



Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading Students Entering Grade 11 Summer 2021

(Note: Students in AP English Language have a separate list.)

- All students entering grade 11 English are expected to read the required text.
- Students may choose to take notes on the grade-wide title with [this note-taking guide](#). These notes are optional.
- Students are encouraged to read additional books over the summer; they may wish to consider titles on the suggested list below.

Required Text for Grade 11 English		
Author	Title	Synopsis
Brown	<i>Boys in the Boat</i>	<p>Note: Make sure to read the ISBN# 978-0316497039 version (adult)</p> <p>With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Amazon.com Description</p>

If you are looking for enriching reading options in addition to your required book, consider one of these titles!

Author	Title	Synopsis
Brooks	<i>March</i>	Geraldine Brooks has animated the character of the absent father, March, from Louisa May Alcott's classic <i>Little Women</i> . Brooks follows March as he leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs. A lushly written, wholly original tale steeped in the details of another time, <i>March</i> secures Geraldine Brooks' place as a renowned author of historical fiction. Amazon.com
Cash	<i>A Land More Kind Than Home</i>	A mesmerizing literary thriller about the bond between two brothers and the evil they face in a small North Carolina town... <i>A Land More Kind than Home</i> is a modern masterwork of Southern fiction, one that is likely to be held in the same enduring esteem as such American classics as <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , <i>Of Mice and Men</i> , and <i>A Separate Peace</i> . Cash offers a brilliant evocation of a place, a heart-rending family story, and a gripping and suspenseful mystery. Amazon.com
Cather	<i>My Antonia</i> (in the public domain available here)	<i>My Antonia</i> is the story of Antonia Shimerda, who arrives on the Nebraska frontier as part of a family of Bohemian emigrants. Her story is told through the eyes of Jim Burden, a neighbor who will befriend Antonia, teach her English, and follow the remarkable story of her life. Antonia faces many challenges when she moves to the city. But only when she returns to the prairie does she recover her strength and regain a sense of purpose in life. Antonia's story becomes a moving elegy to those whose persistence and strength helped build the American frontier. Amazon.com
Enger	<i>Peace Like a River</i>	Reuben "Rube" Land, an asthmatic 11-year-old recalls the events of his childhood in small-town Minnesota circa 1962. Rube's brother Davy guns down two schoolyard bullies who break into the Lands' house. After Davy's escape from jail, Rube, his younger sister Swede, and their father hit the road, determined to find Davy. In the end it's in Rube's father that Enger finds something quietly heroic in the bred-in-the-bone Minnesota decency of America's heartland. Amazon.com Review
Haruf	<i>Plainsong</i>	In this novel Kent Haruf reveals a whole community as he interweaves the stories of a pregnant high school girl, a lonely teacher, a pair of boys abandoned by their mother, and a couple of crusty bachelor farmers. From simple elements, Haruf achieves a novel of wisdom and grace--a narrative that builds in strength and feeling until, as in an oral chant, the voices in the book surround, transport, and lift the reader off the ground. Amazon.com

Henriquez	<i>The Book of Unknown Americans</i>	When Mayor Toro, from Panama, sees Maribel, from Mexico, it is love at first sight. It's also the beginning of a friendship between their families, whose web of guilt and love and responsibility is at this novel's core. Woven into their stories are the testimonials of men and women from Latin America whose journeys and voices will inspire you and break your heart. <i>The Book of Unknown Americans</i> offers a resonant new definition of what it means to be an American. Penguinrandomhouse.com
Krakauer	<i>Into the Wild</i>	In April 1992 a young man hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. Christopher Johnson McCandless had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of <i>Into the Wild</i> . From www.jonkrakauer.com
Lahiri	<i>The Namesake</i>	On the heels of an arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Ashoke does his best to adapt while his wife pines for home. When their son Gogol is born, the task of naming him reflects their hope of respecting old ways in a new world. With empathy and penetrating insight, Lahiri explores how we respond to parental expectations and how we come to define who we are. Amazon.com (product description)
Lehane	<i>The Given Day</i>	Lehane's family epic captures the political unrest of a nation caught between a well-patterned past and an unpredictable future. This novel of American history tells the story of two families—one black, one white—swept up in a maelstrom of revolutionaries and anarchists, immigrants and ward bosses, Brahmins and ordinary citizens, all engaged in a battle for survival and power at the end of World War I. Amazon.com (product description)
Stegner	<i>Crossing to Safety</i>	<i>Crossing to Safety</i> is about loyalty and survival in its most everyday form - the need to create bonds and the urge to tear them apart. Thirty-four years after their first meeting, when Larry and Sally are called back to the Langs' summer home in Vermont, it's as if for a final showdown. How has this friendship defined them? What is its legacy? Stegner offer answers in those small, perfectly rendered moments that make up lives "as quiet as these"--and as familiar as our own. Amazon.com
Vance	<i>Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis</i>	<i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis. J. D. Vance, a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck. A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, <i>Hillbilly Elegy</i> is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country. Amazon.com (product description)
Ward	<i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i>	Jojo and his toddler sister, Kayla, live with their grandparents, Mam and Pop, and the occasional presence of their drug-addicted mother, Leonie, on a farm on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Leonie is simultaneously tormented and comforted by visions of her dead brother, which only come to her when she's high; Mam is dying of cancer; and quiet, steady Pop tries to run the household and teach Jojo how to be a man. When the white father of Leonie's children is released from prison, she packs her kids and a friend into her car and sets out across the state for Parchman farm, the Mississippi State Penitentiary, on a journey rife with danger and promise. <i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> grapples with the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power, and limitations, of the bonds of family. Rich with Ward's distinctive, musical language, <i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> is a majestic new work and an essential contribution to American literature. Bookbrowse.com review