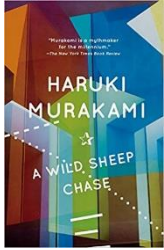


(Incoming) Sophomore English Summer Reading List 2019

Step 1: Choose and obtain one (1) book from the list below to read over the summer before your sophomore year.

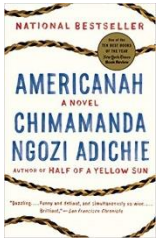
***A Wild Sheep Chase* by Haruki Murakami**



Quirky and utterly captivating, *A Wild Sheep Chase* is Murakami at his astounding best.

An advertising executive receives a postcard from a friend and casually appropriates the image for an advertisement. What he doesn't realize is that included in the scene is a mutant sheep with a star on its back, and in using this photo he has unwittingly captured the attention of a man who offers a menacing ultimatum: find the sheep or face dire consequences. Thus begins a surreal and elaborate quest that takes readers from Tokyo to the remote mountains of northern Japan, where the unnamed protagonist has a surprising confrontation with his demons.

***Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

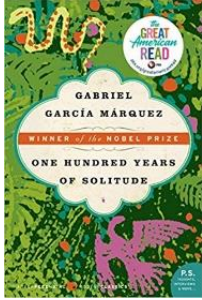


The bestselling novel—and one of Barack Obama's summer reading picks—from the award-winning author of *We Should All Be Feminists* and *Dear Ijeawele*.

“From one of the world's great contemporary writers comes the story of two Nigerians making their way in the U.S. and the UK, raising universal questions of race and belonging, the overseas experience for the African diaspora, and the search for identity and a home.” —Barack Obama

Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read*

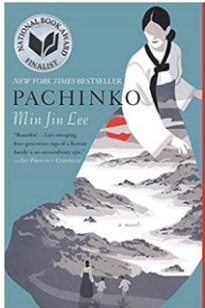
Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join 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.



***One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

One Hundred Years of Solitude tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad, and alive with unforgettable men and women -- brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul -- this novel is a masterpiece in the art of fiction.

***Pachinko* by Ming Jin Lee**



**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER * #1 BOSTON
GLOBE BESTSELLER * USA TODAY BESTSELLER * WALL STREET
JOURNAL BESTSELLER * WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER**

"There could only be a few winners, and a lot of losers. And yet we played on, because we had hope that we might be the lucky ones."

In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman, falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea. He promises her the world, but when she discovers she is pregnant--and that her lover is married--she refuses to be bought. Instead, she accepts an offer of marriage from a gentle, sickly minister passing through on his way to Japan. But her decision to abandon her home, and to reject her son's powerful father, sets off a dramatic saga that will echo down through the generations.

Richly told and profoundly moving, *Pachinko* is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters--strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis--survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history.

***Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi**

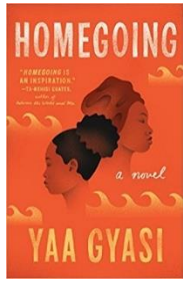


Here, in one volume: Marjane Satrapi's best-selling, internationally acclaimed graphic memoir.

Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming--both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

Edgy, searingly observant, and candid, often heartbreaking but threaded throughout with raw humor and hard-earned wisdom--*Persepolis* is a stunning work from one of the most highly regarded, singularly talented graphic artists at work today.

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi



Winner of the PEN/ Hemingway Award

Winner of the NBCC's John Leonard Award

Shortlisted for the British Book Award - Debut of the Year

A *New York Times* Notable Book

A *Washington Post* Notable Book

One of the Best Books of the Year: NPR, Time, Oprah.com, Harper's

Bazaar, San Francisco Chronicle, Mother Jones, Esquire, Elle, Paste,

Entertainment Weekly, the Skimm, PopSugar, Minneapolis Star

Tribune, BuzzFeed, The Guardian, Financial Times

Ghana, eighteenth century: two half-sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery.

Homegoing follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.

Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio by Amara Lakhous



A small culturally mixed community living in an apartment building in the center of Rome is thrown into disarray when one of the tenants is murdered. As each of the victim's neighbors is questioned by the police, readers are offered an all-access pass into the most colorful neighborhood in contemporary Rome. Each character takes his or her turn "giving evidence," recounting his or her story—the drama of racial identity, the anxieties and daily humiliations born of a life spent on society's margins, but also the hilarious imbroglios that are inevitable in this melting pot of cultures. What emerges is a moving story that is common to us all.

With language that is as colorful as the neighborhood it describes, *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio* is characterized by a seemingly effortless prose that borrows from the cinematic tradition of the *Commedia all'Italiana*, as exemplified by directors such as Federico Fellini.

At the heart of this bittersweet comedy, winner of Italy's prestigious Flaiano Prize for Fiction, is a social reality we often tend to ignore and an anthropological analysis, refreshing in its generosity that cannot fail to fascinate.

Step 2: Read your chosen book and write a response essay to the book of at least 2-3 pages (anything less than 2 FULL pages will lose points). Your response should discuss your thoughts, responses, and reactions to your chosen book in regards to its themes, characters, plot elements,

etc. The point here is to document YOUR responses to a given piece of literature. What makes you like or dislike a book? What grabs your attention?

The response essay should follow MLA guidelines for formatting (double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1" margins, with proper heading information and page numbers with last name in top right). Improperly formatted papers will also lose points.

Response essays are due the first day of classes.

Step 3: During the first week of classes you will work together with others who read the same book to create and deliver a presentation that will educate and interest the rest of the class in the book's content, literary merits, and author.

GRADING: Summer reading project is worth 100 points total. 50 points for your written response and 50 points for group presentation.