

## Birmingham Board of Education

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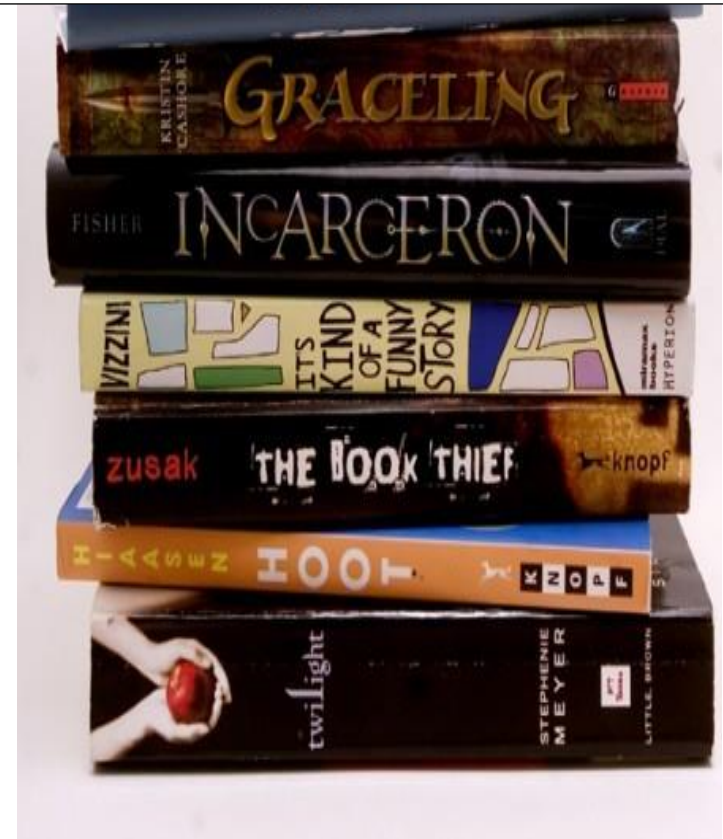
Dr. Pamela Williams

**Curriculum Director**

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Thomas

**High School English Program Specialist**

## **2018 Common Core/College and Career Ready High School Summer Reading List**





**Common Core/College and  
Career Ready  
Suggested Summer Reading  
Grade 9**

**Pre AP English 9**

**Shetterly, Margot L. – *Hidden Figures***

*The #1 New York Times bestseller* is a phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movement, whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space.

**OR**

**Harper, Hill- *Letters to a Young Brother: Manifest Your Destiny***

Letters to a Young Brother is drawn from the humbling life lessons he learned on the road to his Ivy League education and beyond. Inspired by the countless letters and e-mails he has received from teens, Hill Harper set out to write a series of letters to young people. He writes about the challenges of getting a good education and making it through college to the media's destructive emphasis on material wealth.

**Achebe, Chinua- *Things Fall Apart***

The first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s.

**English 9**

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**OR**

**Harper, Hill- *Letter to a Young Brother: Manifest Your Destiny***

Letters to a Young Brother is drawn from the humbling life lessons he learned on the road to his Ivy League education and beyond. Inspired by the countless letters and e-mails he has received from teens, Hill Harper set out to write a series of letters to young people. He writes about the challenges of getting a good education and making it through college to the media's destructive emphasis on material wealth.

**Lee, Harper- *To Kill a Mockingbird***

Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, *To Kill A Mockingbird* takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. This regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal. Harper Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature.



**Common Core/College and  
Career Ready  
Suggested Summer Reading  
Grade 10**

**Pre AP English 10**

**Wilson, August- *Fences***

*Fences* is the story of Troy Maxson, a mid-century Pittsburgh sanitation worker who once dreamed of a baseball career, but was too old when the major leagues began admitting black players. He tries to be a good husband and father, but his lost dream of glory eats at him, and causes him to make a decision that threatens to tear his family apart.

**Haskins, Jim- *Black, Blue and Gray: African Americans in the Civil War***

Jim Haskins brings readers face-to-face with the African Americans who fought in the war between the states. Excerpts from letters and government documents introduce the names and places that set the stage for the war's unfolding. Vintage photographs offer a vivid look at the brave soldiers who risked their lives in the fight for human equality.

**English 10**

**Covey, Sean- *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens***

*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, has been to millions of teens: a handbook to self-esteem and success. Now updated for the digital age, this classic book applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to the tough issues and life-changing decisions teens face.

**Alexie, Sherman- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***

Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.





**Common Core/College and  
Career Ready  
Suggested Summer Reading  
Grade 11**

**AP Language and Composition**

**Gladwell, Malcolm – *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference***

The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate. This widely acclaimed bestseller, in which Malcolm Gladwell explores and brilliantly illuminates the tipping point phenomenon, is already changing the way people throughout the world think about selling products and disseminating ideas.

**Wright, Richard- *Native Sun***

**Native Sun** tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Wright's powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.

**English 11**

**Hansberry, Lorraine - *A Raisin in the Sun***

Set on Chicago's South Side, the plot revolves around the divergent dreams and conflicts within three generations of the Younger family: son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, his sister Beneatha, his son Travis and matriarch Lena, called Mama. When her deceased husband's insurance money comes through, Mama dreams of moving to a new home and a better neighborhood in Chicago.

**Martel, Yann -*Life of Pi***

Pi Patel is sixteen when his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship. The ship sinks, and Pi is left alone on a lifeboat, his only companions being stranded zoo animals: A hyena, an orangutan, a zebra, and a Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger dispatches all but Pi; his fear, knowledge, and cunning must guide him to coexist with the tiger for 227 days at sea.



**Common Core/College and  
Career Ready  
Suggested Summer Reading  
Grade 12**

**AP Literature and Composition**

**Ibsen, Henrik– *A Doll's House***

*A Doll's House* richly displays the genius with which Henrik Ibsen pioneered modern, realistic prose drama. In the central character of Nora, Ibsen epitomizes the human struggle against the humiliating constraints of social conformity.

**King, Stephen- *On Writing 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition: A Memoir of the Craft***

Part memoir, part master class by one of the best-selling authors of all time. This superb volume is revealing and practical view of the writer's craft, comprising the basic tools of the trade every writer must have. King's advice is grounded in vivid memories from childhood through his emergence as a writer. *On Writing* will entertain and empower everyone who reads it.

**English 12**

**Thomas, Angie – *The Hate U Give***

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer.

**Wilde, Oscar- *The Importance of Being Earnest***

*The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People* is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed on February 14, 1895, at the St James's Theatre in London, it is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain fictitious persona to escape burdensome social obligations. Working within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satire of Victorian ways.

