Summer reading assignments for rising eleventh-graders at West Springfield High School are designed to help students explore areas of interest and continue to practice reading skills over summer vacation. Some choice is given to promote individual interests and to provide for a more enjoyable reading experience. **Students are encouraged to take notes and to pay close attention to the main assertions, supporting details, development of characters, setting, plot, and themes.** The handwritten notes you take will help you during class discussions and help you prepare for the required summer reading formal assessment in September. *(This list supersedes the FCPS summer reading list.)*

**English 11 Honors** students will be required to complete the following:

- Read *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway. In 1918 Hemingway went to war, to the ‘war to end all wars’. He volunteered for ambulance service in Italy, was wounded, and twice decorated. Out of his experiences he wrote a description of war that is unforgettable. He recreates the fear, the comradeship, the courage of a young American volunteer and the men and women he meets in Italy with total conviction. But *A Farewell to Arms* is not only a novel of war. Hemingway has also created a love story of immense drama and zeal. Available online at https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6732939M/A_farewell_to_arms.

  A timed essay assessment will be administered for this novel.

- Additionally, all English 11 Honors students must read a second book ( in addition to *A Farewell to Arms*) from the following list of non-fiction narrative works:

**English 11 students must choose one of the following books to read:**

- **Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother** by Amy Chua. Chua’s is a story of one mother's journey in strict parenting. Amy Chua argues that Western parenting tries to respect and nurture children's individuality, while Chinese parents typically believe that arming children with skills, strong work habits, and inner confidence prepares them best for the future. Achingly honest and profoundly challenging, the book chronicles Chua's iron-willed decision to raise her daughters, Sophia and Lulu, the Chinese way—and the remarkable, sometimes heartbreaking results her choice inspires.

- **The Last Lecture** by Randy Pausch. Written with humor and wisdom, Pausch discusses the importance of childhood dreams and how to go about achieving them. Pausch’s key points include taking the time to dream and putting people before materials. Pausch intertwines advice from his lecture with personal anecdotes and shares how he was able to turn his boyhood dreams into reality, including becoming an Imagineer for Walt Disney World, and creating the Alice software project.

- **The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream** by Drs. Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt, and George Jenkins. *The Pact* is a story about the power of friendship and about joining forces and beating the odds. Chosen by *Essence* magazine to be among the forty most influential African Americans, the three doctors who wrote the book grew up in the streets of Newark, facing city life’s temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attaining that dream. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are not only friends to this day—they are all doctors. *(Note: Please be sure to obtain the non-fiction book by Drs. Davis, Hunt, and Jenkins described here. There are other books titled The Pact available in bookstores, but these are fiction selections and not acceptable for this assignment.)*

A multiple choice test and short essay test will be administered on the book you choose to read from the above three choices.