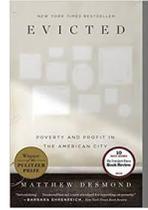


Woburn Memorial High School
Summer Reading Supplemental Texts
2018

All students are required to read the all-school read:

***Evicted* by Matthew Desmond**

Students are asked to focus on the essential question aligned with the social-emotional skill—embracing diversity, integrity, grit, empathy and self-control—that is listed with their grade level.



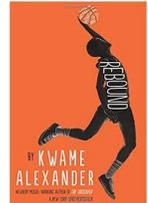
In addition, **honors** students are required to read one additional title listed below for their grade level.

Grade 9

Essential Question: How does embracing diversity make us a more well-rounded person and citizen?

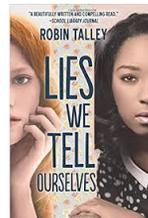
**Rebound* by Kwame Alexander

Kwame Alexander's *Rebound* is the prequel to his previous novel in verse, *The Crossover*. It follows the maturation of Chuck Bell—the basketball star whose sons are featured in *The Crossover*. As Chuck struggles with the loss of his father, he develops a love for the game and a better understanding of his family and of himself.



***Lies We Tell Ourselves* by Robin Talley

Robin Talley takes readers to 1959 Virginia—the beginning of school integration. The book focuses on two protagonists, Sarah Dunbar, a student integrating Jefferson High School and Linda Hairston, the privileged daughter of one of the most outspoken critics of integration. Told in each girl's voice, through alternating chapters, *Lies We Tell Ourselves* provides the reader a glimpse into our country's history, while also holding a mirror to our current discussions about race and sexuality.



****Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward

Jojo's had his share of struggles—his father is in jail, his mom is a distant figure in his life, and his paternal grandparents want nothing to do with him. When Jojo's dad is released from prison, he discovers secrets about those closest to him. The novel, told from multiple perspectives, will take you into the minds and memories of Jojo's family and make you rethink how you feel about each of the characters with each chapter. **This novel is appropriate for more mature readers.*

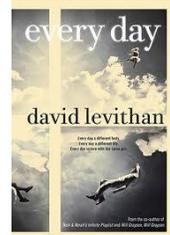


Grade 10

Essential Question: Why is it important to understand, be aware of, and be sensitive to the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of another individual?

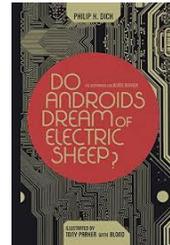
* *Every Day* by David Levithan

Every Day, by David Levithan, is a unique, emotional, and thought-provoking book about acceptance. Throughout the story, people come in all shapes, sizes, genders, and orientations. There is no preference given to the above mentioned categories. A is a person who inhabits another person's body for one day. Sometimes A is a boy, sometimes a girl. A can inhabit different colors of skin and different shapes and sizes, all while trying to minimize the impact of occupying the body. A is supposedly not judgemental. Whatever body A inhabits, is fine with A.



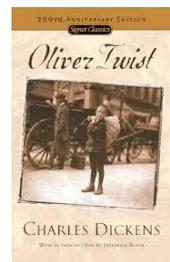
** *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K. Dick

Imagine a world in which humans and androids are indistinguishable. Nuclear global war has severely damaged life on earth and people are craving life in both animal and human forms. As a result, life is created in the form of androids. Rick Deckard is tasked with retiring rogue androids in his role as a bounty hunter. His job is a difficult one as he navigates the differences and similarities between authentic and artificial lives. Is an “empathy box” or “mood organ” equivalent to a human heart and soul? This science fiction classic was the inspiration for the movie *Blade Runner* and the remake *Blade Runner 2049*. Despite being nearly void of life, the world in this novel helps us reflect on what it means to be human.



