

Melrose High School-2007 Summer Reading List
English Language Arts Reading Lists

College prep students are required to read any TWO of the selections listed.

Honors students are required to read the designated “Honors” title plus TWO others.

AP students are required to read all titles (See other side).

Students Entering Grade 9

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

Forgotten Fire by Adam Bagdasarian

Childhood's End by Arthur C. Clarke

HONORS: *The Confessions of Max Tivoli* by Andrew Sean Greer

Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Ellen Foster by Kaye Gibbons

The First Part Last by Angela Johnson

Students Entering Grade 10

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher

Tomorrow, Maybe by Brian James

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

HONORS: *The Color of Water* by James McBride

Students Entering Grade 11

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson

Kindred by Octavia Butler

Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

HONORS: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

Isaac's Storm by Erik Larson

A Gesture Life by Chang-rae Lee

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Students Entering Grade 12

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

All Souls by Michael MacDonal

HONORS: *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

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AP Summer Reading List-2007

All titles are required reading.

Students Entering Grade 11

Growing Up by Russell Baker

An American Childhood by Annie Dillard

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley

Hiroshima by John Hersey

The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston

Students Entering Grade 12

Wit by Margaret Edson

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

In the Lake by the Woods by Tim O'Brien

Students Entering Grade 9

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

Albom chronicles his last days with his dying mentor, a sociologist who courageously studied his own degeneration from Lou Gehrig's disease.

Forgotten Fire by Adam Bagdasarian

This book is based on a true story of a privileged teenager who faces the genocide of Armenians in Turkey during World War I.

Childhood's End by Arthur C. Clarke

When the Overlords first came to Earth, they brought peace and prosperity with them, but it soon became apparent that their purpose was the elimination of the human race.

HONORS *The Confessions of Max Tivoli* by Andrew Sean Greer

Max Tivoli, born into the body of an old man who gets younger each year, explains his life and choices to his wife and son.

Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

When Lily's black nanny insults a group of angry white men on her way to register to vote in the 1960s, Lily and Rosaleen flee and are taken in by three bee-keeping sisters.

Ellen Foster by Kaye Gibbons

Cast adrift after the death of her drunken father and sadly misused mother, Ellen moves from one woebegone situation to another until she finally finds a friend.

The First Part Last by Angela Johnson

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

Students Entering Grade 10

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Tomorrow, Maybe by Brian James

For fifteen-year-old Chan, life on the streets becomes even harder when she begins caring for an eleven-year-old girl who is also living on the street.

Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

HONORS *The Color of Water* by James McBride

McBride, a professional saxophonist and former staff writer for the Boston Globe and the Washington Post, grew up with 11 siblings in an all-black Brooklyn, New York, housing project. Jim McBride knew his mother was different, he was black, she said that she was light. When asked about God, she said, "God is the color of water."

Students Entering Grade 11

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson

A funny and personal memoir of the author's experiences hiking the Appalachian Trail accompanied by an old college friend.

Kindred by Octavia Butler

A young African-American woman is mysteriously transferred back in time to the antebellum south. This leads to an irresistible curiosity about her family's past.

Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

In the 1960s, a spiritual man named Jeremiah Land sets out from his Minnesota home with his young son and daughter to find his elder son, Davy, after he escapes jail on the morning of his sentencing for murder.

HONORS: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

Christopher, an autistic and mathematically gifted teenager, investigates the murder of a dog and learns something surprising about his mother.

A Certain Slant of Light by Laura Whitcomb

After benignly haunting a series of people for 130 years, Helen meets a teenage boy who can see her and together they unlock the mysteries of their pasts.

A Gesture Life by Chang-rae Lee

Hardworking Franklin Hata is careful to never overstep his bounds and to always make his neighbors and customers feel comfortable, but when they learn of his forbidden affair with a Korean comfort woman, his carefully crafted reputation is destroyed.

Students Entering Grade 12

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

A young man who is born of Indian parents in America struggles with issues of identity from his teens to his thirties.

All Souls by Michael MacDonald

Michael Patrick MacDonald describes how his family survived the daily violence they encountered while living in South Boston in the 1970s.

HONORS: *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

A young man, en route from India to Canada, faces danger from animals headed to his father's zoo while trapped on a lifeboat.

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

A powerful story of a young black girl who would do anything for her family but is raped by her drunken father.

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

A series of connected stories based on the author's experiences in Vietnam.

Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

14 year-old Suzy Salmon is murdered on her way home from school. Suzy narrates the story from heaven, viewing the devastating effects of her murder on her family.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Two socially opposite Afghani friends are changed forever by the treachery of one of the boys.

AP Summer Reading List

All titles are required reading

Students Entering Grade 11

Growing Up by Russell Baker

Russell Baker's story is a story of growing up in America in backwoods Virginia, in New Jersey, and Baltimore. The story looks at hard times, family relationships, and love.

An American Childhood by Annie Dillard

This autobiography describes the author's childhood and life in Pittsburgh during the fifties.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley

Story of national leader who rose to prominence as a Negro force in shaping the destiny of this country.

Hiroshima by John Hersey

This account is about the catastrophic event that heralded the coming of the atomic age. This edition includes a final chapter written forty years after the explosion about the same compelling characters and what the author discovered about them.

The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston

A memoir of an American-born daughter of Chinese immigrants who lived within the traditions and fears of the Chinese past as well as the realities of the alien modern American culture.

Students Entering Grade 12

Wit by Margaret Edison

This drama tells the story of an academic who reassesses her life while dying of ovarian cancer.

As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner

A novel concerning Addie Burden of Mississippi, her sons and the family trip to bury her.

Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri

Nine stories chart the emotional journeys of characters seeking love beyond the barriers of nations and generations.

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

A powerful story of a young black girl who would do anything for her family but is raped by her drunken father.

In the Lake of the Woods by Tim O'Brien

A Vietnam veteran investigates the death of his wife while being accused of her murder.