

12th Grade (CP levels)

All students entering English 12 should read a memoir of their choice.

You will need to bring a copy to class the first week of school. You may not use a book you previously read for another class.

AP Literature and Composition

Purchase the following two texts and follow the instructions for each:

The Overstory by Richard Powers

“*The Overstory*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction(2019), is a sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of—and paean to—the natural world. From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, Richard Powers’s twelfth novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe.”

-richardpowers.net

For your summer reading I have chosen a new favorite of mine. It took me a whole summer to read it, because I kept stopping every few paragraphs to think about what I just read-- and to stare at the trees. :) I want you to read the first section of the novel entitled “Roots.” This part of the book is actually a collection of short stories that introduce different characters; however, they all have something in common. The remainder of the novel weaves all of their stories together. I am not requiring you to read the sections after “Roots,” but I have a feeling you will want to keep reading. Although this first section is only about 150 pages, the prose is so thought provoking that you will find yourself stopping to ingest it all. Be sure to give yourself the time to do so.

In addition to this novel, I would like you to carry around a book of poetry with you this summer.

Devotions by Mary Oliver

“Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver presents a personal selection of her best work in this definitive collection spanning more than five decades of her esteemed literary career.

Throughout her celebrated career, Mary Oliver has touched countless readers with her brilliantly crafted verse, expounding on her love for the physical world and the powerful bonds between all living things. Identified as “far and away, this country’s best selling poet” by Dwight Garner, she now returns with a stunning and definitive collection of her writing from the last fifty years.

Carefully curated, these 200 plus poems feature Oliver’s work from her very first book of poetry, *No Voyage and Other Poems*, published in 1963 at the age of 28, through her most recent collection, *Felicity*, published in

2015. This timeless volume, arranged by Oliver herself, showcases the beloved poet at her edifying best. Within these pages, she provides us with an extraordinary and invaluable collection of her passionate, perceptive, and much-treasured observations of the natural world.”

-penguinrandomhouse.com

Mary Oliver passed away in 2019. Her nature inspired poetry will remind you of the American Romantics we read in tenth grade, like Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman. This collection is the perfect compliment to *The Overstory*, and will be a great companion to your outdoor, summer activities. It is a sizable volume, so proceed through the poems via your own path and pace, spending more time with those that captivate you. By the end of the summer, choose four and complete the following for each: Print them, annotate them for DIDLS (Diction, Imagery, Detail, Language, Syntax), identify the tone and purpose/meaning. Finally, choose one of the four, and compose a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the formal elements of the poem contribute to its meaning. The essay should be typed.

All books and assignments should be brought into school on the first day of classes of the 23-24 school year.