

**PUTNAM VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List**  
**2008**

**Students who are entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade English need to read any two books from the list below:**

**FICTION**

***My Antonia* by Willa Cather**

A successful lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with an immigrant Bohemian girl named Antonia.

***The Once and Future King* by T.H. White**

Tells the story of the youth and reign of King Arthur, the establishment of the Round Table, and the search for the Holy Grail.

***Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens**

In nineteenth-century England, a young orphan boy lives in the squalid surroundings of a workhouse until he becomes involved with a gang of thieves.

***Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens**

This is the story of Pip, an orphan in Victorian England who is informed one day that he has “great expectations” and is to be educated and reared as a gentleman.

***The Call of the Wild* by Jack London**

Jack London’s classic tale tracing Buck’s entry into the wild and survival among the wolves.

***The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain**

When young Edward VI of England and a poor boy of similar appearance exchange places, each learns something about the other’s very different station in life.

***Briar Rose* by Jane Yolen**

Haunted by tales of the Holocaust, a young American woman begins a search for her grandmother’s World War II past.

***The Death of Bernadette Lefthand* by Ron Querry**

This novel focuses on the murder of a beautiful young Apache woman and offers a profound view of the complexity and the bleakness of contemporary life on the reservation.

***Ordinary People* by Judith Guest**

After spending eight months in a mental institution following a suicide attempt, seventeen-year-old Conrad returns home and finds that he must rebuild his life.

***The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver**

Taylor, a poor Kentuckian, makes her way west with an abandoned baby girl and stops in Tucson. There she finds friends and discovers resources in apparently empty places.

***The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver**

Nathan Price and his family move to the Belgian Congo in 1959, and the experiences they have while living in Africa affect each member of the family in a different way.

***!Yo!* by Julia Alvarez**

Yolanda or Yo, is one of four sisters in a Dominican-American family. She has grown up to be a writer. In her first novel, she made characters out of her family members and friends, and now her relatives decide to seek revenge.

***The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger**

October 1991- It was the “perfect storm”—a tempest that may only happen once in a century—a nor’easter created by so rare a combination of factors that it could not possibly have been worse. Creating waves ten stories high and winds of 120 miles an hour, the storm whipped the sea to inconceivable levels few people on Earth have ever witnessed. Few, except the six-man crew of the Andrea Gail, a commercial fishing boat tragically headed toward its hellish center.

***The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri**

This novel, which is set in Boston and New York, begins with a young Indian man doing research at MIT, and his wife, who becomes pregnant with a son. As years go by, their son, unlike his parents, becomes thoroughly westernized and even rebellious.

***A Time to Kill* by John Grisham**

A Southern lawyer takes the controversial case of a black man accused of killing a white man in rural Mississippi.

***Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld**

This novel is about a world in which everyone has an operation when they turn sixteen, making people supermodel beautiful: big eyes, full lips, no one fat or skinny. This seems like a good thing, but it’s not. Especially if you’re one of the “uglies,” a bunch of radical teens who have decided they want to keep their own faces.

***Suzanne Diary for Nicholas* by James Patterson**

Katie Wilkinson has found her perfect man at last. He's everything she imagined she wanted in a partner. But one day, without explanation, he disappears from her life, leaving behind only a diary for her to read. This diary is a love letter written by a new mother named Suzanne for her baby son, Nicholas. As Katie reads this touching document, it becomes clear that the lover who has just left her is the husband and father in this young family. She reads on, filled with terror and hope, as she struggles to understand what has happened-and whether her new love has a prayer of surviving.

**NON-FICTION/POETRY/DRAMA**

***My House: Poems* by Nikki Giovanni**

This is a collection of poems of mothers and their children, of childhood memories, and of Africa.

***Effects of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds* by Paul Zindel**

A two-act play depicting an embittered mother who vents her frustrations upon her two daughters.

***The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller**

An autobiography of Helen Keller, written while she was a young woman, in which she tells of her early life, her relationship with her teacher Ann Sullivan, and her struggles to triumph over blindness and deafness.