*** *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens

This is Charles Dickens' second novel and one of his most popular works. In the story, the orphaned protagonist, Oliver Twist, starts his life in a workhouse and is then apprenticed with an undertaker. He escapes from there and travels to London where he meets the Artful Dodger, a member of a gang of juvenile pickpockets, which is led by the elderly criminal Fagin. *Oliver Twist* is notable for Dickens' unromantic portrayal of criminals and their sordid lives, as well as exposing the cruel treatment of the many orphans in London in the mid-nineteenth century. An early example of the social novel, Dickens satirizes the hypocrisies of his time, including child labour, the recruitment of children as criminals, and the presence of street children. The novel features a range of colorful and unforgettable characters.

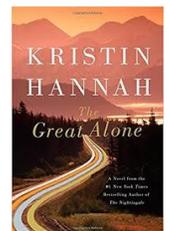


Grade 11

Essential Question: How does grit (courage, resolve, and perseverance) contribute to the evolution of a human?

**The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah

In a departure from her typical sense of history in her writing, Kristin Hannah writes about a teenaged girl and her family's adventure in Homesteading in the Alaskan wilderness. While on the surface this is a story about a family and response to resilience in someone's familial relationships and physical environment, it is also a text that explores the nuances of living in the violent and unforgiving climate of Alaska. Following his return from the Vietnam War, veteran Ernt Allbright decides to move his family to the untamed wilderness of Alaska. What begins as a unique coming-of-age tale for his 13-year-old daughter, Leni, soon becomes a terrifying story of surviving domestic violence, as well as the relentless forces of nature.



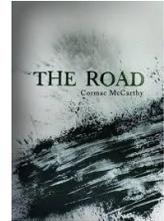
*****Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer**

During an expedition to climb Mt. Everest in 1996, a number of climbers from multiple expeditions confront a rogue storm. The book describes preparations for the climb, the leaders and participants in the climb, and the harrowing tale of the survivors as they fight subfreezing temperatures and high winds at extremely high elevations, only to discover that a number of their colleagues did not survive.



******The Road* by Cormac McCarthy**

Written in a spare and almost poetic style, this fictional text takes on our worst fears as humans while also examining the love that a parent has for a child and vice versa. What would it feel like to be the only two people to survive an apocalyptic event with only each other to bear witness? Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2007, American author Cormac McCarthy tells the harrowing story of a man and his son attempting to survive a post-apocalyptic wasteland. Throughout their haunting journey, the unnamed father and son encounter unspeakable horrors and find their bond put to the ultimate test.

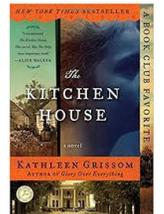


Women in Literature

Essential Question: How does grit (courage, resolve, and perseverance) contribute to the evolution of a human?

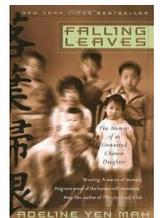
***The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom**

Set in Virginia during slavery, *The Kitchen House* centers on Lavina, a young Irish immigrant forced to work as an indentured servant alongside the kitchen house slaves of the plantation. In time, Lavina must navigate two worlds: the world of the slaves she's come to view as family and the world of the white inhabitants of the big house.



***Falling Leaves* by Adeline Yen Mah**

Mah's memoir details her childhood in China under the subordination of her country and the stigma of her mother's death during Mah's birth. Her journey to adulthood leads her to new locales, all the while searching for love and acceptance.

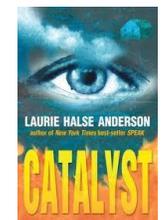


Grade 12

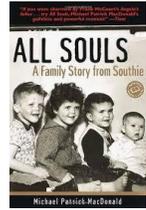
Essential Question: Why is it important to maintain integrity (do the right thing) even during difficult situations or times?

****Catalyst* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

Kate Malone, a senior in high school, has more responsibilities than the typical teen. Obsessed with running and science, she's applied solely to M.I.T., her mother's alma mater. Although she's convinced she'll be in Cambridge next fall, life has other plans. When she's forced to live with her sworn enemy, Kate learns that life doesn't always unfold as we hope and that some things we take as reality are not always what they seem. Kate's experience teaches her that sometimes life's most important tests occur outside of school, a lesson that helps her beyond the classroom.

