

BHS English
College Prep Summer Reading 2017

The BHS Summer Reading Program is designed to allow students to continue to develop their reading comprehension and analysis skills during the summer weeks. The titles and authors are listed below for each grade level section for the College Prep courses.

Students will be expected to complete sections of readings during the summer weeks prior to the start of the school year. Upon returning to school, students will be expected to bring notations, questions, and comments to class in order to participate in “boot camp” seminars regarding their book from the list attached. As the reading groups continue to meet at various times throughout the first few weeks of school, students will build a foundational understanding of the books’ characters, themes, and authorial styles and intentions.

The summer reading assignment will culminate with a formal essay written as the fall semester’s performance essay on Monday, August 28th. To assist students, study guides for the books can be found attached on their respective grade level websites, but are not required for the assignment.

Students should note that each novel below will list the expected reading schedule that should be completed by Friday, August 4th.

NOTE: This assignment is NOT the assignment for HONORS or AP courses.

9th Grade Literature and Composition – CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOOKS.

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

(Read through the chapter titled “Halloween” by Friday, August 4th, 2017.)

Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. 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 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 thought he was destined to live.

Looking for Alaska, John Greene

(Read through Chapter 17, “Sixty-Seven Days Before,” by Friday, August 4th, 2017.)

Before. Miles “Pudge” Halter is done with his safe life at home. His whole life has been one big non-event, and his obsession with famous last words has only made him crave “the Great Perhaps” even more (Francois Rabelais, poet). He heads off to the sometimes crazy and anything-but-boring world of Culver Creek Boarding School, and his life becomes the opposite of safe. Because down the hall is Alaska Young. The gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy, self-destructive, screwed up, and utterly fascinating Alaska Young. She is an event unto herself. She pulls Pudge into her world, launches him into the Great Perhaps, and steals his heart. Then. . . .

After. Nothing is ever the same.

Copper Sun, Sharon Draper

(Read through chapter 16 - the end of Part II - by Friday, August 4th, 2017.)

Amari's life was once perfect...yet when slave traders invade her village and brutally murder her entire family, Amari finds herself dragged away to a slave ship headed to the Carolinas, where she is bought by a plantation owner and given to his son as a birthday present. Survival seems all that Amari can hope for, but an act of unimaginable cruelty provides her with an opportunity to escape, and with an indentured servant named Polly she flees to Fort Mose, Florida, in search of sanctuary at the Spanish colony.