



OAK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Level English III Summer Reading 2019

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 2019-2020 school year. For the summer of 2019, students will be required to carefully read one of the following novels of their choice:

Looking for Alaska by John Green
Rot and Ruin by Jonathan Maberry
Life as We Knew It by Suzanne Beth Pfeffer
Dumplin' by Julie Murphy
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
Dear Martin by Nic Stone

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). Divide your book in half; you should collect 6 quotes from the first half and 6 quotes from the second half that reveal the character's traits and how they change throughout the novel. There will be a total of 12 quotes. You may collect these quotes as you read or after you have finished 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 character's thoughts, feelings, actions,

relationships, struggles, etc. Please use the attached form to collect your quotes. Your "Quote Collection" form will be due August 20th - 21st. While there will be various assignments over the summer reading novel, the 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. 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!

11th Grade Level English III choices:

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?

Dumplin' by Julie Murphy (Willowdean Dickson is the protagonist)

Self-proclaimed fat girl Willowdean Dickson has always been at home in her own skin. Her thoughts on having the ultimate bikini body? Put a bikini on your body. With her all-American-beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked...until Will takes a job at Harpy's, the local fast food joint. There she meets Private School Bo, a hot former jock. Will isn't surprised to find herself attracted to Bo. But she *is* surprised when he seems to like her back. Instead of finding new heights of self-assurance in her relationship with Bo, Will starts to doubt herself. So she sets out to take back her confidence by doing the most horrifying thing she can imagine: entering the Miss Clover City beauty pageant—along with several other unlikely candidates—to show the world that she deserves to be up there as much as any twiggy girl does. Along the way, she'll shock Clover City—and maybe herself most of all. With starry Texas nights, red candy suckers, Dolly Parton songs, and a wildly unforgettable heroine—*Dumplin'* is guaranteed to steal your heart.

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.

Dear Martin (Justyce McAllister is the protagonist)

Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.

