

Algonquin Regional High School ~ Summer Reading 2022

This year we have decided to require students to read a book for school. Although we recognize that reading for pleasure on your own time is important, we'd like to kick off the year with a common reading and learning experience for each grade level. Students should read the book listed next to their course and come to school ready for relevant lessons, activities and/or assessments. We encourage students to read closely and take notes or use Post-it notes to record reactions, but taking notes is not required. Be ready to engage and discuss in September. The local libraries and bookstores are in the midst of stocking these titles so you can purchase your own copy or check one out of the library.

Freshman English:

With the Fire on High, Elizabeth Acevedo

This contemporary novel is about a high school senior who is forced to make some tough decisions as she raises a child and helps support her family. The one place she can escape is in the kitchen, where she adds "a little something magical" to everything she cooks. Upon returning to school in August, Freshman English classes will engage in various interactive activities and writing prompts designed to introduce them to their classmates, as well as to some of the themes of the course. We encourage students to take notes/record their thoughts during and after reading and to have a copy of the book available the first few weeks of school.

Sophomore English:

The Sun is Also a Star, Nicola Yoon

This contemporary novel takes place over the course of one day in New York City, where two teenagers stumble upon each other and fall in love. It's not that simple, though, because both of these young people are also dealing with struggles and tensions within their personal lives that just may prevent them from being together. Upon returning to school in August, Sophomore English classes will engage in various interactive activities and writing prompts designed to introduce them to their classmates, as well as to some of the themes of the course. We encourage students to take notes/record their thoughts during and after reading and to have a copy of the book available the first few weeks of school.

Junior English:

Great Expectations, Charles Dickens

This classic coming-of-age novel about a young orphaned boy growing up in London is available in the original 1861 text, abridged versions, and contemporary graphic novel adaptations. **Students should choose whichever version of the book is the most accessible to them.** Upon returning to school in August, students will watch *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* (2018) in their junior English classes. Through various interactive activities and writing prompts, teachers will help their students discover thematic elements that aim to bridge the gap between older, classic literature and newer, contemporary works.

Senior English:

The Opposite of Loneliness, Marina Keegan

We know many seniors are busy with work and college applications, so we are not requiring them to read this summer unless they are enrolled in an A.P. English class. However, we highly recommend this collection of essays and stories written by a young award-winning author, journalist, playwright, poet, actress, and activist. We know you will find the pieces relevant and inspiring as you sit down to write your own college essay or think about what you want to do with your life after high school.

AP Language & Composition:

Please see the course handout & CANVAS page for more information

Slouching Towards Bethlehem, Joan Didion

A non-fiction book of your choice
A documentary film of your choice

AP Literature & Composition:

Please see the course handout & CANVAS page for more information

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close,
Jonathan Safran Foer