

Bishop Luers High School Summer Reading – 2021



Academic English 9 and Honors English 9 *Unwind: Book 1* by Neal Shusterman

- This 2007 high-interest young adult novel focuses on three teens in a fictional future United States. Recommended for its suspense, Catholic themes, and opportunities for thoughtful classroom discussions. **Academic English 9 should read parts 1 through 4 only; Honors English 9 should read the entire book.**

Academic English 10 *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

- This graphic novel by the 2017 recipient of the St. Katharine Drexel Award weaves together three distinct stories to address stereotypes, friendship, and self-acceptance. Note to students: According to Yang the author, one character, an Asian stereotype, “is not meant to be funny,” but is exaggerated to allow the young reader to more easily identify cultural labels and perceptions.

Honors English 10 *American Born Chinese* (Yang) **Choose any 2 of the 4**

- Recommended to students who like graphic novels, teen issues, Asian culture and folklore, and Catholic identity. See note to students above.

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

- This winner of the Pulitzer Prize tells the story of the Battle of Gettysburg through the eyes of the major participants. Recommended to students who like American history, biography, and historical fiction.

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan

- This Newbery Honor book begins with a fairy tale that introduces a harmonica shared by three children across challenges, years, and countries. Recommended to students who like music, fantasy, world history, and a joyful read.

Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather

- This classic from the Cardinal Newman Society Selected Reading List for Catholic Schools presents the story of a 19th century Catholic missionary priest and bishop who create a diocese amid challenges in the New Mexico Territory. Recommended for students interested in American history, Catholic identity, Mexican and Native American culture, and frontier life.

Academic English 11

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

- A modern memoir focuses on Walls' upbringing in a poor, dysfunctional family. Through her struggles, author discovers her own resilience and voice.

AP Language and Composition

The Glass Castle (Walls) AND

Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice by Bryan Stevenson

- This book presents an account of legal advocacy for marginalized people falsely convicted or harshly sentenced. Due to the more graphic nature of the original book, students must use the version adapted for young adults.

Academic English 12

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

- A modern classic for mature readers presents the mystery of a dead dog from the first person point of view of Christopher, an autistic boy with uncanny skills for solving "maths" and puzzles.

AP Literature and Composition

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time (Haddon) AND

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

- Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, this book focuses on a young man sentenced to be executed and the teacher assigned to instruct him. AP students begin the year by analyzing the symbolism, characterization, and narration of Haddon's and Gaines' novels.

Teachers have chosen the above titles as engaging, well-crafted works to begin the new school year. Watch for enrichment activities to be published by July 1st.