



WHERE *Brilliance* BEGINS

Senior Contemporary Literature
Summer Reading 2018

We spend a great deal of time reading classic literature in school. In this class, we have the opportunity to explore new, refreshing, often postmodern texts that may comprise of the literary canon someday. Read the two required books this summer, alongside one contemporary novel of choice (recommendations below). After reading, compose a 2-3 page essay in MLA format defining the terms 'contemporary' and 'postmodern' in your own words. Do not Google the terminology; the composition should be from your perspective. Explain how each novel you've read could fit within the genre. Think outside the box - bigger picture, not just copyright date - as that is a key characteristic of the genre and this class. Bring your essay to the first day of class.

Required:

Evicted (Matthew Desmond)

The Book Thief (Markus Zusak)

Recommended (by author's last name):

A Man Called Ove (Fredrik Backman)

Far From the Tree (Robin Benway)

Brain on Fire (Susannah Cahalan)

Ready Player One (Ernest Cline)

White Noise (Don DeLillo)

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao (Junot Diaz)

All the Light We Cannot See (Anthony Doerr)

This is Our Story (Ashley Elston)

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk (Ben Fountain)

Outliers (Malcolm Gladwell)

Same Kind of Different As Me (Ron Hall)

The Nightingale (Kristin Hannah)

Never Let Me Go (Kazuo Ishiguro)

When Breath Becomes Air (Paul Kalanithi)

The Invention of Wings (Sue Monk Kidd)

11/22/63 (Stephen King)
Defending Jacob (William Landay)
The Devil in the White City (Erik Larson)
We Were Liars (E. Lockhart)
One of Us is Lying (Karen M. McManus)
I'll Give You the Sun (Jandy Nelson)
Everything I Never Told You (Celeste Ng)
The Astonishing Color of After (Emily X.R. Pan)
Vineland (Thomas Pynchon)
Atlas Shrugged (Ayn Rand)
Eleanor and Park (Rainbow Rowell)
Fast Food Nation (Eric Schlosser)
Me Talk Pretty One Day (David Sedaris)
Challenger Deep (Neal Shusterman)
The Art of Racing in the Rain (Garth Stein)
Slaughterhouse Five (Kurt Vonnegut)
The Martian (Andy Weir)
The Serpent King (Jeff Zentner)
American Street (Ibi Zoboi)