

HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

PRE-COURSE READING: 2023-2024

Why Pre-Course Reading? The North Cobb High School English Department knows that pre-course reading helps you expand your vocabulary, spelling, and writing skills, as well as gain new perspectives on life situations. Research is clear: The more reading you do, the more information you gain, and the better your reading skills will become. Reading is also an effective means of preparing for standardized tests such as the SAT, ACT, and AP exams.

What do I read? Please select **one** of the following books to read over the summer.

<i>Book Title and Author</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>The Greatest Generation</i> by Tom Brokaw	In this superb book, Tom Brokaw goes out into America, to tell through the stories of individual men and women the story of a generation, America's citizen heroes and heroines who came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America. This generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values--duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country, and, above all, responsibility for oneself.
<i>The Heart is a Lonely Hunter</i> by Carson McCullers	Carson McCullers' prodigious first novel was published to instant acclaim when she was just twenty-three. Set in a small town in the middle of the deep South, it is the story of John Singer, a lonely deaf-mute, and a disparate group of people who are drawn towards his kind, sympathetic nature. The owner of the café where Singer eats every day, a young girl desperate to grow up, an angry drunkard, a frustrated black doctor: each pours their heart out to Singer, their silent confidant, and he in turn changes their disenchanting lives in ways they could never imagine.
<i>The Other Wes Moore</i> by Wes Moore	The chilling truth is that his story could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his. In December 2000, the Baltimore Sun ran a small piece about Wes Moore, a local student who had just received a Rhodes Scholarship. The same paper also ran a series of articles about four young men who had allegedly killed a police officer in a spectacularly botched armed robbery. The police were still hunting for two of the suspects who had gone on the lam, a pair of brothers. One was named Wes Moore.

Important Note for Parents/Guardians: Please research accordingly before your student selects their book. You may wish to use resources such as Good Reads Reviews and Common Sense Media to ensure that you and your student are comfortable with the material in this book.

What do I do? Read attentively and enjoy your book! Annotating is **recommended** but will **not** be required as a grade. However, after the first week of the semester, you will have an assessment requiring your knowledge of this book.

Tips for Annotation: If you own the book, write in it. If you borrow the book, use sticky notes (make sure you keep track of page numbers). As you read, use annotations to identify and label examples of the following:

- **Look for patterns of theme/main idea**
- **Define any terms or ideas you are unsure about**
- **Mark any passages you have questions about**
- **Identify any passages that define America/American Culture to you**