

**ACADEMY AT PALUMBO**  
**11TH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST (2020-2021)**

Students going into the eleventh grade are required to select **one** of the novels below to read this summer.

Eleventh graders who are taking AP English Language and Composition are required to read one novel from the 11th grade list **AND** *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Students should have their summer reading books and their notes on summer reading on the first day of school. Each eleventh grade teacher will determine how they will assess the summer reading upon students' return. Students should come to class ready to participate in small group discussions and socratic seminars on the novel(s). They should also be prepared to write an essay on the novel(s) they read. You are required to have **your own copy** of the text(s) to use in class. You are also required to take notes as you read. Additionally, we encourage you to mark-up the text as you read. It is up to you to decide what you take notes on and the style of your notes. In order to help guide your reading and prepare you for our study of the text when we return to school in September, we suggest that you use the following three questions to help guide your note taking: 1) What do I notice? 2) Why do I think the author included this (characterization, metaphor, dialogue, etc.)? 3) What is the greater point the author is trying to make/help me as the reader to understand (the greater significance)?

Additionally, as you are deciding what selections of the text to quote and analyze in your notes, here are a few things that readers typically zoom in on:

- 1) An author's use of figurative language (metaphors, similes, personification, etc.)
- 2) Interesting word choices (diction)
- 3) Symbolism
- 4) The way the author unveils their characters (dialogue, inner thoughts and feelings, actions and behaviors, etc.)
- 5) Flashbacks and foreshadowing
- 6) Motifs (recurring themes or ideas)
- 7) Key plot points
- 8) The point of view from which the story is told and how that impacts the way the story is told
- 9) Moments that help the writer get across the overall theme of the work (the larger message the writer is trying to get across to the reader)

\*Cite the quotes you write down in your notes, so that you can go back and find them in the text.

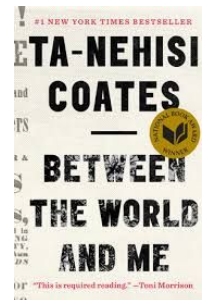
Want to have the Free Library of Philadelphia mail you a **FREE copy of one of your summer reading books**? [Click here](#) to fill out the form and have them send you a FREE book. (Note: you may request ANY book from our summer reading list, even if it is not listed as one of the choices.) Please select a hard copy (not an ebook or audiobook). For those of you who choose to read *Clap When You Land*, or *Felix Ever After*, we encourage you to also participate in the library's virtual book chats this summer. This might help you to generate awesome notes and ideas to share with your classmates in the fall. If you have any questions about summer reading/getting a free book from the library, you can email Mrs. Kay with your questions: [cminer@philasd.org](mailto:cminer@philasd.org).

## Summer Reading for 11th Graders signed up for AP English Language and Composition

1. [Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates ([pdf](#))

Complete this [summer reading assignment](#).

2. Select one additional text to read from the list below.

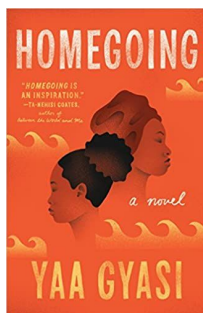


## Summer Reading for ALL 11th Graders

Select one text to read from the list below.

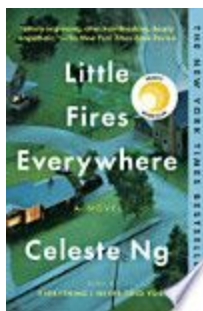
### [Homegoing](#) by Yaa Gyasi

Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. One thread of *Homegoing* follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, as the Fante and Asante nations wrestle with the slave trade and British colonization. The other thread follows Esi and her children into America. From the plantations of the South to the Civil War and the Great Migration, from the coal mines of Pratt City, Alabama, to the jazz clubs and dope houses of twentieth-century Harlem, right up through the present day, *Homegoing* makes history visceral, and captures, with singular and stunning immediacy, how the memory of captivity came to be inscribed in the soul of a nation.



### [Little Fires Everywhere](#) by Celeste Ng ([pdf](#))

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned—from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.



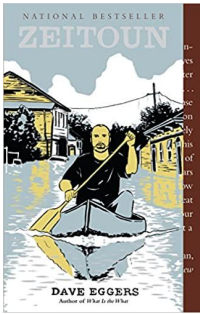
Enter Mia Warren—an enigmatic artist and single mother—who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town—and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.

*Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood—and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

**[Zeitoun](#) by David Eggers ([pdf](#))**

The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina.



Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, *Zeitoun* is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.

**[Clap When You Land](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo**

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...

In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.

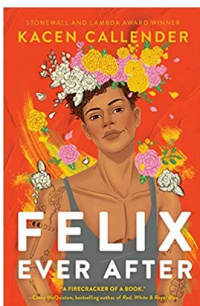


Separated by distance - and Papi's secrets - the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other. Papi's death uncovers all the painful truths he kept hidden, and the love he divided across an ocean. And now, Camino and Yahaira are both left to grapple with what this new sister means to them, and what it will now take to keep their dreams alive.

In a dual narrative novel in verse that brims with both grief and love, award-winning and bestselling author Elizabeth Acevedo writes about the devastation of loss, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the bittersweet bonds that shape our lives.

**[Felix Ever After](#) by Kacen Callender**

Felix Love has never been in love—and, yes, he's painfully aware of the irony. He desperately wants to know what it's like and why it seems so easy for everyone but him to find someone. What's worse is that, even though he is proud of his identity, Felix also secretly fears that he's one marginalization too many—Black, queer, and transgender—to ever get his own happily-ever-after.



When an anonymous student begins sending him transphobic messages—after publicly posting Felix's deadname alongside images of him before he transitioned—Felix comes up with a plan for revenge. What he didn't count on: his catfish scenario landing him in a quasi-love triangle....

But as he navigates his complicated feelings, Felix begins a journey of questioning and self-discovery that helps redefine his most important relationship: how he feels about himself.