



Upper School English Summer Reading Guide 2023

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Upper School Summer Reading Guide for 2023. Here, you will find a list of the **required and choice books for all English courses**, plus links so you can find out more about each title, read reviews, make informed choices based on your interests and worldview, and, if you would like, order your summer texts right away. You will also find the code to each course's Google Classroom so you can access instructions and expectations for the assignments that are due by **August 21, 8:00 AM**.

As a student in the Upper School, please acquire texts on your own (new or used, borrowed from a friend or your local library) and in whatever medium you prefer (print, ebook, or audiobook). Unless a particular edition or translation is indicated, any will suffice. The links to Boswell Books are for your reference. **Read the instructions carefully so you know what is required and what is optional.**

Enroll in the appropriate Google Classroom ASAP. Once enrolled, carefully read the summer assignment.

Initiated by the English Department in 1975, required summer reading has long been a tradition at The Prairie School. The Department believes that reading and learning should end neither in June nor with the curriculum. We strongly encourage students to take advantage of the time to read books of their choosing—*above and beyond what is required for school*. No matter a student's grade level, required and independent reading helps students practice and improve their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Please make sure you have submitted all summer work to Google Classroom by August 21, 8:00 AM. Submissions after that time will be considered late.

Have a wonderful summer of reading!

Sincerely,

Ms. Davis
Mr. Peterson
Dr. Sattler
Dr. Wheeler

2023 SRC Summer Reading Resources

Need to find summer reading books?

SRC Website

<https://www.prairieschoolsrc.com/>

*Access catalog and Sora tutorial videos on the website [here](#)

*Use drop down menus to access summer reading lists by for each division.

Destiny Discover Library Catalog (print)



<https://bit.ly/srcdestiny>

**You must be logged in to request holds on books and view your account information.

For Grades 6-12

Username: school email address

Password: 1234

Example

mweaver01@prairieschool.com

1234

* Passwords can be changed and reset by Mrs. Weaver. Please email Mrs. Weaver at mweaver@prairieschool.com to make any password changes.

*Parents/Guardians are welcome to have their own SRC accounts. Please email Mrs. Weaver at mweaver@prairieschool.com to request an account.

WI Schools Digital Library Catalog (WDDL) + Sora app (ebooks and digital audiobooks)

<https://bit.ly/digitalsrc>

*Use your school Google account as login on a phone, iPad, or Chromebook.



You can also link your digital public library catalog with your public library card number and pin to your Sora app.

Please see local public libraries and Boswell Book Company for additional copies.

English 9

**“Sometimes the only reason for us to be somewhere else is to see things from a different perspective.”
- Leila Summers**

Join the summer Google Classroom with the class code **w2bac3d** to see the full instructions for summer reading.

To prepare for English 9, you will be reading two texts this summer. While you are required to read *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, you will also choose your second book from the list below.

■ **OUR REQUIRED TEXT**

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros. *The House on Mango Street* is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Told in a series of vignettes — sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous — Sandra Cisneros' masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers.

■ **YOUR CHOICE (CHOOSE ONE)**

- ***Everything Sad Is Untrue: (a true story)*** by Daniel Nayeri. A sprawling, evocative, and groundbreaking autobiographical novel told in the unforgettable and hilarious voice of a young Iranian refugee. It is a powerfully layered novel that poses the questions: Who owns the truth? Who speaks it? Who believes it?
- ***The Reason I Jump*** by Naoki Higashida. Written by Naoki Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware, and very charming thirteen-year-old boy with autism, it is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine.
- ***Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions*** by Daniel Wallace. The novel that inspired the film and Broadway musical. In his prime, Edward Bloom was an extraordinary man. He could outrun anybody, never missed a day of school, and saved lives and tamed giants. Animals loved him, people loved him, women loved him. At least that's what he told his son, William. But now Edward Bloom is dying, and William wants to know the truth about his elusive father — this indefatigable teller of tall tales — before it's too late. So, using the few facts he knows, William re-creates Edward's life in a series of legends and myths, through which he begins to understand his father's great feats — and failings. The result is hilarious and wrenching, tender and outrageous.
- ***Piecing Me Together*** by Renée Watson. Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some *opportunities* she doesn't really welcome, like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from. She's tired of being singled out as someone who needs help. Jade wants to speak, to create, to express her joys and sorrows, her pain and her hope. Maybe there are some things she could show other women about understanding the world and finding ways to be real, to make a difference.

Your writing assignment about your books is due on August 21 and can be found on the Google Classroom.

English 10

“The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.”

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Join the summer Google Classroom with the class code [ug4blwl](#) to see the full instructions for summer reading and the slideshow introducing the required and choice texts.

Please read the following PLAY:

[Master Harold...and the Boys](#) (Athol Fugard) - **Drama**

In addition, please choose ONE MORE book to read:

- [The Drowned Cities](#) (Paolo Bacigalupi) - **Fiction**
- [Purple Hibiscus: A Novel](#) (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie) - **Fiction**
- [Outcasts United: The Story of A Refugee Soccer Team That Changed A Town](#) (Warren St. John) - **Nonfiction**
- [The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope](#) (William Kamkwamba) - **Nonfiction**
- [How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child](#) (Sandra Uwiringiyimana) - **Nonfiction**
- [A Long Way Home: A Memoir](#) (Saroo Brierley) - **Nonfiction**

Your writing assignment about your books is due on August 21 and can be found in our Google Classroom.

