Putnam Valley High School
Twelfth Grade Summer Reading List
2013

All students entering 12th grade English are to read any one of the following:

Austen, Jane. ***Pride and Prejudice***. 1813.
In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the suit of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters. *classic*

Bryson, Bill. ***A Short History of Nearly Everything***. 2003.
The author traces the Big Bang through the rise of civilization, documenting his work with a host of the world's most advanced scientists and mathematicians to explain why things are the way they are. *non-fiction* (publisher's description)

Carter, Forrest. ***The Education of Little Tree***. 1976.
Little Tree is an 8-year-old Cherokee boy, who, during the time of the depression, loses his parents and goes to live with his mountain dwelling grandparents and learn the wisdom of the Cherokee way of life. *historical fiction* (publisher's description)

Conlon, Edward. ***Blue Blood***. 2004.
Harvard-educated Edward Conlon is fourth-generation NYPD. Having ascended the ranks from South Bronx beat cop to detective, he knows the city as well as any person can. And what's more--he knows how to tell the stories that bring the city to life as no book ever has. *non-fiction*   (publisher's description)

Dunn, Mark. ***Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters***. 2001.
Ella Minnow Pea is a girl living on a fictional island where certain letters of the alphabet are banned and as they are dropped they also are dropped from the actual book. *fiction*   (publisher's description)

Hesse, Herman. ***Siddhartha.*** 1922.
This allegorical novel, set in sixth-century India around the time of the Buddha, follows a young man on his search for enlightenment. *classic*   (publisher's description)

Hosseini, Khaled. ***A Thousand Splendid Suns***. 2007
Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in wartorn Kabul, losses incurred over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage. *realistic fiction*   (publisher's description)

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Ishiguro, Kazuo. **Never Let Me Go**. 2003.
Kathy, Ruth and Tommy were pupils at Hailsham, an idyllic establishment situated deep in the English countryside. The children there were tenderly sheltered from the outside world, brought up to believe they were special. But for what reason were they really there? It is only years later that Kathy, now aged 31, finally allows herself to yield to the pull of memory. *science fiction*
 (publisher's description)

Kidd, Sue Monk. **Secret Life of Bees**. 2002.
After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters. *historical fiction*

Lahiri, Jhumpa. **The Namesake**. 2003
When his Indian immigrant parents give him an odd name, a boy must struggle towards manhood suffering the burdens of this name as well as the conflicting loyalties of his heritage. *realistic fiction*

Lewis, Michael. **The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game**. 2006
Follows one young man from his impoverished childhood with a crack-addicted mother, through his discovery of the sport of football, to his rise to become one of the most successful, highly-paid players in the NFL. *non-fiction*

Pausch, Randy. **The Last Lecture**. 2008
The author, a computer science professor diagnosed with terminal cancer, explores his life, the lessons that he has learned, how he has worked to achieve his childhood dreams, and the effect of his diagnosis on him and his family. *non-fiction*

Sederis, David. **Me Talk Pretty One Day**. 2000.
In a collection of essays, observations, and commentaries, the humorist describes his recent move to Paris, life as an American in Paris, his struggle to learn French, his family, and restaurant meals. *non-fiction*

All plot synopses courtesy of the Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication (CIP) Program, unless otherwise noted.