

NATICK HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Reading 2023

Directions

Step 1. Choose a Book, see list below

Step 2. COMPLETE the [Summer Reading GOOGLE FORM](#) WITH YOUR CHOICE. You can return to this link if you forgot what you chose.

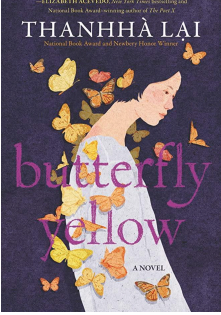
Step 3. Participate in Book Discussions on Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Students are assigned a discussion room based on their novel choice and grade level. During this block you will take a brief assessment on the text you read which will count toward your term 1 English grade. Questions on this assessment are intended to help you recall major novel details, and it is a good idea to keep track of the major characters, settings, conflicts, and resolutions to reference before taking the quiz.

Honors and AP English students will have additional assignments.

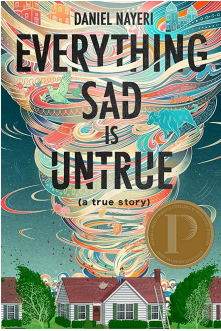
Follow these links to additional [Honors English](#) / [AP English](#) requirements.

Accessing these Texts: Paper, audio, and e-text copies are available at local libraries using your library card at [Sora](#), [Hoopla](#), and [Libby](#). [Get a Natick Public Library card](#). [Get a Boston Public Library ecard](#). All texts are available on amazon and at local booksellers.



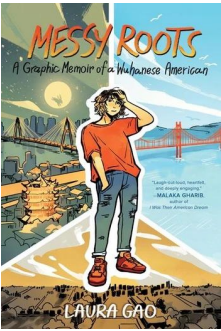
Butterfly Yellow by Thanhha Lai | Young Adult Historical Fiction | 2019, 284p

Publisher Description In the final days of the Việt Nam War, Hằng takes her little brother, Linh, to the airport, determined to find a way to safety in America. In a split second, Linh is ripped from her arms—and Hằng is left behind in the war-torn country. Six years later, Hằng has made the brutal journey from Việt Nam and is now in Texas as a refugee. She doesn’t know how she will find the little brother who was taken from her until she meets LeeRoy, a city boy with big rodeo dreams, who decides to help her. Hằng is overjoyed when she reunites with Linh... Though the distance between them feels greater than ever, Hằng has come so far that she will do anything to bridge the gap.



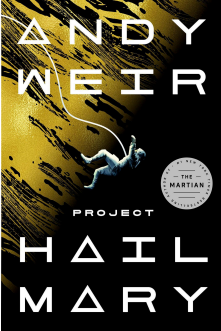
Everything Sad is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri | Memoir | 2020, 351p

Publisher Description At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (aka“Daniel”) stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. To them he is a dark-skinned, hairy-armed boy with a big butt whose lunch smells funny; who makes things up and talks about poop too much. But Khosrou’s stories, stretching back years, and decades, and centuries, are beautiful, and terrifying, from the moment his family fled Iran in the middle of the night with the secret police moments behind them, back to the sad, cement refugee camps of Italy... We bounce between a school bus of kids armed with paper clip missiles and spitballs to the heroines and heroes of Khosrou’s family’s past, who ate pastries that made people weep ... Daniel weaves a tale to save his own life: to stake his claim to the truth. And it is (a true story). It is Daniel’s.



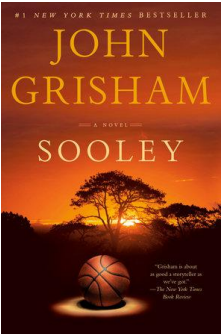
Messy Roots by Laura Gao | Graphic Memoir | 2022, 278p

Publisher Description After spending her early years in Wuhan, China, riding water buffalos and devouring stinky tofu, Laura immigrates to Texas, where her hometown is as foreign as Mars—at least until 2020, when COVID-19 makes Wuhan a household name. In *Messy Roots*, Laura illustrates her coming-of-age as the girl who simply wants to make the basketball team, escape Chinese school, and figure out why girls make her heart flutter. Insightful, original, and hilarious, toggling seamlessly between past and present, China and America, Gao’s debut is a tour de force of graphic storytelling.



Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir | Science Fiction | 2022, 496p

Publisher Description Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish. Except that right now... he can’t even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he’s been asleep for a very, very long time. And he’s just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company... Hurtling through space on this tiny ship, it’s up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery—and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species.



Sooley by John Grisham | Sports Fiction | 2021, 361p

Publisher Description [At 17,] Samuel Sooleymon gets the chance of a lifetime: a trip to the United States with his South Sudanese teammates to play in a showcase basketball tournament... During the tournament, Samuel receives devastating news from home: A civil war is raging across South Sudan, and rebel troops have ransacked his village... Partly out of sympathy, the coach of North Carolina Central offers him a scholarship; Samuel moves to Durham, enrolls in classes, joins the team, and prepares to sit out his freshman season. But Samuel has something no other player has: a fierce determination to succeed so he can bring his family to America. With the Central team losing and suffering injury after injury, Sooley, as he is nicknamed, is called off the bench. And the legend begins.

Additional Reading Requirements for Honors English Students

Entering Freshman Honors | English 10

In addition to choosing one of the all-school reading choices, students taking honors freshman English will read *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. Students should [prepare to participate in a Socratic Seminar](#) (or similar activity) about *Born a Crime* at the start of the school year.
Born a Crime is available as an Ebook for free with your library card through [Hoopla](#) and [Libby](#).

Entering Sophomore Honors | English 20

In addition to choosing one of the all-school reading choices, students taking honors sophomore English will select a [memoir](#). As you read this self-selected book, take notes using this [note-catcher](#). **These notes will be used to complete a writing assignment in class when you return to school.**

Entering Junior Honors | English 30

In addition to choosing one of the all-school reading choices, students taking honors junior English will read *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. As you read *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, track the following topics related to the American Dream: poverty, gender identity, ethnic identity/ xenophobia, family, education, or industrialization. [Here](#) are some reading questions to guide discussion in the fall.
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn is available as an Ebook for free with your library card though [Libby](#).

Entering Senior Honors Electives | English 40

NOTE: In June, you will receive an email from the English Department with the course for which you are registered this fall.

Film Analysis	In addition to choosing one of the all-school titles (see above), Film Analysis honors students will complete the Film Analysis Honors Summer Reading Assignment .
Identity in Society	In addition to choosing one of the all-school titles (see above), Identity honors students will read <i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta-Nehisi Coates and complete the journal assignment explained here: Identity Summer Reading Assignment .
Foundations in Creative Writing	In addition to choosing one of the all-school titles (see above), Creative Writing honors students will read <i>On Writing</i> by Stephen King.
The Power of Story	In addition to choosing one of the all-school titles (see above), The Power of Story honors students will read <i>Power</i> by Linda Hogan and complete the assignment explained here in preparation for discussion and writing: The Power of Story Summer Reading Assignment .
War and Literature	In addition to choosing one of the all-school titles (see above), War in Literature honors students will read <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> by Ernest Hemingway. You will use the Code Hero Worksheet and track the actions of major and minor characters to prepare for a project and small group activities on your text. NOTE: A limited number of copies of this novel are available. Email arogers@natickps to obtain a copy.

Reading Requirements for AP English Students

AP Language and Composition (juniors) In place of reading one of the all-school texts, AP Language students will read *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green, *They Say / I Say* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, and **one** of the following:

- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language* by Gretchen McCulloch
- *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich

Additionally, complete the activities explained in this document: [AP Language 2023 Summer Work](#).

AP Literature and Composition (seniors) All students will read *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri, and excerpts from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster and this [curated collection of poetry](#). For information on summer assignments and expectations associated with summer reading, please see this document: [AP Literature 2023 Summer Work](#).