



South Mecklenburg High School

#WeAreSouth...Elevating Excellence, Success Nothing Less!

SOUTH MECK HIGH SCHOOL **Suggested Summer Reading Titles** **2020-2021**

We believe our students enrolled at South Mecklenburg High School should continue to read over the summer months, despite school not being in session. While no formal assignment is due and this is not a requirement, students should challenge themselves to read as much as possible to help increase their vocabulary and reading comprehension.

A list of suggested titles, organized by grade level, is below. (Descriptions are taken from amazon.com)

We encourage students to be critical and global thinkers. The titles selected for summer reading explore social justice issues, which will help support our equity, diversity, and inclusion discussions as we proceed with our 2020-21 school year. South Meck maintains its commitment to establishing a learning environment which is inclusive of our diverse student population.

Each novel title has a lexile number next to it. A lexile measure of a book refers only to its text difficulty; it does not address the content or quality of the book. A lexile measure is based on two strong predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: word frequency and sentence length. Many other factors affect the relationship between a reader and a book, including its content, the age and interests of the reader, and the design of the actual book. The lexile measure is a good starting point while choosing a title, but these other factors should be considered when making a decision about which book to choose.

To access books, please refer to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's One Access and Hoopla sites, which allows you to check out traditional books as well as e-books at no cost.

One Access: https://cmlibrary.org/oneaccess?utm_source=website&utm_medium=one-access-high-school-page&utm_campaign=one-access&utm_term=mc&utm_content=link-to-one-access-main-page

Hoopla: https://cmlibrary.org/resource/hoopla?utm_source=website&utm_medium=one-access-high-school-page&utm_campaign=digital-resources&utm_term=mc&utm_content=link-to-hoopla



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Suggested 11th Grade Summer Reading Titles 2020-2021

Title	Author	Lexile	Description
Between the World and Me	Ta-Nehisi Coates	1090L	<p>In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of “race,” a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?</p> <p>Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates’s attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children’s lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, <i>Between the World and Me</i> clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.</p>
The Tortilla Curtain	T.C. Boyle	1210L	<p>Topanga Canyon is home to two couples on a collision course. Los Angeles liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher lead an ordered sushi-and-recycling existence in a newly gated hilltop community: he a sensitive nature writer, she an obsessive realtor. Mexican illegals Candido and America Rincon desperately cling to their vision of the American Dream as they fight off starvation in a makeshift camp deep in the ravine. And from the moment a freak accident brings Candido and Delaney into intimate contact, these four and their opposing worlds gradually intersect in what becomes a tragicomedy of error and misunderstanding.</p>

Americanah	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	940L	<p>Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.</p>
Black Boy	Richard Wright	950L	<p>When it exploded onto the literary scene in 1945, <i>Black Boy</i> was both praised and condemned. Orville Prescott of the <i>New York Times</i> wrote that “if enough such books are written, if enough millions of people read them maybe, someday, in the fullness of time, there will be a greater understanding and a more true democracy.” Yet from 1975 to 1978, <i>Black Boy</i> was banned in schools throughout the United States for “obscenity” and “instigating hatred between the races.”</p> <p>Wright’s once controversial, now celebrated autobiography measures the raw brutality of the Jim Crow South against the sheer desperate will it took to survive as a black boy. Enduring poverty, hunger, fear, abuse, and hatred while growing up in the woods of Mississippi, Wright lied, stole, and raged at those around him—whites indifferent, pitying, or cruel and blacks resentful of anyone trying to rise above their circumstances. Desperate for a different way of life, he may his way north, eventually arriving in Chicago, where he forged a new path and began his career as a writer. At the end of <i>Black Boy</i>, Wright sits poised with pencil in hand, determined to “hurl words into this darkness and wait for an echo.” Seventy-five year later, his words continue to reverberate. “To read <i>Black Boy</i> is to stare into the heart of darkness,” John Edgar Wideman writes in his foreword. “Not the dark heart Conrad searched for in Congo jungles but the beating heart I bear.”</p> <p>One of the great American memoirs, Wright’s account is a poignant record of struggle and endurance—a seminal literary work that illuminates our own time.</p>
Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City	Matthew Desmond	N/A	<p>In <i>Evicted</i>, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (<i>The Nation</i>), “vivid and unsettling” (<i>New York Review of Books</i>), <i>Evicted</i> transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.</p>