

## English 12 and 12 Honors Summer Reading

The George Washington High School English Department has decided to continue offering student choice for the 2023 Summer Reading Program. This summer, students will select one book from the list, read the book, and then complete an assignment that demonstrates what they took away from their chosen work. The list that follows is designed to offer students a broad range of reading experiences that represent a variety of genres and cover topics of current interest to high school students. With this approach, we hope to see all students find a book that they can be excited to read as they enjoy the leisure time that summer provides.

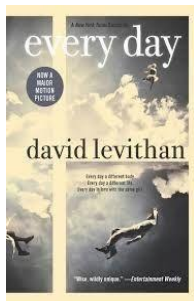
The attached book list has Amazon links attached to each entry for easy purchase; however, GWHS will also be sending the list to Taylor Books and the Kanawha County Public Library. Copies of some selections may also be obtained from the school. Any student unable to access one of the books on our list should reach out to Mr. Nick Hudson or Mrs. Cathy Valleau via the email addresses below.

[nhudson@mail.kana.k12.wv.us](mailto:nhudson@mail.kana.k12.wv.us)

[cvalleau@mail.kana.k12.wv.us](mailto:cvalleau@mail.kana.k12.wv.us)

**Parents/Guardians:** The following books vary in terms of content, message, language, and maturity level. Please guide your student in selecting a book that you feel is both beneficial and appropriate. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to find a book that fits these criteria, please email one of the above teachers. They will be happy to help you find an alternative solution.

**Students entering 12<sup>th</sup> Grade may select from the following list of books:**



### ***Every Day* by David Levithan**

**Genre: Romance**

Every day a different body. Every day a different life. Every day in love with the same girl. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere. It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day.

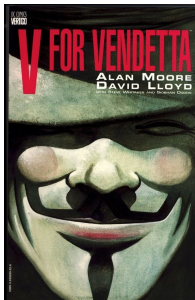
Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3LS8LYR>

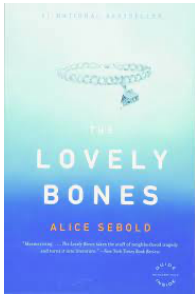
### ***V for Vendetta* by Alan Moore and David Lloyd.**

**Genre: Graphic Novel**

A powerful story about the loss of freedom and individuality. V for Vendetta takes place in a totalitarian England following a devastating war that changed the face of the planet. In a world without political freedom, personal freedom and precious little faith in anything comes a mysterious man in a white porcelain mask who fights political oppressors through terrorism and seemingly absurd acts. It's a gripping tale of the blurred lines between ideological good and evil.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/39MHSrb>



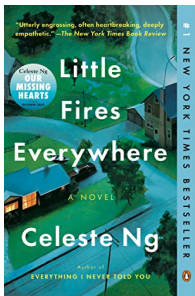


### ***The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold**

"My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973."

So begins the story of Susie Salmon, who is adjusting to her new home in heaven, a place that is not at all what she expected, even as she is watching life on earth continue without her -- her friends trading rumors about her disappearance, her killer trying to cover his tracks, her grief-stricken family unraveling. Out of unspeakable tragedy and loss, *The Lovely Bones* succeeds, miraculously, in building a tale filled with hope, humor, suspense, even joy.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3six4ay>

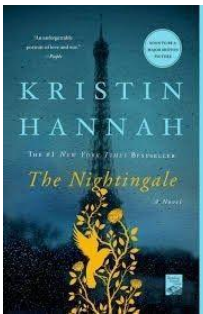


### ***Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng**

From the bestselling author of *Everything I Never Told You*, a riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives.

*Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood—and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3OYdVEF>

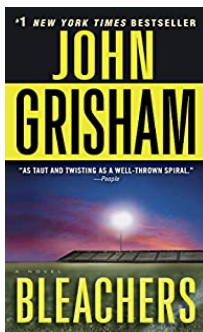


### ***The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah**

**Genre: Historical Fiction**

“Despite their differences, sisters Vianne and Isabelle have always been close. Younger, bolder Isabelle lives in Paris while Vianne is content with life in the French countryside with her husband Antoine and their daughter. But when the Second World War strikes, Antoine is sent off to fight and Vianne finds herself isolated so Isabelle is sent by their father to help her. As the war progresses, the sisters' relationship and strength are tested. With life changing in unbelievably horrific ways, Vianne and Isabelle will find themselves facing frightening situations and responding in ways they never thought possible as bravery and resistance take different forms in each of their actions.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3vQuKcW>



### ***Bleachers* by John Grisham**

**Genre: Sports Fiction**

High school all-American Neely Crenshaw was probably the best quarterback ever to play for the legendary Messina Spartans. Fifteen years have gone by since those glory days, and Neely has come home to Messina to bury Coach Eddie Rake, the man who molded the Spartans into an unbeatable football dynasty.

Now, as Coach Rake's “boys” sit in the bleachers waiting for the dimming field lights to signal his passing, they replay the old games, relive the old glories, and try to decide once and for all whether they love Eddie Rake – or hate him. For Neely Crenshaw, a man who must finally forgive his coach – and himself – before he can get on with his life, the stakes are especially high.

Order Here: <https://amzn.to/3Fn1Cj6>

## English 12 and 12 Honors Summer Reading Assignment

This assignment is all about theme. The first thing that you will need to do is read your book and then come up with one central theme that you'll use for the work detailed below. Here is the definition of theme, just to get you started:

**Merriam-Webster's definition of *theme***

**1a: a subject or topic of discourse or of artistic representation (example: guilt and punishment is the *theme* of the story)**

Feel free to look up other examples online if you need a little more help. If not, you are ready to begin!

### Part A—Questions

**Directions:** Use your book to complete the following questions/tasks.

- What book did you choose?
- What theme have you selected from the work?
- Explain (in 1-2 paragraphs) how the book communicates this theme.
- When you selected this book, did you anticipate finding this specific theme in your reading, or did it surprise you? Briefly explain your answer.

### Part B—Find 1/Make 1

**Directions:** For this part of the assignment, you'll need to make a decision: which one of the listed components will you find and which one will you create? **So, you'll be searching online for one of the artifacts listed below, and then you'll be making the other one on your own.** The choice is yours, but you will have to have one of each.

- **Thematic Poem:** Either find or write a poem that conveys your selected theme. What form this poem takes is totally up to you. Once you have found/written your poem, write a one-paragraph explanation of how it represents your selected theme.
- **Thematic Artwork:** Either find or create a piece of art that conveys your selected theme. This may be a photograph, painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, etc. The choice is yours. Once you have found/created your piece of art, write a one-paragraph explanation of how it represents your selected theme.