

John C. Birdlebough High School  
English 12 Summer Reading List



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You must **read one** of the following books **by the first day of school**. Every 12th grade student will complete a project/on-line assignment that assesses understanding of the novel you have chosen for summer reading.

**If you like REALISTIC FICTION, try:**

***Angry Management:*** (Chris Crutcher) In three novellas, Chris Crutcher brings together some of his most unforgettable characters—among them Sarah Byrnes, Angus Bethune, and Montana West—to bare their souls. No sugarcoating here.

***Invisible:*** (Pete Hautmann) Doug and Andy are unlikely best friends—one a loner obsessed by his model trains, the other a popular student involved in football and theater—who grew up together and share a close bond.

***Thirteen Reasons Why:*** (Jay Asher) When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a heartbreaking night listening to her recount the events leading up to her death.

***Paper Towns:*** (John Greene) One month before graduating from high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until his beautiful and exciting classmate, Margo Roth Spiegelman, takes him on a midnight adventure and then mysteriously disappears

**If you like SCIENCE FICTION or FANTASY, try:**

***1984:*** (George Orwell) Eternal warfare is the price of bleak prosperity in this satire of totalitarian barbarism.

***The Book Thief:*** (Markus Zusak) Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

***The Hobbit:*** (J.R.R. Tolkien) This adventure is a fantasy that introduces the far-wandering hobbit, Bilbo Baggins.

***The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde:*** (Robert Lewis Stevenson) A London physician leads a double life when he discovers a drug that alters his appearance and disposition.

**If you like ADVENTURE stories, try:**

***Into the Wild:*** (Jon Krakauer) The author retraces the steps of a young man from a well-to-do family who gave up everything he owned and walked alone into the Alaska wilderness.

***White Fang:*** (Jack London) This classic tale tells of a savage dog's transformation through love.

**If you like NON-FICTION, try:**

***Wild:*** (Cheryl Strayed) After her mother's death, Cheryl gives up everything to hike more than 1,000 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. This is a journey "that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her."