

CANTON HIGH SCHOOL

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The Canton Public Schools strives for excellence in achievement, promotes a love of learning, embraces individuality and diversity, and builds a foundation for life-long learning for the entire community

June 2, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Summer is approaching and the Canton High School English Department is excited about another summer of reading for pleasure. Through our summer reading program we want to encourage a love of reading and provide students time for pleasure reading. Studies show that pleasure reading has lifelong benefits and is a valuable asset in education. You can read more about the benefits of reading in these two articles: [The Power of Pleasure Reading](#), [Getting Lost In a Good Book](#).

Student Choice and Inclusivity

Students read more and learn more when they are engaged and reading books of high interest. Our program emphasizes student choice and provides students with a variety of texts from which to choose. We hope that summer reading is an opportunity for students to see themselves in literature as well as experience new perspectives and voices. We are hoping students develop a strong connection with the summer reading books, and we are sure your child will find titles that are of interest. While our summer reading lists always provide a wide variety of voices and perspectives, you will notice that this year's list amplifies a variety of voices that are not frequently centered in traditional literature curriculum.

The List

The summer reading list can be accessed [here](#). Also, the [CHS Library page](#) includes the list as well as reading tips and suggestions. **Students need to choose 2 books to read. This year, Canton Public Schools will be buying *one book* for every student. In English classes, teachers will be asking students to fill out a Google Form indicating which title they would like to receive. Books will be distributed in classes before the end of the year.**

Book Access

Many of the books listed are available for free via our school and local libraries. Student have access to ebooks and audiobooks through [Sora](#). They can connect with their Google email. Also, Hoopla and Libby/Overdrive, available through the Canton Public Library, offer free access to ebooks and audiobooks to anyone who has a digital CPL card. **You can quickly open a digital library card via the [CPL website](#).** Many of the books available on Hoopla and Libby are noted on

the list but books are added to these apps frequently so please feel free to check if your book is available.

If you choose to purchase your books, below are some locally owned bookshops and audiobook apps.

Frugal Bookstore - Black-owned bookshop in Roxbury, MA	Here is a list of other Black-owned bookstores from around the country for online orders.
An Unlikely Story - Plainville, MA	Brookline Booksmith - Brookline MA
Audiobook Apps	
Libby app/Overdrive - through CPL	Audible - Download via Amazon

Expectations for Summer Reading

Students will choose **TWO** titles from the summer reading list. All titles were recommended by faculty, students and/or were taken from national book lists. ****Please see specific requirements for AP courses on the summer reading list.**

Book Club Model

The summer reading program will follow a book club model. In September, students will participate in discussion and written reflection within their English classes. **Students should come to class with ideas and questions that can be used in the discussion.** Students will not be required to take a test on the summer reading texts, but are expected to be prepared to participate fully in **graded** class discussion.

Communication

Just as you guide your teenager concerning television, movies, and music, you can use the summer reading program as an opportunity to talk with your teenagers about their reading preferences and what new genres might be of interest. We hope that you will work together in making an appropriate choice of books. We also encourage you to read the titles with your child and have discussions about them at home.

We are excited about our summer reading program and hope that it will promote more reading and discussion of multiple genres of literature within our student body. If you have any questions regarding the Summer Reading Program, please reach out to your child's English teacher or to me at ashleyr@cantonma.org.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ashley
English Department Coordinator