



Dear AP Literature and Composition class of 2020-21,

There's so much going on in our world today that we need to create balance for ourselves: A balance between active engagement with conversations on national, social, and local levels and a conscious disengagement from all of that to internally regroup and maintain a sense of ourselves and our values.

Summertime's a great time to seek that balance! We won't have summer work for AP English this year, and that was decided well before... well, before. However, in light of the fact that you may have fewer activities and trips this summer, I encourage you to pursue reading, and to that end I am providing a list of recommended reading. Most of these are contemporary novels, but I've thrown in a few classics for people who can't get enough of those. I've included some nonfiction too, even though we would not read it for AP lit class; there's just so much good, thought-provoking stuff out there! Read whatever you want, and I hope that it will challenge your mind and stimulate your thinking, keeping you sharp for class in the fall!

(If you want individual suggestions from me, contact me at kwilde@wcboe.org. Tell me a couple books you love and at least one that doesn't thrill you, and I'll try to play matchmaker 😊)

I look forward to meeting you and talking with you about your reading in whatever format school takes next fall... Enjoy your summer!

Mrs. Wilde

Classics:

Pride & Prejudice (1813) Jane Austen

Frankenstein (1818) Mary Shelley

Anna Karenina (1877) Leo Tolstoy

20th Century Works:

Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937) Zora Neale Hurston

For Whom the Bell Tolls (1940) Ernest Hemingway

The Bluest Eye (1970) Toni Morrison

The Color Purple (1982) Alice Walker

A Handmaid's Tale (1985) Margaret Atwood

In the Time of the Butterflies (1995) Julia Alvarez

21st Century Works:

Purple Hibiscus (2003) Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Namesake (2003) Jhumpa Lahiri

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (2006) Jonathan Foer

A Thousand Splendid Suns (2007) Khaled Hosseini

The Round House (2012) Louise Erdrich

The Goldfinch (2013) Donna Tartt

Station Eleven (2014) Emily St. John Mandel

Swing Time (2016) Zadie Smith

The Nix (2016) Nathan Hill

Pachinko (2017) Min Jin Lee

The Leavers (2017) Lisa Ko

Behold the Dreamers (2017) Imbolo Mbue

Exit West (2017) Mohsin Hamid

Long Way Down (2017) Jason Reynolds

There, There (2018) Tommy Orange

Southernmost (2018) Silas House

The Poet X (2018) Elizabeth Acevedo

Nickel Boys (2019) Colson Whitehead

When I Walk through That Door, I Am (2019) Jimmy Santiago Baca

Non-Fiction Works:

Just Mercy (2014) Bryan Stevenson – Just made into a movie currently available free for streaming (through June)

The Opposite of Loneliness (2014) Marina Keegan

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2015) Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik

Between the World and Me (2015) Ta-Nehisi Coates

Born a Crime (2016) Trevor Noah – Highly recommend the audio version read by Noah!

They Can't Kill Us Til They Kill Us (2017) Hanif Abdurraquib (Just look at the cover of this and you have to read it!)

The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row (2018) Anthoy Rae Hinton

Becoming (2018) Michelle Obama – Another with audio read by the author!

Educated (2018) Tara Westover