

AP English III Summer Reading Recommendations and Support

Because the AP English III course focuses on the reading of nonfiction, students are encouraged (but not required) to choose a nonfiction book for their summer reading title, specifically a memoir or biography they find personally meaningful. The KHS library has several recommended titles available for free throughout the summer.

An expanded list of recommended titles appears below. *Reminder: Students do not have to choose a title from the list; they are free to choose other titles they find personally relevant or engaging.*

If students do choose a memoir or biography, they will find these guiding questions useful:

- *How do writers use reflection to make sense of prior experiences?*
- *How do memoirs help us to make meaning of our lives?*

Recommended Memoir/Biography List:

[*indicates title available through the KHS library webpage during the school year and summer](#)

- *A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah
- *American Chica: Two Worlds, One Child by Marie Arana
- *Angela's Ashes: A Memoir by Frank McCourt
- *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard by Liz Murray
- *The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls
- *Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover
- *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth by Sarah Smarsh
- *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
- *The Liar's Club: A Memoir by Mary Karr
- *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books by Azar Nafisi
- *This Boy's Life: A Memoir by Tobias Wolff

Students

FREE

Summer Reading Books in the
KHS Library!



Additional recommended titles available in KHS library, not available through the website during the summer:

- Becoming, by Michelle Obama
- Crying in H Mart, by Michelle Zauner
- The Sunset Route, by Carrot Quinn
- Born a Crime, by Trevor Noah
- Paula, by Isabel Allende
- Endurance: A Year in Space, by Scott Kelly
- H is for Hawk, by Helen Macdonald
- The Yellow House, by Sarah M. Broom
- Sigh, Gone: A Misfit's Memoir of Great Books, Punk Rock, and the Fight to Fit In, by Phuc Tran
- Lab Girl, by Hope Jahren
- Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End, by Atul Gawande
- On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft, by Stephen King
- American Childhood, by Annie Dillard
- Just Kids, by Patti Smith
- Shrill: Notes from a Loud Woman, by Lindy West
- A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail, by Bill Bryson
- First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers, by Loung Ung
- Boy Kings of Texas: A Memoir, by Domingo Martinez
- Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mount Everest Disaster, by Jon Krakauer
- The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother, by James McBride
- Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption, by Laura Hillenbrand

Additional recommended titles, not in KHS Library:

All Over But The Shoutin', Rick Brag
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, Barbara Kingsolver
A River Runs Through It, Norman Maclean
A Stolen Life, Jaycee Dugard
Autobiography of a Face, Lucy Grealy
Band of Brothers, Stephen Ambrose
Black Boy, Richard Wright
Borderlands/ La Frontera, Gloria Anzaldua
Cherry, Mary Karr
Destiny of the Republic, Candice Millard
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly, Jean-Dominique Bauby
Don't Let's Go To The Dogs Tonight, Alexandra Fuller
Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun, Geoffrey Canada
Half-broke Horses, Jeanette Walls
The Happiness Project, Gretchen Rubin
Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius, Dave Eggers

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot
Just Like Someone Without Mental Illness, Only More So, Mark Vonnegut
Killing Pablo, Mark Bowden
Kitchen Confidential, Anthony Bourdain
Lit, Mary Karr
Me Talk Pretty One Day, David Sedaris
Mennonite in a Little Black Dress, Rhonda Janzen
Running With Scissors, Augusten Burroughs
Travels, Michael Crichton
Three Cups of Tea, Greg Mortenson
The Woman Warrior, Maxine Hong Kingston
The Year of Living Biblically, A.J. Jacobs
The Year of Magical Thinking, Joan Didion