



## OAK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

### Level English III Summer Reading 2018

**In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become lifelong learners.**

Dear Future Level English III Students,

Students at Oak Ridge High School who enroll in English III are expected to complete a summer reading assignment. Summer reading assignments provide several advantages for you, including maintaining skills over the summer, fostering independent learning, understanding course expectations, creating an initial common framework for discussion and study, supporting college-readiness standards, and promoting lifelong learning.

You are scheduled to take English III for the 2017-2018 school year. For the summer of 2018, students will be required to carefully read one of the following novels of their choice:

Rot and Ruin by Jonathan Maberry

Looking for Alaska by John Green

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

The Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

Life as We Knew It by Suzanne Beth Pfeffer

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

One of our focuses for the beginning of school will be characterization. The culminating assessment over the summer reading assignment will be a character analysis essay. In preparation for this essay, you will need to identify the protagonist (the main character). You must provide 2 quotes per chapter that reveal the character's traits and how they change throughout the novel. You will need to choose quotes that you can later write insightful commentary over for the Character Analysis Essay-- this means the quotes MUST say something about the characters thoughts, feelings, actions, relationships, struggles, etc. Please use the attached form to collect your quotes. Your "Quote Collection" form will be due August 27th &

28th. While there will be various DAILY GRADE assignments over the summer reading novel, the MAJOR GRADE Character Analysis Essay will be due the 4th week of the 1st 9 week reporting period.

In order to successfully complete this assignment, you will need to have a copy of the book for several months in order to complete all of the assignments (all of these titles can be found at various new and used bookstores around town, as well as ordered online). Please research the novel choices and seek your parents' guidance in making this decision. All students enrolled in English III for the upcoming school year are expected to have the novel read prior to the first day of school, August 15, 2018. Since there will be several assignments over the summer reading novel during the first weeks of school, you should come to class prepared to discuss the text. Thank you for your cooperation and continuing interest in your education -- we look forward to seeing you in our classrooms next year!

Sincerely,  
The ORHS English III Team

These novels have been chosen by the teachers on the JUNIOR team and represent some of our favorites!

**The Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard (Mare is the protagonist)**

What if you discovered that several of the core beliefs that you held about yourself were wrong? And that these discoveries made you question everything you thought you knew and understood about the world? Mare Barrow experiences this on an epic scale in Aveyard's opening installment of her Red Queen trilogy. Mare's entire existence is shaken when she accidentally learns a frightening truth about who, and what, she is. If you enjoy intrigue, surprises, danger, and rebellion then you will love this fast-paced adventure.

**Looking for Alaska by John Green (Pudge is the protagonist)**

This is John Green's first novel, published in March of 2005. It is the story of Pudge, an awkward teen who is tired of his safe life at home, so he ventures out to a boarding school where he meets Alaska Young. Clever, screwed-up, funny, and dead sexy, Alaska pulls Pudge into her labyrinth and catapults him into the "Great Perhaps." I recommend this book because it addresses issues that teens can relate to – loneliness, heartache, teen love, mischief, and what really happens to us after we die. The characters are so believable that you will find yourself cheering them on and commiserating their failures. This novel contains graphic language and some sexually explicit scenes.

**Rot & Ruin by Jonathan Maberry (Benny Imura is the protagonist)**

If you have ever felt that you've had to grow up too fast, that you are suffocated with responsibility, or even wonder why you belong to the family you do, you will understand the angst and frustration of Benny Imura. He was a baby when it happened. His first memory is of his mother handing him to his older half-brother as she is being dragged to her death by his newly "turned" zombie father. He resents his brother, Tom, for leaving his mother, for running away, for being a coward. It doesn't help that the community thinks Tom is the best zombie killer since sliced bread, but he's the only family he has left. With his 15th birthday approaching, Benny must find a job or lose half of his food rations, so he reluctantly agrees to work as Tom's apprentice in the "Family Business." When they travel out into the Rot and Ruin where action, violence and terror await them, Benny witnesses things that change his opinion of his brother and forever alter his perception of the world and what it means to be human. He also learns that flesh-eating zombies aren't the scariest or most dangerous monsters around. You will not be able to put this book down and will be racing to get the next in the series!

**Life as We Knew It by Suzanne Beth Pfeffer (Miranda is the protagonist)**

Life As We Knew It is the first of a trilogy series. This novel is written as a diary by the main character Miranda, a normal sixteen-year-old girl who attends high school and thinks about friends and boys. At the beginning of the novel, an asteroid hits the moon, which in turn, knocks it closer to the earth's orbit causing many natural disasters to occur, changing the world forever. Tidal waves destroy coastal cities, killing millions of people, thunderstorms knock out the electricity, stores run out of food and supplies, and a nuclear winter is caused by the multiple volcanic eruptions around the world. Without shops, food or electricity, how long can Miranda and her family survive with minimal water, a dwindling food supply, no heat or electricity, and subzero temperatures?

**The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky (Charlie is the protagonist)**

This popular book is an excellent coming of age story that will appeal to both reluctant and enthusiastic readers. Written in the form of letters from Charlie to an anonymous recipient, it is a quick, easy, and compelling read. High school freshman Charlie has a reputation for being a freak. He is socially awkward, cries easily, and his only friend just killed himself. Things turn around for Charlie when he meets seniors Sam and Patrick, who take him under their wing. They introduce him to their diverse, free-thinking, and sometimes wild group of friends. It is through these kids that Charlie is able to learn about friendship, love, and feeling safe, until a repressed secret from his past begins to emerge, threatening to destroy everything. This book does need a disclaimer, as there are adult situations that take place throughout this novel. Readers learn that Charlie was molested by a family member, he passively witnesses a rape, has a girlfriend he doesn't really like, takes drugs and alcohol others give him, and even lets his grieving gay friend Patrick kiss him just to make Patrick feel better. Homophobia is present, some teens have sex, the characters also smoke pot, drink, and take LSD, and there is some graphic language. We recommend that parents talk to their teens about such abuse, alcoholism, and socioeconomic class, and how we have the power to change our legacies, as many of the characters do in this book.

**The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (Starr is the protagonist)**

Starr is one of the only African American girls at her predominantly white school. She lives across town in Garden Heights -- an area known as the ghetto. Because of the differences between her school and her neighborhood, Starr feels the need to keep her two lives separate. This becomes difficult for her after Spring Break. While at a party in her neighborhood, Starr runs into her childhood friend Khalil. As Starr and Khalil are talking, they hear gunshots, so they run out of the house. Khalil offers to drive Starr home, and on their way, they get pulled over by a white police officer. Moments after seeing the flashing blue lights, Khalil is shot and killed by the cop, and Starr is the only witness. Starr is faced with numerous challenges after this night. She must choose whether or not she wants to testify about that night in front of a grand jury, listen to the media and some of her closest friends attempt to justify Khalil's death because they assume he was drug dealer, and protect herself and her family from the gang members threatening her neighborhood. The characters and their emotions in this novel are very realistic in dealing with culturally relevant topics. This novel does include graphic language, party scenes, drug dealers, discussions about sex, a clear division between socioeconomic classes, and police brutality. We recommend that parents talk to their students about these concepts.



