

# Sophomore Summer Reading List

## Torrance High School

### 2018

Requirements for English 2:	Requirements for English 2 Honors:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Choose <b>one</b> book from the list below.</li> <li>● Read the book over the summer.</li> <li>● Complete the synopsis for grade 10.</li> <li>● Bring the completed synopsis to your English teacher <b>ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.</b></li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">* Please do <u>not</u> choose a book from the supplemental reading list.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read <b>both</b> required novels (see page 2).</li> <li>● Read <b>one</b> book of your choice from the list below.</li> <li>● Complete the grade 10 synopsis for <b>each</b> of the three books.</li> <li>● Bring the three completed synopses to your English teacher <b>ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.</b></li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">* Please do <u>not</u> choose a book from the supplemental reading list.</p>

Students who are life-long readers are more successful in their academic classes as well as in their careers after graduation. People who read well also write better, have larger vocabularies, score higher on tests, and communicate more effectively.

The English Department has included a variety of authors to appeal to a broad spectrum of student interests. Some titles are recommended by the California Department of Education (CDE), American Library Association (ALA), and College Board (CB). In addition to the synopsis (synopses) that must be submitted **ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**, during the second week of school, students will write an essay based on their selection(s). The English teachers suggest parents help their child thoughtfully and carefully select a book from the list.

**The First Part Last – Angela Johnson:** A young father struggling to raise an infant, Bobby, 16, is a sensitive and intelligent narrator. His parents are supportive but refuse to take over the child-care duties, so he struggles to balance parenting, school, and friends who don't comprehend his new role. (CDE: 144 pages)

**The Joy Luck Club – Amy Tan:** The stories of four immigrant women from China interwoven with stories of their four American-born daughters. While they have much in common, each has experienced her own struggles, sorrows, love, and joy along the way. (288 pages)

**Looking for Alaska – John Green:** A Florida teenager starts boarding school in Alabama. Interested in famous people's last words, the protagonist takes Francois Rabelais' deathbed statement "I go to seek a Great Perhaps" as his personal mission. (221 pages)

**Monster – Walter Dean Meyers:** Steve Harmon, 16, is accused of serving as a lookout for a robbery of a Harlem drugstore. The owner was shot and killed, and now Steve is in prison awaiting trial for murder. (288 pages)

**A Step from Heaven – An Na:** Young Ju emigrates from Korea with her parents when she is four. The pressures of immigration, language difficulties, and oppositional cultural expectations lead her family down a difficult path. (160 pages)

# Required Reading for English 2 Honors ONLY

Students who are taking a *regular* 10<sup>th</sup> grade English class must choose a book from the list on the front page.

## ***Life of Pi* by Yann Martel**

The son of a zookeeper, Pi Patel has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories. When Pi is sixteen, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes.

The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi, whose fear, knowledge, and cunning allow him to coexist with Richard Parker for 227 days while lost at sea. When they finally reach the coast of Mexico, Richard Parker flees to the jungle, never to be seen again. The Japanese authorities who interrogate Pi refuse to believe his story and press him to tell them "the truth." After hours of coercion, Pi tells a second story, a story much less fantastical, much more conventional--but is it more true? (326 pages)

***Things Fall Apart*- Chinua Achebe:** The story of Okonkwo, a warrior who has struggled to rise to prosperity and to a prominent place in his community. As European influences spread throughout Africa, Okonkwo is determined to protect the traditions and culture of his people. (209 pages)

\* This list and the synopsis form are available as links at [www.ths.tusd.org](http://www.ths.tusd.org)