. But if you become the *kind of person* who reads things over the summer, it eventually will.

Where should I start?

Since you've signed up for an American literature course, here are some American books you might enjoy. If full-length books aren't as appealing to you, try articles or essays instead. Basic news articles are okay, but they're hit-or-miss: some contain the kinds of sentences and ideas your brain needs to process, and some don't. "Long reads" are usually good choices: they're long enough to contain more complex writing, but short enough to read in one sitting. And they're usually pretty fascinating. They're the kind of pieces you might reference when writing a college essay, or when having a discussion about an interesting topic.

Longreads.com is a good place to start.

J.D. Vance, <i>Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis</i>
Ta-Nehisi Coates, <i>Between the World and Me</i>
Stephen King, <i>On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft</i>
Robert Pirsig, <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i>
Barack Obama, <i>Dreams from My Father</i>
Anne Lamott, <i>Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life</i>
Rick Bragg, <i>All Over But the Shoutin'</i>
Colson Whitehead, <i>The Nickel Boys</i>
Donna Tartt, <i>The Goldfinch</i>

Note: These are just 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.