

Summer Reading: Grade 11

For the summer of 2017, students moving in to junior year will have a choice for their summer reading. Each of the two books listed below was carefully selected because of its high interest and relevance to the 11th grade American Literature curriculum. Students need to come prepared to be tested on, express in writing as well as participate in whole class and group discussions on at least ONE book from below.

Although creating a reading journal notebook is not required, it is strongly suggested as a study aid in preparation for the test and class work when you return to school. Suggestion: In a single-subject notebook, label each chapter and keep track of key people, places and events in bullet format. Copy down a significant passage for each chapter including the page number and why you found that passage relevant.

Choose, read and be prepared for at least one of these two books on the first day of academics:

Black Duck by Janet Taylor Lissle

A major unit in junior year is set during the Roaring 20's.

It is spring 1929, and Prohibition is in full swing. So when Ruben and Jeddy find a dead body washed up on the shore of their small coastal Rhode Island town, they are sure it has something to do with smuggling liquor. Soon the boys, along with Jeddy's strong-willed sister, Marina, are drawn in, suspected by rival bootlegging gangs of taking something crucial off the dead man. Then Ruben meets the daring captain of the Black Duck, the most elusive smuggling craft of them all, and it isn't long before he's caught in a war between two of the most dangerous prohibition gangs.

Kindred by Octavia Butler

Civil Rights and understanding other perspectives are a significant focus for junior year.

Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.