

Summer Reading Titles for English Courses

World Literature 9 Plus and Honors:

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Overview: Years in the future, Aldous Huxley's Brave New World showcases a world where government controllers have created of an unequal, technologically-advanced future. Humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order—all at the cost of personal freedom and humanity.

Note: Before reading, be aware that there are instances of sexual promiscuity, drug use, and suicide.

World Literature 10:

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Khaled Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns is set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years – from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding – that puts the violence, fear, hope, and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives – the struggle to survive, raise a family, and find happiness – are inextricable from the history playing out around them.

Before reading, be aware that there are instances of domestic violence, rape, violence associated with war, and sexism.

American Literature:

Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich

Love Medicine is Louise Erdrich's first novel, an epic story about the intertwined fates of two families on and around a North Dakota Ojibwe reservation: the Kashpaws and the Lamartines. Each chapter draws on a range of voices and narrative perspectives, with the interwoven families' history spanning the 20th century. There is dark humor mingled with magic, sharp desire and hurtful betrayal, and through it all, a persistent exploration of the transformative power of love.

Before reading, be aware that there are instances of domestic violence, sex and sexuality, and depictions of characters abusing alcohol.

AP Language:

***Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich**

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British Literature:

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood**

Margaret Atwood's 1986 dystopian novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*, is more relevant today than ever. Set in Gilead, a totalitarian and theocratic country that has replaced the United States of America after dangerously low fertility rates decimated the US population, the novel explores the struggles of Offred, a handmaid who has been forced into reproductive servitude for Gilead's elite. The novel's narrative complexity captures the reader's attention as Offred reconstructs the story of what life was like before Gilead ... a time when women still had human rights.

Before reading, be aware that *The Handmaid's Tale* features strong language, emotional and physical violence, and a couple of graphic sex scenes. The corpses of dissidents are hung in public as grim reminders of the cost of rebellion and there is one scene of mob violence. There is mention of handmaids who have committed suicide by hanging.

AP Literature:

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