

English II Honors/AICE General Paper
SUMMER READING LIST
May 8, 2017

Dear Sophomore,

Congratulations on your decision to take English II Honors next year. As part of this program, you are required to **read one book** over the summer. I suggest that you take notes, or if you purchase a copy of the book, highlight and write notes in the margins. You will want to take notes on the characters and their actions, interesting or unusual words, events, and any other observations you make as you read. **You will take a test on the book when you return to school in August.**

Select one book from the list below. Descriptions of each book are located on the back of this page. Do not select a book based just on the number of pages it contains; some of the most difficult books to read are the shortest! If you decide not to purchase your own copy, you may visit a local library or borrow a book from another student. If you have a problem obtaining the book, please discuss it with one of the teachers listed below before May 22nd.

Once again, congratulations for selecting this rigorous course. We believe that you will learn a lot, work hard, and enjoy the class tremendously. We are already looking forward to next year!

If you have any questions, please contact one of the teachers below (until June 1st) or call the Guidance Office at 833-3300.

Sincerely,

Shelly Miller (X1303)
Lynne Shirley (X1282)
Dareen Anderson (X1136)
Tina Winston (X1413)

English Teachers

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein
The Book of Lost Things by John Connolly
Three Little Words: A Memoir by Ashley Rhodes-Courter
House Rules by Jodi Picoult

Please read the following descriptions of summer reading books. They will help you make an informed decision about your reading assignment. Barnes & Noble.com is the source for the information.

***The Book of Lost Things* by John Connolly**

High in his attic bedroom, twelve-year-old David mourns the death of his mother, with only the books on his shelf for company. But those books have begun to whisper to him in the darkness. Angry and alone, he takes refuge in his imagination and soon finds that reality and fantasy have begun to meld. While his family falls apart around him, David is violently propelled into a world that is a strange reflection of his own – populated by heroes and monsters and ruled by a faded king who keeps his secrets in a mysterious book, *The Book of Lost Things*. Taking readers on a vivid journey through the loss of innocence into adulthood and beyond, New York Times bestselling author John Connolly tells a dark and compelling tale that reminds us of the enduring power of stories in our lives.

***The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein**

The Art of Racing in the Rain is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life as only a dog could tell it. Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. ON the eve of his death, Enzo takes stock of his life, recalling all that he and his family have been through: Denny's sacrifices to succeed in race-car driving, Eve's illness, and a custody battle. IN the end, Enzo holds in his heart the dream that Denny will become a racing champion. A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope.

***Three Little Words: A Memoir* by Ashley Rhodes-Courter**

"Sunshine, you're my baby and I'm your only mother. You must mind the one taking care of you, but she's not your mama." Ashley Rhodes-Courter spent nine years of her life in fourteen different foster homes, living by those words. As her mother spirals out of control, Ashley is left clinging to an unpredictable, dissolving relationship, all the while getting pulled deeper and deeper into the foster care system.

Painful memories of being taken away from her home quickly become consumed by real-life horrors, where Ashley is juggled between caseworkers, shuffled from school to school, and forced to endure manipulative, humiliating treatment from a very abusive foster family. In this inspiring, unforgettable memoir, Ashley finds the courage to succeed - and in doing so, discovers the power of her own voice.

***House Rules* by Jodi Picoult**

Jacob Hunt is a teenage boy with Asperger's syndrome. He's hopeless at reading social cues or expressing himself well to others, and like many kids with AS, Jacob has a special focus on one subject — in his case, forensic analysis. He's always showing up at crime scenes, thanks to the police scanner he keeps in his room, and telling the cops what they need to do...and he's usually right. But then his town is rocked by a terrible murder and, for a change, the police come to Jacob with questions. All of the hallmark behaviors of Asperger's — not looking someone in the eye, stimulatory tics and twitches, flat affect — can look a lot like guilt to law enforcement personnel. Suddenly, Jacob and his family, who only want to fit in, feel the spotlight shining directly on them. For his mother, Emma, it's a brutal reminder of the intolerance and misunderstanding that always threaten her family. For his brother, Theo, it's another indication of why nothing is normal because of Jacob. And over this small family the soul-searing question looms: Did Jacob commit murder?

Emotionally powerful from beginning to end, *House Rules* looks at what it means to be different in our society, how autism affects a family, and how our legal system works well for people who communicate a certain way — and fails those who don't.