

Newton South High School
Summer Reading – AP Journalism

Everyone who is enrolled in AP Journalism next year needs to read ONE of these sets of thematically related books. During the first weeks of school, you will be asked to develop an idea in response to what you have read and write an essay explaining this idea.

To help you choose a set that is truly interesting to you, I'd suggest talking to others who read a lot and visiting one of the major online booksellers to read brief summaries of the books. I (Mr. Baron) am also happy to help you choose if you stop by room 1204 before the end of the year.

1) *Cultural Difference*

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman
Tearing at the Silence by Ursula Hegi
Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri

2) *Race*

Race Matters by Cornel West
The Content of Their Character by Shelby Steele
Caucasia by Danzy Senna

3) *Growing Up Male*

Real Boys – William Pollack
The War Against Boys: How Misguided Feminism Is Harming Our Young Men by Christina Hoff Sommers
Affliction by Russell Banks

4) *Growing Up Female*

Odd Girl Out by Rachel Simmons
Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher
The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

5) *Genocide*

A Problem From Hell – America In the Age of Genocide by Samantha Power
Tearing at the Silence by Ursula Hegi
Farming of the Bones – Edwidge Danticat

6) *Islam and the West*

Soldiers of God: With Islamic Warriors in Afghanistan and Pakistan by Robert D. Kaplan
The Lexus and the Olive Tree by Thomas L. Friedman
The Pickup Artist by Nadine Gordimer

7) *Medicine*

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman
Complications by Atul Gawande
Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

8) *Work and class*

Random Family by Adrian Nicole LeBlanc
American Dream by Jason Deparle
Nickel and Dimed by Babara Ehrenreich

9) *Immigration*

Coyotes by Ted Conover
Brown by Richard Rodriguez
Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle

10) *Adolescence*

A Tribe Apart by Patricia Hersh
Wonderland: A Year in the Life of an American High School by Michael
Bamberger
Project X by Jim Shepard

11) *Crime and Punishment*

Newjack by Ted Conover
The Corner by David Simon and Edward Burns
Couldn't Keep It to Myself: Testimonies from Our Imprisoned Sisters by Wally
Lamb

13) *Consumerism and Kids*

Born to Buy: The Commercialized Child and the New Consumer Culture by
Juliet Schor
It's Not The Media: The Truth About Pop Culture's Influence on Children by
Karen Sternheimer
Generation X by Douglas Coupland

14) *American Culture*

Nobrow by John Seabrook
Everything Bad Is Good For You by Steven Johnson
The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell

15) *Testing and college admissions*

Standardized Minds by Peter Sacks
Kill the Messenger: The War on Standardized Testing by Richard P. Phelps
The Gatekeepers by Jacques Steinberg

16) *Technology and Its Implications*

The Age of Missing Information by Bill McKibben
Being Digital by Nicholas Negroponte
Nectar in a Sieve by Kamala Markandaya

If you have any questions over the summer, I can be reached at
brian_baron@newton.mec.edu. I will also periodically update the class blog at
www.livejournal.com/community/mrbaron.