

2026-2027 Summer Reading Book Options List

English 101 Students ONLY:

***Bad Ideas About Writing* edited by Cheryl E. Ball and Drew M. Loewe**

Bad Ideas About Writing counters major myths about writing instruction. Inspired by the provocative science - and social-science - and written for a general audience, the collection offers opinionated, research-based statements intended to spark debate and to offer a better way of teaching writing. Contributors, as scholars of rhetoric and composition, provide a snapshot of and antidotes to major myths in writing instruction.

All Honors and CP Students:

(All of the following books have been chosen from previous lists of South Carolina Young Adult Book Awards.)

***All We Have Left* by Wendy Mills**

Figuring out their own way and own personalities, the two main characters Jess and Alia face similar obstacles despite growing up in two different time periods and two different cultures. While they have differences, they both are greatly impacted by one event that forever changed their lives, their families, and their world.

***City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare**

Clary Fray witnesses three tattooed teens commit a murder in a nightclub. When she reports it, no one believes her and the victim disappears. Then, the tattooed teens show up at her apartment, and Clary finds out she has stumbled into the hidden world of the Shadowhunters, warriors who hunt demons and protect humanity in secret. They're shocked she can even see them since most humans can't. Caught between two worlds, Clary teams up with the Shadowhunters, including the mysterious Jace, to uncover dark secrets, navigate deadly politics, and discover that her own bloodline might be more powerful (and dangerous) than anyone realized.

***Copper Sun* by Sharon M. Draper**

Torn from everything she loved, Amari is kidnapped by slave traders and sold to a plantation owner in the Carolinas. Her life becomes a nightmare of survival until an unexpected friendship with Molly, a white indentured servant, offers a dangerous chance at freedom. Together, they escape into the wilderness heading for Fort Mose in Spanish Florida. But the journey is brutal: starvation, freezing temperatures, wild animals, hurricanes, and hunters hoping for reward money all stand between them and hope. Can two girls from opposite worlds survive the impossible to reach freedom?

***The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* by E. Lockhart**

Frankie is a teenage girl who transforms from a "geek" into a "criminal mastermind" to challenge the power structures at her elite boarding school, particularly an all-male secret society. Irritated by being excluded and underestimated, Frankie carries out elaborate pranks to manipulate the society members, including her boyfriend, proving she's smarter than them and taking control of her own story.

***Eragon* by Christopher Paolini**

A farm boy discovers a dragon egg in the forest. When it hatches, Eragon realizes he's become a Dragon Rider, a legendary warrior bonded to a dragon. But there's a problem: Dragon Riders were supposed to be extinct, wiped out by the ruthless King Galbatorix who rules the empire with an iron fist. Now Eragon is hunted. Forced to flee his village, he teams up with a mysterious storyteller and embarks on an epic journey across a sprawling fantasy world. Along the way, he'll battle dark forces, uncover shocking truths about his past, and discover that his dragon isn't the only one alive, and that the fate of the entire kingdom might rest in his hands.

***Every Last Word* by Tamara Ireland Stone**

If you could read my mind, you wouldn't be smiling. Samantha McAllister looks just like the rest of the popular girls in her junior class. But Sam has a secret that her friends would never understand. Sam has Purely-Obsessional OCD

and is consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off, making her life an endless stream of second guesses. Enter Caroline, who introduces Sam to Poet's Corner, a hidden room and a tight-knit group of misfits who have been ignored by the school at large. Sam is drawn to them immediately, especially a guitar-playing guy with a talent for verse, and starts to discover a whole new side of herself. Slowly, she begins to feel more "normal" than she ever has as part of the popular crowd . . . but she still finds herself living in three worlds--the popular girls, the misfits, and her own dark thoughts. What's a girl to do?

***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green**

Sixteen-year-old Hazel Grace Lancaster, a three-year stage IV–cancer survivor, is clinically depressed. To help her deal with this, her doctor sends her to a weekly support group where she meets Augustus Waters, a fellow cancer survivor, and the two fall in love. Both kids are extremely intelligent, and Hazel is fascinated with a novel about cancer called *An Imperial Affliction*. Most particularly, she longs to know what happened to its characters after an ambiguous ending. To find out, the enterprising Augustus makes it possible for them to travel to Amsterdam, where *Imperial's* author, an expatriate American, lives. What will happen once they meet the author?

***The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey**

It's the dawn of the 5th wave! The 1st wave left only darkness. After the 2nd, only the lucky survived, and after the 3rd, only the unlucky escaped. The 4th wave, she learned that only one rule applied: trust no one. Now, it is the 5th wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from the aliens. The beings only look human, and they roam everywhere killing anyone they come across. Earth's last survivors are scattered everywhere. Cassie believes that to stay alive she has to stay alone. . . until she meets Evan. Mysterious and charming, he may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her little brother or even saving herself. However, she has to choose between: defiance and surrender, trust and despair, life and death. In short, she must choose to give up or to get back up.

***Something Like Hope* by Shawn Goodman**

17-year-old Shavonne has been in juvenile detention since the seventh grade. Mr. Delpopolo is the first counselor to treat her as an equal, and he helps her get to the bottom of her self-destructive behavior, her guilt about past actions, and her fears about leaving the Center when she turns 18. Circumstances, and her quick thinking, give her the opportunity to leave the center early but her faith is tested when her new roommate is targeted by a guard as a means to get revenge on Shavonne. As freedom begins to look more and more likely, Shavonne begins to believe that maybe she, like the goslings recently hatched on the Center's property, could have a future somewhere else—and she begins to feel something like hope.

***Spirit and Dust* by Rosemary Clement-Moore**

Born with the power to speak with the dead, Daisy Goodnight is good at what she does good enough to help police solve homicides. Soon, she finds herself being whisked out of chemistry class and off to Minnesota to help the FBI solve a murder/kidnapping. Before the promotion can go to Daisy's head, she's up to her neck in trouble. The spirits are talking, and they're terrified. There's a real living girl in danger. And when Daisy is kidnapped by a crime boss with no scruples about using magic—and Daisy—to get what he wants, it looks like hers is the next soul on the line. Now she is in a time crunch to find an ancient object in order to save the kidnapped girl. Part sarcasm and wit, part historical treasure hunt and romance with a dash of the paranormal, Daisy's adventure is nothing but normal!

***We Should Hang Out Sometime* by Josh Sundquist**

Have you ever found yourself in an awkward situation with someone you liked and thought: "Is there something wrong with me?" Have you ever tried to research why it went wrong? Meet Josh, an affable young man and cancer survivor with a prosthetic leg who seems to have struck out with the ladies. This memoir examines the real-life story of Josh's middle and high school career as he tries to scientifically (and usually hilariously) determine what happened in all of his "relationships" with the ladies. From a disastrous Putt-Putt date involving a backward prosthetic foot to his ultimate pick up line, or his introduction to CFD (Close Fast Dancing), and a misguided "grand gesture" at a Miss America pageant, this story is about looking for love – or at least a girlfriend – in all the wrong places.