English II

**“Dreams are the touchstones of our characters.”
– Henry David Thoreau**

Join the summer Google Classroom with the class code **vz4um2v** to see the full instructions for summer reading.

For this summer’s reading, we have two required assignments – one is a brief history of American ideas and the other a movie that explores those ideas. Both will allow our class to start investigating the central themes and topics of American literature.

Our required book:

[The American Dream: A Short History of an Idea That Shaped a Nation](#) by Jim Cullen (2004). This history explores how ideas of “The American Dream” have changed over time and have reflected key eras of American history. **Read the Introduction and Chapters 1-5.** ([Bookfinder](#) is a good source for used texts.)

Our movies (select one and find it online or at your local library):

- ***The New World*** (Terrence Malick, 2005). A dreamlike vision of the founding of Jamestown and the meeting of Captain John Smith with the young Native American woman we now call Pocahontas.
- ***Hamilton*** (Lin-Manuel Miranda, 2020). A recording of Miranda’s 2015 Broadway smash, a hip-hop reimagining of the life of Alexander Hamilton and the founding of the American nation. (Only available at this time via Disney+.)
- ***High Noon*** (Fred Zinnemann, 1952). A dark Western, filmed during the Hollywood Red Scare, telling the story of a small-town sheriff who must stand alone against outlaws returning on the noon train, all swearing revenge.
- ***Minari*** (Lee Isaac Chung, 2020). A touching drama of a Korean-American family that moves to an Arkansas farm in search of their own American Dream.

Your writing assignment is due on August 21 and can be found on the Google Classroom.

English 12: Studies in Diversity—Dramas of Diversity and Difference

“Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.”

- James Baldwin

The Google Classroom code is **jkyvd2f**. Please join the Google Classroom to see the full instructions.

READ *[So You Want to Talk About Race](#)* by Ijeoma Oluo. Oluo’s work will serve as a lens to “read” the presentation of diversity in the following films.

WATCH *[The Half of It](#)* (available on Netflix) (this is a modern adaptation of the 1897 play *Cyrano de Bergerac*).
AND WATCH *[Othello](#)* (this is a traditional presentation of Shakespeare’s 1603 tragedy).

Your writing assignment is due on August 21 and can be found on the Google Classroom.

English 12: Literary Labyrinths

“We all live in a kind of continuous dream,’ I told him. When we wake, it is because something, some event, some pinprick even, disturbs the edges of what we’ve taken as reality.”

- Jeff Vandermeer

The Google Classroom Code is **oy34ni7** Please join the Google Classroom to see the full instructions.

Choose ONE of the following books to read and ONE of the listed films to watch.

- *[Get in Trouble: Stories](#)* (Kelly Link)
- *[Lagoon](#)* (Nnedi Okorafor)
- *[A Tale for The Time Being](#)* (Ruth Ozeki)
- *[Slade House](#)* (David Mitchell)
- *[This Is How You Lose the Time War](#)* (Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone)
- *[The Space Between Worlds](#)* (Micaiah Johnson)

Film options:

- *Fight Club*
- *Rashomon*
- *Twelve Monkeys*
- *Shutter Island*
- *Inception*

Your writing assignment about your book and film is due on August 21 and can be found in our Google Classroom.

English 12: Land & Literature

“Homo sapiens achieved his characteristics as a biological species more than 100,000 years ago, and his fundamental biological characteristics could not be drastically altered without destroying his very being. He developed his human attributes in the very act of responding to the environment in which he evolved. The earth has been his cradle and will remain his home.”

- René Dubos, *So Human an Animal* (1968)

The Google Classroom code is rbed7w7. Please join the Google Classroom to see the full instructions.

READ [*Ishmael*](#) by Daniel Quinn. “Taker” and “Leaver” culture will serve as a lens to “read” the following films.

WATCH [*Avatar*](#).

AND WATCH [*Moana*](#).

ABOVE AND BEYOND (neither required nor unassessed — for fun)

- Read and watch Cormac McCarthy’s [*The Road*](#). How is the book different from the movie?
- Read Aldous Huxley’s [*Brave New World*](#) and consider how Huxley’s dystopian exploration of the future aligns with or diverges from what Quinn suggests humans must do to survive and thrive.

Your writing assignment is due on August 21 and can be found in our Google Classroom.

AP English 12

“Can it be that I have not lived as one ought?” suddenly came into his head. “But how not so, when I have done everything as it should be done?”

— Leo Tolstoy, *Death of Ivan Ilyich*

Everyone should read the required book and one choice book:

- [*Death of Ivan Ilyich*](#) by Leo Tolstoy (Penguin Classics: ISBN 9780140449617)
- Choice Book for AP Portfolio (see instructions and requirements in Google Classroom: **code fa2ocpo**)

NOTE: These directions can also be found on the US 2023 AP Work document. Ms. Davis will give you separate instructions, activities, and due dates via Google Classroom before school’s end.