Summer reading assignments for rising seniors are designed to help students continue to practice reading skills over summer vacation. Some choice is given to promote individual interests. **Students are encouraged to take notes and to pay attention to the characters, setting, plot and themes.** These notes will help students prepare for the formal assessment in September. (NOTE: This list supersedes the Fairfax County Summer Reading list.)

The following is a list for both nonfiction and fiction titles for 12th grade summer reading. Students enrolled in 12th grade honors must choose one fiction text and one nonfiction text to read before school begins in September; both will be used in an assessment after the beginning of the school year.

Students enrolled in English 12 (non-honors) must choose one selection from the fiction choices.

Please review the list carefully with your parents/guardians because some selections (particularly contemporary ones) may contain content that you or your family may find sensitive. Then, make a choice that pleases you both.

**NONFICTION SELECTIONS:** (One selection is mandatory for English 12 honors students)

Bauby, Jean-Dominique. *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* - In 1995, Jean-Dominique Bauby was the editor-in-chief of French Elle, the father of two young children, a 44-year-old man known and loved for his wit, his style, and his impassioned approach to life. By the end of the year he was also the victim of a rare kind of stroke to the brainstem. After 20 days in a coma, Bauby awoke into a body which had all but stopped working; only his left eye functioned, allowing him to see and, by blinking it, to make clear that his mind was unimpaired. Almost miraculously, he was soon able to express himself in the richest detail: dictating a word at a time, blinking to select each letter as the alphabet was recited to him slowly, over and over again and wrote this memoir.

Kamkwamba, William. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* - William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

Yousafzai, Malala. *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban.* - When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala’s miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. *I AM MALALA* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls’ education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. *I AM MALALA* will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

**FICTION SELECTIONS:** (One selection is mandatory for both English 12 honors and English 12 (non-honors))

Albom, Mitch. *Tuesdays with Morrie.* Mitch Albom has the chance to rediscover his old college professor, Morrie Schwartz. He finds Morrie in the last month’s of the older man’s life. With the chance to ask the bigger questions, and receive insight from his mentor, Mitch visits Morrie every Tuesday. Their rekindled relationship turns into one final “class”: lessons in how to live.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre.* This is a Victorian novel at its best. The reader follows Jane from the time she is in a horrible orphanage, where children are abused physically and emotionally, to her release into the world of upper-class England where she becomes the governess for the child of a widower. Here Jane finds momentary happiness, and then a catastrophe occurs. Bronte juggles the many timeless characters she has created with complexity and depth, inviting the reader to become immersed in the lives of mid-19th-century England.

Galloway, Steven. *The Cellist of Sarajevo.* Inspired by Vedran Smailovic, the cellist who, in 1992, played in a bombed-out Sarajevo square for 22 days in memory of the 22 people who were killed by a mortar attack, this is a novel about four people trying to maintain a semblance of their humanity in the besieged city. Kenan trudges across the city to collect water from the brewery for his family; on his way to buy bread, Dragan meets an old friend who reminds him of life before the war; Arrow, a sniper fighting against the occupation, is charged with keeping the cellist alive; and the cellist himself, in his simple act of performing, courageously brings a touch of life back to the citizens.
O’Brien, Tim. *In the Lake of the Woods.* Selected by *The New York Times Book Review* as one of the best books of 1994, Tim O’Brien writes a novel of love and mystery. It is a memorable story about a Vietnam veteran, and his marriage which is slowly becoming unraveled. (There are a few instances of raw language, but they are realistic to the situations.)

Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country.* First published in 1948 in apartheid South Africa, this book is about the power of unity and an author’s unflinching hope of a future where segregation no longer exists. The book summons feelings of pride, optimism and anticipation of a long-desired goal. Readers will feel a connection to the characters, and they will see the common thread running throughout the novel. This story is a tribute to man’s dignity and perseverance.

Rostand, Edmond. *Cyrano De Bergerac.* Set in Louis the XIII’s reign, it is the moving drama of one of the finest swordsmen in France. He is a gallant soldier, and a tragic poet, with the face of a clown. Chivalry, bravery and love are captured in this timeless romance.

Shakespeare, William. *The Taming of the Shrew.* A humorous battle of the sexes in which a wealthy Italian marries off both his ill-tempered, and sweet-tempered, daughters.

Shusterman, Neal. *Unwind.* In a futuristic society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system that would “unwind” them. Brought together by chance, and kept together by desperation, these three unlikely companions make a harrowing cross-country journey, knowing their lives hang in the balance. If they can survive until their eighteenth birthday, they can’t be harmed -- but when every piece of them, from their hands to their hearts, are wanted by a world gone mad, eighteen seems far, far away.