

English 10: World Literature LEARNING SUPPORT SUMMER READING

PURPOSE: The English 10 Teachers want you to READ! **That is your assignment this summer –READ.** 😊 We want you to find something that INTERESTS you, and engages you.

We believe you can find a text that is appropriate for your reading level. It does not have to be a certain fictional text or a certain memoir or a certain set of articles or even a certain graphic novel. Choose something that YOU want to read!

Your text does not have to be a global text, but we know it helps when students get exposed to a different world view and culture through their summer reading. This will definitely start to get you prepared for the curriculum! Because most students are not that familiar with World Literature, we wanted to give you some resources.

KEEP IN MIND: We will be doing some sort of activity with your text when the school-year starts, so **as you read, maybe highlight, fold pages, jot notes...** do whatever you need so that you can go back and connect to the text when you are finished with it! We are hoping that the text you read stays with you. So again, in order for you to be comfortable with the details when school begins, **you might need to take notes so you don't spend time rereading.**

SUGGESTIONS: In case you don't know where to start, **some options are listed on the next pages** (titles, country, genres, and online reviews are included). Comments have been made next to the title to help you choose a book.

BOOKSHARE: Bookshare is an online program that provides text and audio as well as capability to highlight. If you are interested in being added to bookshare email Mrs. Holstein at khols@spring-ford.net

Audible.com: <https://www.audible.com/ep/FreeListens>

Audiobooks.com: <https://www.audiobooks.com/> This is another great resource to be able to listen to the book!

GENERAL YOUNG ADULT FICTION:

Aluta by Adwoa Badoe

COUNTRY: GHANA

For eighteen-year-old Charlotte, university life is better than she'd ever dreamed — a sophisticated and generous roommate, the camaraderie of dorm living, parties, clubs and boyfriends. Most of all, Charlotte is exposed to new ideas, and in 1981 Ghana, this may be the most exciting – and most dangerous — adventure of all.

Unbecoming by Jenny Downham: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: England

This novel features three generations of women—an estranged grandmother, a freshly divorced mother, and a daughter who tries to find who she is and whom she loves. Katie and her special-needs brother get involved in taking care of their grandmother, an elderly woman with Alzheimer's disease.

The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson: Bookshare

COUNTRY: England

An engrossing narrative about two 14-year-olds living on the outskirts of London who form a special friendship when one is bullied and the other intervenes. They find that they are both grappling with gender identity and the meaning of being “normal.”

HISTORICAL FICTION:

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: Germany

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down.

The Last Execution by Jesper Wung-Sung, translated from Danish by Lindy Falk van Rooyen: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: Denmark In this gripping tale based on the last execution in Denmark, the events leading up to a 15-year-old boy's execution are seen from multiple and complex perspectives. Emotionally stirring and thought-provoking, this narrative is both timely and historical.

The Pact by Amanda West Lewis

COUNTRY: Germany Peter Gruber and his friends join the Hitler Youth Movement as children in 1939. What starts as an adventurous extracurricular activity turns into a nightmare as the boys endure training, relocations, and the destruction of their home city of Hamburg.

Queen of Ice by Devika Rangachari

LOCATION: Kashmir

Despised by her father and bullied by his heir, Didda's childhood is miserable and her future, bleak. When she is married off to the dissolute ruler of Kashmir, she must learn to hold her own in a court riddled with factions and conspiracies. But Didda is no ordinary queen. Ruthless and ambitious, she wants to rewrite history. Will she succeed?

Refugee by Alan Gratz: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: Germany, Cuba, and Syria

A compelling young adult read, Gratz weaves together three different stories using three different perspectives through three different time periods. Josef, a Jewish boy, lives in 1930s Germany, Isabel lives in Cuba in the mid-1990s, and Mahmoud in present day Syria. All three children and their families are seeking refuge from the oppressive forces within their countries and commence harrowing journeys in search of a better life.

SPORTS FICTION:

Away Running by David Wright & Lu Bouchard: Bookshare

COUNTRY: France

Inspired by a tragic event in Paris and the authors' experiences, this is a captivating story about Freeman, a black football player from San Antonio, and Matt, a white quarterback from Montreal, who find themselves playing American football in a predominantly Muslim immigrant suburb that is rife with ethnic tensions and police brutality.

