

English 11 Summer Reading
Multicultural YA Lit Project

*Students, please review this list with a parent or guardian. Some of the novels contain mature themes and language.

*These are all young adult novels that you should be able to read and analyze on your own without guidance from an adult. Since many of these are easy reads, if you start one and realize you don't like it, just put it down and pick a different book instead.

*My classroom library and the local libraries have some of these books available to check out if your family is unable to purchase one.

[*I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*](#) by Erika L Sánchez

[*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*](#) by Sherman Alexie

[*Speak*](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson

[*The Hate U Give*](#) by Angie Thomas

[*If I Was Your Girl*](#) by Meredith Russo

[*Piecing Me Together*](#) by Renée Watson

[*Dumplin'*](#) by Julie Murphy

[*Tradition*](#) by Brendan Kiely

[*Moxie*](#) by Jennifer Mathieu

[*Calling My Name*](#) by Liara Tamani

[*When The Moon Was Ours*](#) by Anna-Marie McLemore

[*Finding My Voice*](#) by Marie Myung-Ok Lee

[*The War Outside*](#) by Monica Hesse

[*Mexican Whiteboy*](#) by Matt de la Peña

[*The Silence Between Us*](#) by Alison Gervais

[*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*](#) by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

[*Patron Saints of Nothing*](#) by Randy Ribay

[*The Marrow Thieves*](#) by Cherie Dimaline

[*The Downstairs Girl*](#) by Stacey Lee

[*More Than Just a Pretty Face*](#) by Syed M. Masood

[*Chains*](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson (This is a really easy read and is recommended for emerging readers, not honors students. It is the first in a trilogy, so you might want to read all three books!)

Directions:

You must have your book read by the first day of English 11. We will jump right into discussing them.

Step 1) Pick a book from the list above. I recommend reading about each book before you decide which one sounds most interesting to you. Make sure to check with your parents that it's okay for you to read the book you chose.

Step 2) Read the book and **mark significant passages** with post-its, or take detailed notes that include page numbers and quotes as you read. **This is a really important step!** Annotating the book by putting post-it notes on significant pages, writing notes on post-its, or keeping a detailed list of page numbers with significant scenes

and passages is essential. A major component of the project you will do is to incorporate directly quoted textual evidence and then do a close reading analysis of it. Students who don't annotate really struggle with this project because they need to spend a lot of time going back and finding quotes. Especially if you have American Studies in the Spring semester, these notes will be very helpful. If you're using an audiobook, make sure you are reading a physical copy along with the audio so you can mark these passages or take notes.

Step 3) Come to class prepared to discuss your book with other students. Be ready to ask and answer questions about the book's characters, themes, setting, and plot. As you read, look for literary devices. You will learn more about literary analysis in order to do well on your project during our first weeks of class, but you must start prepared.

Next Up: In class, we will work on a project that involves analyzing your book, paying careful attention to literary elements and literary devices.

Additional Requirements for Honors Students: You must read at least two of these books (they are easy reads!) so you can make connections between the texts you chose. You might choose two books with similar themes or representing the same culture so you can compare their approaches and perspectives. Consider: African American culture, themes relating to women's issues, LGBTQ themes, masculinity themes, Native American culture, race/ethnicity themes, historical fiction, or belonging/othering themes. Make sure you are taking notes and marking evidence for both texts as your project will require you to delve into each novel equally.

Transfer Students: During the first few weeks of class, we will be working with these novels. Since you are finding out about this late, you are not expected to have the book read by the start of class. However, these are all easy reads and you will be expected to read one of these books during the first two weeks of class. Feel free to pick a short book or one of the options that feels manageable to you. My classroom library and the local library have some copies of some of these titles. Instead of doing the project component, you will just have a conversation with me to discuss the book. I'd like to know what you think! This will be a great way for us to start to get to know each other.

If you have questions about the expectations for you, please send me an email at chealy@eastmountainhigh.net. I'm looking forward to meeting you!