



# American Youth Academy

5905 E. 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Tampa, Florida 33617 • <http://www.ayatampa.org/>

## High School Summer Reading List 2020

Make sure that students choose three texts out of the twenty that are provided below to read this summer. At the beginning of the 2020-2021 Academic school year students will be asked to complete an assignment called the “Big Five” on each of the texts as an assessment which will count as a project for their English grade. Happy Reading!

The section below contains book titles for reading levels of 9-12.

#	Author	Title	Synopsis
	Aboulela, Leila	The Translator	Sammar, a Sudanese immigrant, works for and falls in love with a Scottish Islamic scholar who isn't Muslim. She struggles with her feelings for him, but depends on her strong faith to reach a properly Islamic solution. Her feelings and struggles are realistically portrayed. It has a happy ending when he accepts Islam honestly and fully.
	Achebe, Chinua	Things Fall Apart	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> is the debut novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, first published in 1958. Its story chronicles pre-colonial life in the southeastern part of Nigeria and the arrival of Europeans during the late 19th century.
	Barakat, Ibtisam	Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood	This is the memoir of a Palestinian who recalls her terrifying and humiliating experiences as a child growing up in occupied Palestine, including having to leave her family home and visiting friends in a refugee camp
	Bradbury, Ray	Fahrenheit 451	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> is a dystopian novel by American writer Ray Bradbury, first published in 1953. Often regarded as one of his best works, the novel presents a future American society where books are outlawed and "firemen" burn any that are found
	Brown, Tom Jr.	The Way of the Scout: A Native American Path to Finding Spiritual Meaning in a Physical World	This true story is as exciting as anything in fiction. It tells of how the author, as a young boy, meets an old Apache man who teaches the author and his friend how to be Indian scouts. The boys master tracking and hunting, as well as the moral awareness of the interconnectedness of nature.

Conrad, Joseph	Heart of Darkness	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> (1899) is a novella by Polish-English novelist Joseph Conrad about a narrated voyage up the Congo River into the Congo Free State in the <i>Heart of Africa</i> . Charles Marlow, the narrator, tells his story to friends aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames.	
Jacobs, Harriet	Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl	This autobiography tells the story of Harriet, who is born as a slave in NC in 1813. Her grandmother's and her faith helps Harriet retain a dignified sense of self and enable her to eventually flee to the North where she discovers slavery is also present.	
Jourdan, Carolyn	A Heart in the Right Place	An autobiography of an Appalachian woman who left a highly paid job as a lawyer in DC to return home to help her parents and her community.	
Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	This is an autobiography of a teenage boy in Malawi who teaches himself about electricity and builds a windmill out of scraps that provides electricity for lights in his village home. It is an inspiring story of what someone can do even if he has little education and absolutely no money.	
Karr, Kathleen	Born for Adventure	This historical novel's hero is a youth who manages to go on the great explorer Henry Morton Stanley's relief of Emin Pash Expedition in 1887 from Zanzibar to the mouth of the Congo River and beyond. As the cover says, it is "a startling, scary and surprising" true story. The European's prejudice and disdain for all colored people is accurately portrayed while the youth sees Africans as people of equal value, and their cultures worthy of respect.	
Kerr, P.B.	Children of the Lamp Series	Twelve year old twins, born of a human father and jinn mother, are good jinn who help their jinn uncle fight the bad jinn. Book One has them in Egypt dealing with an ancient pharaoh. Book Two has them in a subterranean Babylon from long ago.	
Lin, Grace	Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	A young Chinese girl goes off to find out how to bring fortune to her poor parents, only to learn that their loving each other is their real fortune. The parents also learn to be thankful for what they have. Many other stories are contained within this story.	
Miller, Arthur	The Crucible	Miller wrote the play as an allegory for McCarthyism, when the United States government persecuted people accused of being communists. Miller was questioned by the House of Representatives' Committee on Un-American Activities in 1956 and convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to identify others present at	

			meetings he had attended.
Myers, Walter Dean	Now Is Your Time!: The African American Struggle for Freedom		A non fiction account from Muslim empires in Africa to slavery in America up to the modern Civil Rights Movement, told through the biographies of real African Americans. The several references to Muslims and/or Islam are positive, and the first personal story is told of Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim, the Muslim prince who was a slave in Mississippi.
Orwell, George	Animal Farm		The book tells the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmer, hoping to create a society where the animals can be equal, free, and happy. Ultimately, however, the rebellion is betrayed, and the farm ends up in a state as bad as it was before, under the dictatorship of a pig named Napoleon
Orwell, George	1984		Nineteen Eighty-Four: A Novel, often published as 1984, is a dystopian novel by English novelist George Orwell. Thematically, Nineteen Eighty-Four centres on the consequences of government over-reach, totalitarianism, mass surveillance, and repressive regimentation of all persons and behaviors within society
Rinaldi, Ann	Finishing Becca: A Story About Peggy Shippen and Benedict Arnold		In this historical novel, a young girl named Becca is a servant of Peggy Shippen, a British sympathizer during the days of the American Revolution, who eventually marries Benedict Arnold and convinces him to go over to the British side.
Shakespeare, William	Julius Caesar		The Tragedy of Julius Caesar is a history play and tragedy by William Shakespeare first performed in 1599. It is one of several plays written by Shakespeare based on true events from Roman history
Skloot, Rebecca	The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks		Rebecca Skloot has always been obsessed with Henrietta Lacks, the African-American woman whose cancer cells were harvested and used to create an immortal cell line for scientific experimentation. Because there isn't much information about Henrietta and her family, Skloot wants to tell their story
X, Malcolm and Alex Haley	The Autobiography of Malcolm X		The Autobiography of Malcolm X was published in 1965, the result of a collaboration between human rights activist Malcolm X and journalist Alex Haley. The Autobiography is a spiritual conversion narrative that outlines Malcolm X's philosophy of black pride, black nationalism, and pan-Africanism.