FANTASY/QUEST/MAGICAL REALISM:

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: Spain, Morocco, Egypt

This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and soul-stirring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles in his path. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within.

The Head of the Saint by Socorro Acioli, translated from Portuguese by Daniel Hahn: Bookshare

COUNTRY: Brazil

Faith and magic intertwine in this story of Samuel who lives in the concrete head of a saint, answering the prayers of the villagers, and tries to fulfill his mother's last wishes and also discover who is singing to him.

GRAPHIC NOVELS:

Baddawi by Leila Abdelrazaq

COUNTRY: Lebanon

Baddawi is the story of a young boy named Ahmad struggling to find his place in the world. Raised in a refugee camp called Baddawi in northern Lebanon, Ahmad is just one of the many thousands of refugee children born to Palestinians who fled their homeland after the war in 1948 established the state of Israel. In this visually arresting graphic novel, Leila Abdelrazaq explores her father's childhood in the 1960s and '70s from a boy's eye view as he witnesses the world crumbling around him and attempts to carry on, forging his own path in the midst of terrible uncertainty.

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood by Marjane Satrapi

COUNTRY: Iran

Persepolis paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. Marjane's child's-eye view of dethroned emperors, state-sanctioned whippings, and heroes of the revolution allows us to learn as she does the history of this fascinating country and of her own extraordinary family. Intensely personal, profoundly political, and wholly original, *Persepolis* is at once a story of growing up and a reminder of the human cost of war and political repression. It shows how we carry on, with laughter and tears, in the face of absurdity. And, finally, it introduces us to an irresistible little girl with whom we cannot help but fall in love.

MEMOIRS:

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: Sierra Leone

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.

First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers by Luong Ung: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: Cambodia

One of seven children of a high-ranking government official, Loung Ung lived a privileged life in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh until the age of five. Then, in April 1975, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into the city, forcing Ung's family to flee and, eventually, to disperse. Loung was trained as a child soldier in a work camp for orphans, her siblings were sent to labor camps, and those who survived the horrors would not be reunited until the Khmer Rouge was destroyed.

The Girl with Seven Names: Escape from North Korea by Hyeonseo Lee and David John, Audible.com

COUNTRY: North Korea

As a child growing up in North Korea, Hyeonseo Lee was one of millions trapped by a secretive and brutal communist regime. Her home on the border with China gave her some exposure to the world

beyond the confines of the Hermit Kingdom and, as the famine of the 1990s struck, she began to wonder, question and to realize that she had been brainwashed her entire life. Given the repression, poverty and starvation she witnessed surely her country could not be, as she had been told “the best on the planet”? Aged seventeen, she decided to escape North Korea. She could not have imagined that it would be twelve years before she was reunited with her family.

An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography by Paul Rusesabagina and Tom Zoellner: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: Rwanda

As Rwanda was thrown into chaos during the 1994 genocide, Rusesabagina, a hotel manager, turned the luxurious Hotel Milles Collines into a refuge for more than 1,200 Tutsi and moderate Hutu refugees, while fending off their would-be killers with a combination of diplomacy and deception. In *An Ordinary Man*, he tells the story of his childhood, retraces his accidental path to heroism, revisits the 100 days in which he was the only thing standing between his “guests” and a hideous death, and recounts his subsequent life as a refugee and activist.

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlyn Alifirenka and Martin Granada with Liz Welch: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: United States and Zimbabwe

In this dual memoir, Caitlyn Alifirenka, a typical suburban American girl and Martin Granada, a boy from Zimbabwe share the story of their unlikely friendship through a school sponsored pen-pal program. The memoir covers the six years they spent writing letters that changed both of their perspectives and their lives in the best ways possible. Alifirenka graduated from North Penn High School, and Martin Granada attended Villanova University.

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: Pakistan

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when Malala was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba with Bryan Mealer: Bookshare, Audible.com

COUNTRY: Malawi

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind is a remarkable true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those around him.

POETRY:

The Secret of Hoa Sen by Nguyen Phan Que Mai, translated by Bruce Weigl

COUNTRY: Vietnam

Nguyen Phan Que Mai is among the most exciting writers to emerge from post-war Vietnam. Her own love of humanity emerges through the evocative lines of her poetry. She records ordinary people trying to survive the needless traumas encroaching upon their daily lives. Her message is simple: care for each other. We are but one.