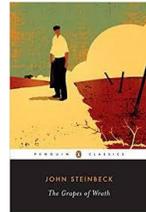


****All Souls** by Michael Patrick MacDonald
Follow the story of the MacDonald clan—a South Boston family from the projects, with a single parent and 11 children—as they fight addiction, street crime, poverty, classism, organized crime, discrimination and racism that runs rampant through their neighborhood in the 70s and early 80s. Harrowing and ultimately uplifting, *All Soul's* focuses on the power of redemption and truth-telling as tools to fight the violence that infects the neighborhood.



*****Grapes of Wrath** by John Steinbeck

John Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, tells the devastating tale of a Depression Era family in the western United States struggling to find a better life. The Joads leave the Oklahoma Dust Bowl thinking they will find better opportunities in California. After struggling through grueling hardships on their journey, they reach the West Coast only to find conditions worse than those they left behind. Subsisting as migrant farmers, they face poverty, hunger, and cruelty at the hands of uncaring landowners and authorities. Though this stark depiction of the Joads' experiences was almost eighty years ago, its themes of inequality, injustice and oppression resonate today.

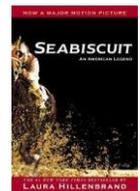


Sports Literature

Essential Question: Does the popularity of a sport shape or mirror the American identity?

Seabiscuit: An American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand

Seabiscuit is the true story of an American racehorse and the troubled lives of his owner, trainer, and jockey. The story follows how this horse and three individuals all work together to find their best selves in a story of redemption and second chances. Seabiscuit became an unlikely champion and a symbol of hope to many Americans during the Great Depression.



Heroine's Journey

Essential Question: Why is it important to maintain integrity (do the right thing) even during difficult situations or times?

Book of Choice

Students will select a book or books of their choice connected to the essential question above. Students are expected to come back to school prepared to discuss how the essential question pertains to the novel(s) chosen.

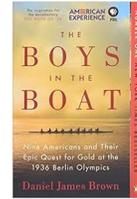


AP Language and Composition

Essential Question: How does grit (courage, resolve, and perseverance) contribute to the evolution of a human?

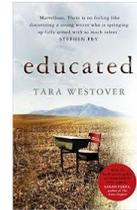
The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel James Brown

The Boys in the Boat is not only a narrative about the 1936 University of Washington crew team who earned a spot at the Olympics but simultaneously explores the technicalities of the sport of rowing and the building of crew boats. Thematically, it examines resilience in the Greatest Generation and the effect adversity in life events can have in building people or destroying them.



Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

Educated is a narrative memoir from the perspective of a child who was kept from any sort of education until the age of 17 and went on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. The child of a mentally ill religious fanatic who believed that the world was an inch away from a devastating attack on his homestead, Westover explores the dynamic that untreated mental illness can create in a family and also how isolation and lack of community can affect a person and its reversal can create triumph and success.



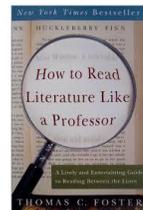
AP Literature and Composition

Essential Question: Why is it important to maintain integrity (do the right thing) even during difficult situations or times?

AP Literature and Composition students should read this book *prior* to reading any of the other summer reading novels.

**How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

This text is not a novel but a guide to reading one for a course geared towards the study of literature. It's friendly yet knowledgeable tone and it's conversational style lend well to a reader's interest in gaining some tips and tricks to tackling the level of analysis that will ultimately be required by the course. From sonnets, to symbols, to syntax, the topics are relevant and will serve as a crucial introduction to the content of the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition course.



****The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Scarlet Letter is one novel which is essential in terms of “cultural currency” in our American society (and New England society in particular). Hester Prynne, the heroine, must make a difficult decision which will have far-reaching and long-lasting effects on not only herself but also her “partner in sin,” her daughter, her community, and Hawthorne’s reader. Ahead of his time, Hawthorne constructs a complex female protagonist who unfailingly takes the moral high road despite the seemingly endless hopeless situations she finds herself amidst, prompting the reader to question the sense in following any set of “rules” that were clearly not made with their intended follower(s) in mind.

