



BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

Summer Reading List 2020: 10th Grade American Literature and Composition (Standard)

“A writer only begins a book. A reader finishes it.”
-Samuel Johnson

A Rationale for Summer Reading

- To generate interest and pleasure that enriches literary and philosophical experience
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading

Required Texts

- *The Crucible* Arthur Miller ISBN 0-14-243733-6)

This modern drama retells the classic story of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history, the witch-hunts and trials in seventeenth-century Salem, Massachusetts. The riveting classic examines hypocrisy and power in the hands of adults and youth.

Note: Read the *Introduction* by Christopher Bigsley in the beginning of the book.

- *Firehouse* David Halberstam ISBN 978-0-7868-8851-1

“Firehouse takes us to the epicenter of the tragedy of 9/11. We watch the day unfold – the men called to duty while their families wait anxiously for news of them. In addition, we come to understand the culture of the firehouse itself: why gifted men do this; why, in so many instances, they are eager to follow in their fathers’ footsteps and serve in so dangerous a profession; and why, more than anything else, it not just a job, but a calling.”

General Instructions/Evaluations

1. Students will be tested over *The Crucible* and *Firehouse* during the first few days of class.
2. Students will be assigned journal entries, the first essay of the school year, and participate in seminar over *The Crucible* and *Firehouse* during the first weeks of the school year.
3. Students should bring both summer reading books the first day of school.

Recommendations While Reading

1. Remember to read all stage directions with *The Crucible*. Refer to the Cast of Characters frequently. Read all the expository narrative between certain scenes.
2. Annotation (highlighting, margin notes, summaries) of the reading is a beneficial tool for comprehension, retention and application.

***Please remember the BA English Department policy:
Do not consult internet novel guides, any other electronic or printed summaries, or movies;
read the texts themselves.***