

John C. Birdleough High School
English 11 Summer Reading List



You must **read one** of the following books **by the first day of school**. Every 11 grade student will complete a project/online assignment that assesses understanding of the novel you have chosen for summer reading.

Eleventh grade English is a study of American literature. All of the following selections have been written by American authors. Please note that the protagonists in each selection have or develop the fortitude to endure even in the harshest conditions. The in-class reading in eleventh grade English is structured around this strong, persevering protagonist. Please notice themes of prejudice/racism/oppression in the following selections as well, as they are important in all the literature selections read throughout eleventh grade.

Uncle Tom's Cabin: (Harriet Beecher Stowe) The classic tale that awakened a nation about the slave system.

The Grapes of Wrath: (John Steinbeck) The desperate flight of tenant farmers from Oklahoma during the Great Depression.

A Farewell to Arms: (Ernest Hemingway) During WWI, an American lieutenant runs away with the woman who nurses him back to health.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman: (Ernest J. Gaines) In her 100 years, Miss Jane Pittman experiences it all, from slavery to the civil rights movement.

The Red Badge of Courage: (Steven Crane) During the Civil War, Henry Fleming joins the army full of romantic visions of battle which are shattered by combat.

Flowers for Algernon: (Daniel Keyes) The provocative novel of a dramatic medical experiment and its implications for society. Thirty-year-old, retarded Charlie Gordon is turned into a genius.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven: (Mitch Albom) Recounts the life and death of an old maintenance man named Eddie. After dying, Eddie finds himself in heaven where he encounters five people who have significantly affected his life.

Tuesdays with Morrie: (Mitch Albom) An old man – a young man, and life's greatest lessons.

The Help: (Kathryn Stockett) In 1962, Mississippi, three extraordinary women start a movement of their own which forever changes their town and the way people view one another.