Statement on Book Selection and Objectionable Material

The Runnels English faculty has as its first mission to teach novels that engage, inspire, inform, uplift, and above all educate our students. While our first consideration is always the merit of an assigned novel, sometimes those books could contain material that some may find objectionable. In fact, almost every classic novel has been challenged at some point, and modern books are even more frequently challenged because of objectionable content. As Runnels is a school that embraces those of many faiths, cultures, and value systems, content that is deemed to be offensive will vary from family to family. As educators, we have made every effort to give students choices in their summer reading assignments, as we understand that student engagement strongly correlates with the ability to have ownership over reading choices. Please be aware, however, that this list includes books with language, themes, or situations that some students or families may find offensive. Therefore, in the spirit of academic freedom, we leave it up to each student and his or her family to make the reading selections that best fit their unique value system and interests.

Summer Assignments

Summer Reading is a long tradition in many schools including Runnels. Research has shown conclusively that continued reading over long breaks keeps students from falling behind in reading skills. Because students will be expected to retain key information from their summer reading, many teachers assign corresponding work to help students remember what they read and to provide guidance and scaffolding for how to read the book closely. These assignments are mandatory. All English teachers in Junior and Senior High will require summer assignments for the summer of 2017. Additional copies of the assignments will be available through a link the Runnels Web Page at www.runnels.org . Teachers will be available (via email) over the summer to answer questions concerning their assignments. English teachers will also meet with currently enrolled students before the end of the 2016-2017 school year to discuss the requirements for these assignments. Students who are new to Runnels should contact the administration and/or Norma Marsh, Dept. Head, English and Social Studies, at n.marsh@runnels.org for more information. All students will be expected to have completed these assignments upon their return to school for the 2017-2018 school year.

AP Assignments

Many AP classes require summer assignments. Please check the Advanced Placement Summer Assignment for each course for more information. For students who are new to Runnels in the 2017-2018 year, please contact the administration for more information concerning summer assignments. AP teachers will be available via email to answer any questions concerning summer assignments as well.

Norma Marsh
Department Head, English & Social Studies
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11th grade Summer Reading
Mrs. Wilks
English III- College Prep (American Literature)
(2 Books)

*Summer Assignments Required

Parents, please be aware that the list of novels provided is very broad, containing traditional classics alongside more modern works, and there may be books within this list you may find objectionable. <u>Please work with your child to select novels within the guidelines that you find appropriate.</u>

<u>REQUIRED:</u>
A Lesson Before Dying — Ernest Gaines

Choose 1 book to read from either the fiction or non-fiction list below:

<u>FICTION:</u>

- ***The Things They Carried*** — Tim O'Brien
- ***Conversion*** — Katherine Howe
- ***Where Things Come Back*** — John Corey Whaley
- ***My Antonia*** — Willa Cather
- ***Out of the Easy*** — Ruta Sepetys
- ***Code Name Verity*** — Elizabeth E. Wein
- ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*** — Sherman Alexie
- ***All the King's Men*** — Robert Penn Warren
- ***A Confederacy of Dunces*** — John Kennedy O'Toole
- ***Hoops*** — Walter Dean Myers
- ***Tender is the Night*** — F. Scott Fitzgerald
- ***Looking for Alaska*** — John Green
- ***How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*** — Julia Alvarez
- ***The Time Traveler's Wife*** — Audrey Niffenegger
- ***The Bean Trees*** — Barbara Kingsolver
- ***Slaughter-House Five*** — Kurt Vonnegut
- ***A Separate Peace*** — John Knowles
- ***The Grapes of Wrath*** — John Steinbeck
- ***Blood Meridian*** — Cormac McCarthy

<u>NON-FICTION:</u>

- ***Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*** — James L. Swanson
- ***Into the Wild*** — Jon Krakauer
- ***The Right Stuff*** — Tom Wolfe
- ***Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*** — Michael Lewis
- ***Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*** — Hunter S. Thompson
- ***An American Childhood*** — Annie Dillard
- ***Hunger of Memory*** — Richard Rodriguez
- ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*** — Rebecca Skloot
- ***Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow*** — Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- ***Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho*** — Jon Katz
- ***The Road from Home: A True Story of Survival, Courage, and Hope*** — David Kherdian
- ***Bright Shining Lie*** — Neil Sheehan
- ***In Cold Blood*** — Truman Capote
- ***My Life and Hard Times*** — James Thurber
- ***The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*** — Michael Lewis

*Complete the graphic organizer for required novel. <u>This is not a small undertaking, and is not the kind of reading that can be completed the night before it is due.</u> Parents, I will need your assistance to make sure that your child works throughout the summer in order to ensure their success.

English III – College Prep (American Literature)
Summer Reading Worksheet

Your Name: _____   Book Title: _____

Please complete the following graphic organizer by hand as thoroughly as possible using your own words. Please be aware that I am quite familiar with all of the online study aids, such as Schmoop and Spark Notes. I know what these sites say about each of the books chosen, but in this graphic organizer I want to see what <u>YOU THINK</u> about the book, in <u>YOUR OWN WORDS</u>, from <u>YOUR OWN READING</u> of the text. Please be to the point but thorough. This graphic organizer will help you study for any tests or quizzes on the books, but will also be graded for originality (i.e. it's your own thinking, not Schmoop's) as well as completion, so please answer the questions quite thoroughly. I will be readily available throughout the summer to answer any questions you have, so please don't hesitate to contact me at <u>s.wilks@runnels.org</u> if you have a question or need more guidance.

Characterization		
Protagonist (Name)	**4 adjectives to describe the protagonist's personality and character** • • •	**Physical description and function?**
Antagonist (Name)	**2 adjectives to describe the antagonist** • •	**Physical description and function?** **How does this character affect others in the book?**

Other Major & Important Minor Characters	2 adjectives for each of the major characters	2 important actions or characteristics that help to define this character?	Physical description/function of this character? How do these characters' actions affect others in the book?
•			
•			
•			
•			
•			

Setting: Describe the setting(s) of the book		
WHERE (place, climate, buildings, etc.)	WHEN (time period, social situation, etc.)	IMPACT (effect of setting on the plot)

Conflict, Symbolism and Narration	
Characters & Conflict: • **What obstacles/struggles must the major characters overcome in the book?** • **Identify and explain the main conflict (man v. _____)**	
Symbolism: • **Reoccurrences of symbols seen throughout the story** **(For instance the color black can be symbolic of death, the sun rising can be symbolic of a fresh start, etc.)**	
Narration: • **Who is the narrator of the story?** • **How is the story narrated? (1st person/3rd person)** • **How reliable is the narration?**	
Important Quotes	
Choose 5 quotes, which stand out to you as being important to the novel. Also, record the page it is located.	**1.** (page _____) **2.** (page _____) **3.** (page _____) **4.** (page _____) **5.** (page _____)

Important Plot Points/ Major events (Take Notes as You Read)
Exposition (Explain time/place and characters):
Rising action (List 4 events):
Climax (Identify the turning point):
Falling Action (List 3 events):
Resolution (Identify the ending of the book and how the main conflict is resolved):