



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
DREAM • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

Central High School

2015-16 Outside Reading Program

Overview

Committees of teachers work together at each grade level to determine the most appropriate outside reading program to prepare and support students through the honors and AP coursework. Works selected have a direct connection to the instruction in the school year. For AP courses, works selected have been identified by the College Board as acceptable texts for summer and semester reading through the AP course syllabus audits.

Alignment

Teachers have vertically aligned the English program from 9-12, so students' skills build from one year to the next. Each course has a specific skill set and analytical expectation.

Expectations

Students will read the assigned texts. Students should be ready for assessments on the first full day of classes. Students should contact teachers through email if questions arise over the summer. In addition to keeping the mind active and preventing the usual reading skill loss, summer reading assignments also provide an opportunity for early assessment for data-based course planning.

Justifications

Placemats with justifications and text complexity analysis are provided at the end of the packet.

Alternate Texts

If parents or students find a text objectionable, they should contact the teacher as soon as possible and the teacher will provide an alternate title of similar text structure and Lexile measure. Sometimes teachers travel over the summer and cannot be reached for a few days. They will respond as quickly as they are able. If after a week, there is no response, parents may contact the department chair, Judy Sullivan, at judith.sullivan@knoxschools.org, and she will help resolve the issue.

Principal

Michael Reynolds

**Central High School
2015-2016 Outside Reading List**

Alternate titles will be provided at parents' request. An asterisk* beside a title indicates possible objections.

English I and II students should read both titles listed. AP Language (11th grade) should read all three titles, and AP Literature (12th grade) should read all four titles listed.

English I Honors

Animal Farm, George Orwell

In George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, the mistreated farm animals overthrow Farmer Jones in an attempt for a better life with equality for all. As an allegory, the characters and plot parallel the people and events of the Russian Revolution in 1917, which led to the rise in power for Stalin.

**The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak (language and content)

In Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*, the young protagonist steals books in Nazi-era Germany to save them and herself. Narrated by Death, this ultimately hopeful tale focuses on the power of literature to transform lives.

English II Honors

**The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd (possible controversial content)

This coming-of-age story focuses on a young woman who journeys to a new home to find her true self.

**Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck (language)

This classic tale of the American dream during the Depression by a Nobel Prize-winning author focuses on the plight of two down-on-their-luck laborers, struggling to make a better life for themselves.

English III AP Language and Composition

Please note: All of these novels are commonly taught across the U.S. to support the objectives for this particular course.

**In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote (language and content)

A nonfiction novel, this book is a true account of the 1960 murder of a Kansas farm family, the town they lived in, the killers, and the American justice system.

**On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*, Stephen King (language)

An autobiographical account of the author's development as a professional writer, this text is also a working handbook of style and syntax advice.

**How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization*, Franklin Foer (language, some descriptions of sports-related violence)

This text is an analysis of the interchange between soccer and the new global economy.

English IV AP Literature and Composition

Macbeth, William Shakespeare

This classic tragedy highlights the dangers of unchecked ambition. A Scottish nobleman hears a prophecy of greatness, and then takes matters into his own hands to assure his success. The consequences of his actions can be traced through his rise and fall; much slaying and bloodshed ensues before order is restored at the end of the play.

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

This first science fiction novel focuses as much on the moral and philosophical realms as on the scientific questions of creating new life. A brilliant doctor sets out to create a new being from spare parts and electricity, then runs away in horror when he succeeds. The creature at first seeks only his creator—both father and god—but when rebuffed by society and his maker, turns to revenge. This frame narrative also includes an adventurer pushing the boundaries of Arctic exploration as it attempts to answer questions of responsibility and hubris.

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde

This farcical play features two men leading double lives, attempting to experience as much pleasure and as little responsibility as possible in late Victorian England. This satirical look at upper-class society includes two young women whose greatest desire is to marry men named *Ernest*, even if the objects of their affection turn out to be anything but earnest. Wilde pokes fun at the wealthy, the educational system, fashion, love letters, personal diaries, three-volume novels, and many other topics in this witty comedy.