



## Hingham Public Schools Summer Reading Students Entering Grade 12 Summer 2021

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

- All students entering grade 12 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 12 Seminar Courses		
Author	Title	Synopsis
<b>Noah</b>	<i><b>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</b></i>	<p><b>Note: Make sure to read the ISBN# 978-0399588198 version (adult)</b></p> <p>The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime New York Times bestseller about one man’s coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed. <b>Goodreads.com product description</b></p>

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

Author	Title	Synopsis
Connelly	<i>The Black Ice</i>	In <i>Black Ice</i> detective Harry Bosch is cut out of an investigation of an apparent suicide of narcotics officer Calexico Moore his superiors. At the same time Bosch's supervisor Pound wants to increase the percentages of his homicides solved so Bosch is elected to solve some cases of a detective out on leave. Harry realizes that the cases are all tied together, and, as usual, cuts corners and goes out on his own to make the pieces fit. <b>Amazon.com Review</b>
Dickens	<i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i> <a href="#">(in the public domain available here)</a>	The main issue in the novel is the disappearance of Edwin Drood and the suspicion that he has been murdered. But as intriguing as this central plot are the startling innovations in Dickens’ work and the troubled elements lurking within the novel: a dark opium underworld, the uneasy and violent fantasies of its inhabitants, the disquieting presence of old 'Princess Puffer', of the quiet cathedral town of Cloisterham from which people have to escape in order to save themselves—and, at the centre, the menacing figure of Jasper. <b>Book cover description</b>
Eggers	<i>What is the What</i>	<i>What Is the What</i> is the epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children —the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, this astonishing novel illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man. <b>Amazon.com</b>
Gilmour	<i>The Film Club</i>	Canadian film critic Gilmour tells of the deal he struck with his son Jessie, allowing him to drop out of school if he would agree to watch three movies a week with his dad. Over the course of three years, as they dissect movies, Jesse deals with serious heartbreak while his father struggles to find work and worries whether he made the right decision for his son. <b>Booklist</b>

Goldman	<i>Which Lie Did I Tell?</i>	If you want to know why an unknown like Kathy Bates was cast in <i>Misery</i> or why Linda Hunt's brilliant work in <i>Maverick</i> didn't make the final cut, why Clint Eastwood loves working with Gene Hackman or how MTV has changed movies – this book is indispensable reading, a must for anyone interested in the process of how a movie gets made. <b>Amazon.com product description</b>
Hosseini	<i>The Kite Runner</i>	The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, <i>The Kite Runner</i> is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons...a story told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years. <b>Amazon.com product description</b>
Kingsolver, Kingsolver, Hopp	<i>Animal, Vegetable, Miracle</i>	Novelist Kingsolver recounts a year spent eating homegrown and local food as the family grows a large garden in southern Appalachia and spends summers "putting food by." Along the way, having given up industrial meat years before, the family abandons its vegetarian ways and discovers the pleasures of conscientious carnivory. <b>Publishers Weekly</b>
McCarthy	<i>McCarthy's Bar: A Journey of Discovery in Ireland</i>	While most travel writers seek out opportunities to meet the famous or infamous, McCarthy has a knack for bumping into them, which is how he met a former member of Jimi Hendrix's band and the author Frank McCourt. He discovers that "In Ireland, the unexpected happens more than you expect," which makes for a hilarious tour through one of the most beautiful, friendly, and quirky places on earth. <b>Amazon.com Review</b>
Moore	<i>The Other Wes Moore: One Name Two Fates</i>	Two kids with the same name lived in the same decaying city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Here is the story of two boys and the journey of a generation. <b>Goodreads.com product description</b>
Picoult	<i>Small Great Things</i>	When a newborn baby dies after a routine hospital procedure, there is no doubt about who will be held responsible: the nurse who had been banned from looking after him by his father. What the nurse, her lawyer and the father of the child cannot know is how this death will irrevocably change all of their lives, in ways both expected and not. <i>Small Great Things</i> is about prejudice and power; it is about that which divides and unites us. It is about opening your eyes. <b>from an Amazon.com review</b>
Vonnegut	<i>Mother Night</i>	<i>Mother Night</i> is a daring challenge to our moral sense. American Howard W. Campbell, Jr., a spy during World War II, is now on trial in Israel as a Nazi war criminal. But is he really guilty? In this brilliant book rife with true gallows humor, Vonnegut turns black and white into a chilling shade of gray with a verdict that will haunt us all. <b>Amazon.com product description</b>
Walls	<i>The Glass Castle: A Memoir</i>	Walls opens her memoir with a recollection of riding in a taxi and spotting her mother "rooting through a dumpster." Walls' parents were eccentric, and raising four children didn't conventionalize either of them. Living with a mom who thought that "being homeless is an adventure," the Walls children learned to support themselves in a variety of creative ways. <b>Publishers Weekly</b>