



The mission of Branford High School is to prepare students to be independent and collaborative learners who are responsible, informed, and contributing members of society. In partnership with the community, we strive to provide a learning environment that supports all student in embracing diversity, acting with integrity, and achieving their personal and academic potential.

Branford High School Summer Reading English 10

The books on this list have been chosen to complement the novels, themes, and essential questions that you may cover in *English 10*. The following questions will be discussed throughout the year. Consider them as you read this summer.

- *How does the literature we read help us better understand the complexities of our world and our place in it?*
- *What does it take for someone to "come of age" and be ready to assume the responsibilities of adulthood?*
- *How do our surroundings and upbringing help influence the kind of people we become?*

NOTE TO PARENTS: Before selecting a book, please review it with your child to determine if it is appropriate. Several websites, including commonsensemedia.org and Amazon.com, offer reviews of literature to help parents and students make the right selection for them.

The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls

Jeannette Walls has carved a story with precision and grace out of one of the most chaotic, heartbreaking childhoods ever to be set down on the page. This deeply affecting memoir is a triumph in every possible way, and it does what all good books should: it affirms our faith in the human spirit. Non fiction.

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Looking for Alaska by John Green

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. Fiction.

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Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

In this futuristic, dystopian novel, Huxley foresaw test-tube babies and the ethical issues raised by bioengineering. Huxley foreshadowed many of the practices and gadgets we take for granted today--let's hope the sterility and absence of individuality he predicted aren't yet to come. Fiction.

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The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Privileged young narrator Amir comes of age during the last peaceful days of the monarchy in Afghanistan, then must endure revolution, invasion and a country's long struggle to triumph over violent forces. This title must be selected for students wishing to pursue the honors option. Fiction.

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Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

In what may be Dickens's best novel, humble, orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride. Fiction.

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I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns about love for herself and the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned. Non fiction.

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The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary Pearson

The ethics of bioengineering in the not-so-distant future drives this story. Jenna, 17, severely injured in a car crash, is saved by her heartbroken father, a scientist who illegally uses the latest medical technology to help her. The teen's first-person, present-tense narrative is fast and immediate as Jenna makes new friends and confronts the complicated choices she must make now. Fiction.

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The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

"It's an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace bypass and his best friend has just announced that he's an alien. At this moment, they're hurtling through space with nothing but their towels and an innocuous-looking book inscribed with the big, friendly words: Don't Panic. The weekend has only just begun." Fiction.

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A Deadly Wandering by Matt Richtel

Pulitzer Prize winner Richtel takes a multisided, personal look at what he terms a “modern tragedy”—the consequences of texting while driving. In this case, in Utah in 2006, young Reggie Shaw denied against all evidence that he had been texting, and his advocates stated that people become distracted all the time behind the wheel (eating, changing the radio station, etc.). But Reggie’s distraction and subsequent wreck killed young family men James Furfaro and Keith O’Dell, two rocket scientists. A rare combination of science, ability, tragedy, and hope, one that should be read by parents and young adults alike as well as legislators. Non fiction.

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This Monstrous Thing by Mackenzi Lee

A wildly creative Gothic fantasy retelling of *Frankenstein*, *This Monstrous Thing* is a wholly new reimagining of the classic novel by Mary Shelley. Fiction.

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The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years. Fiction.

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All American Boys by Jason Reynolds

In this Coretta Scott King Honor Award–winning novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension. Fiction.

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Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertall

Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. Now change-averse Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone before he's pushed out—without alienating his friends, compromising himself, or fumbling a shot at happiness with the most confusing, adorable guy he's never met. Fiction.

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Students opting to take the English 10 Honors Option should read one of the above books and The Kite Runner for summer reading. For more information on the honors option, please go to the following link: <http://branfordhighschool.wikispaces.com/summer+reading>

Branford High School Summer Reading
http://bhsenglish.wikispaces.com/summer_reading