

## 11th Grade Summer Reading

Reading remains one of life's great pleasures and an important means of broadening our horizons of knowledge and experience. This list includes books of diverse cultural perspectives for readers with varying interests and abilities. Enjoy your reading discoveries.

All students must read **FOUR** books, some of which are specified for particular classes and grades. Other choices are left to you, but be ready to discuss your reading early in the fall. **Bring the required reading book(s) with you when you return.** If you cannot obtain a book from your local bookstore, please call the Deerfield Academy Bookstore at (413) 774-1513 to arrange a shipment.

ENGLISH III required book  
American Studies

Twain, Mark. **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**  
Bradley, David. **The Chaneysville Incident**

Abu-Jaber, Diana. **Crescent**

An Iraqi-American chef discovers the ingredients for love and understanding of her Arab heritage as she cooks at Nadia's Café in L.A.

Bradley, David. **The Chaneysville Incident**

An African-American historian learns about his father and himself in uncovering the mystery of a shocking incident. (Recommended for Honors U.S. History)

Brooks, Geraldine. **March**

Mr. March, the absent father in **Little Women**, makes his way home to his family after his harrowing experiences in the Civil War.

Brown, Dee. **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee**

Brown chronicles the intertwined fates of Native Americans and the immigrants who "tamed the West."

Bryson, Bill. **A Walk in the Woods**

Travel the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail with a wonderful storyteller.

Canin, Ethan. **America America**

Can the American Dream thrive in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century?

Cole, K.C. **The Universe and The Teacup: The Mathematics of Truth and Beauty**

Explore links between mathematics and a variety of social, political, and scientific issues. (Recommended for FST)

Crane, Stephen. **The Red Badge of Courage**

A naive boy heads to the Civil War to become a hero, but his courage falters in the face of overwhelming armies and an indifferent universe.

Diaz, Junot. **The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao**

A creative Dominican teenager finds a way to express himself amidst the tensions in his life and family.

Egan, Timothy. **The Worst Hard Time**

The hardships of the Dust Bowl and Depression described here will be almost beyond imagination.

Fadiman, Anne. **The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down**

Explore the limits and power of healing in this account about Hmong immigrants in California. (Recommended by Round Square committee)

Faulkner, William. **As I Lay Dying**

Using the stream-of-consciousness technique, Faulkner weaves the story of Addie Burden's death and slow burial through the eyes of her mourning family.

Filkins, Dexter. **The Forever War**

Live the Iraq War through the eyes of a *New York Times* reporter.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. **This Side of Paradise**

We follow Amory Blaine through prep school, Princeton, love, and loss, and leave him peering into adulthood and trying to figure out what he believes.

Ford, Richard. **Independence Day**

Over a July Fourth weekend, realtor Frank Bascombe discovers again how to live with failed expectations in the land of the American Dream.

Frazier, Ian. **On the Rez.**

Wander the Pine Ridge Reservation with Le War Lance.

Greenway, Alice. **White Ghost Girls**

Two American sisters come of age in Hong Kong in 1967 as the Vietnam War escalates and tensions rise in China.

Horwitz, Tony. **A Voyage Long and Strange**

Rediscover the stories of the first visitors in the New World.

Jiles, Paulette. **The Color of Lightning**

A father seeks to redeem his family from a Kiowa tribe.

Kanter, Seth. **Ordinary Wolves**

In remote Northern Alaska, a white boy rejects modern life in search of the ways of the elders in an Inupiak village.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. **The Namesake**

Gogol Ganguli, son of parents in a traditional arranged Indian marriage, tries to define himself in his new home and changing lifestyle in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lee, Chang Rae. **Aloft**

Even flying high in his small plane, a retired Long Island builder cannot escape the pull of his family's bonds and problems.

Maclean, Norman. **A River Runs Through It and Collected Stories**

Maclean tells the story of his family and fly-fishing, of bar fights and bait fishermen, of a Montana "with the dew still on it."

Malcolm X. **The Autobiography of Malcolm X**

Follows the turbulent life of this famous man, from his rough youth through prison and conversion to Islam and into his leadership period.

Mann, Charles. **1491**

You may be surprised by the civilizations that thrived in the Americas before Columbus and European diseases arrived.

McCarthy, Cormac. **All the Pretty Horses**

Two young men take off for Mexico on their horses and grow up as they experience love, imprisonment, and other adventures.

McPhee, John. **Levels of the Game**

Arthur Ashe struggles to overcome prejudice against black tennis players.

Mengestu. **The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears.**

An Ethiopian immigrant battles the despair in his new community in Washington, D.C.

Meyers, Kent. **The Work of Wolves**

Three apparent misfits work to rescue three abused horses in South Dakota.

Meyer, Phillip. **American Rust**

Two friends strive to escape decaying factory towns and broken dreams.

Mezrich, Ben. **Bringing Down the House**

The inside story of six M.I.T. students who took Vegas for millions. An intriguing true story of how mathematics beat the system.

Morrison, Toni. **Sula**

Two young black women, Sula and Nel, seek the freedom to be themselves in a society that limits their experiments in friendship and love.

Mullaney, Craig **The Unforgiving Minute**

Neither a West Point education nor a Rhodes scholarship could truly prepare an Army lieutenant for the crucible of war.

O'Brien, Tim. **In the Lake of the Woods**

The My Lai massacre and deception hang over this novel about a senate candidate's desire to triumph over his past and present.

Paley, Grace. **The Little Disturbances of Man**

Stories by one of America's funniest and wisest writers. Meet a washed-up Yiddish actress, a disillusioned housewife, and a boy named Tonto.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. **In the Heart of the Sea**

If you don't have time for **Moby Dick**, try this true account of whalers struggling to survive a 2,000-mile sail in small boats after the *Essex*, their Nantucket whaling ship, sank after being rammed by a whale.

Plath, Sylvia. **The Bell Jar**

After graduating from college, Esther Greenwood works in New York as an editor. As her life becomes more complex, her grasp on reality diminishes. A chilling look at depression and insanity, based heavily on Plath's own life.

Poe, Edgar Allan. **Selected Stories**

Poe penetrates his haunted and obsessed characters' secrets.

Potok, Chaim. **My Name is Asher Lev**

A Jewish artist struggles with the demands of faith and art.

Steinbeck, John. **The Grapes of Wrath**

Follow the Joad family from the Oklahoma Dust Bowl to California-the paradise that supposedly would end their problems.

Strout, Elizabeth. **Olive Kitteridge**

These thirteen linked stories capture the life of Maine schoolteacher.

Vonnegut, Kurt. **Slaughterhouse-Five**

Journey through time in telegraphic, schizophrenic style with Billy Pilgrim, who can never escape the horrors of the Dresden firebombing.

Walker, Alice. **The Color Purple**

With the help of her husband's lover, the flamboyant blues-singing Shug Avery, Celie finds the courage to defy the oppressive restraints of race and sex and to delight in love.

Watson, James. **The Double Helix**

Relive the race to discover the structure of DNA.

Wiggins, Marianne. **The Shadow Catcher**

A writer journeys into the lives of two men-photographer Edward Curtis and her own elusive father.

Wolfe, Tom. **The Right Stuff**

Travel into space with the seven original Mercury astronauts in the tumultuous 1960s.

Wright, Richard. **Native Son**

Who or what is ultimately responsible for the gruesome murders Bigger Thomas commits?