

# Oak Mountain High School Required Summer Reading 2019

**ALL STUDENTS IN ALL GENERAL AND HONORS ENGLISH CLASSES** are required to choose **ONE (1)** of the **following books** to read this summer. (There is a PDF with blurbs about each book located on the OMHS website.) You will have an assignment to complete in class the first week of school. (Honors students also need to be prepared to write an essay about their chosen book.)

- *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone (\*\*Mature Language)
- *Dragon Pearl* by Yoon Ha Lee
- *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sanchez (\*\*Mature Language)
- *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman
- *The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner
- *The Tattooist of Auschwitz: a Novel* by Heather Morris (\*\*Some Mature Language)
- *This Is the Day: Reclaim Your Dream. Ignite Your Passion. Live Your Purpose.* by Tim Tebow
- *To the Moon and Back: a Novel* by Karen Kingsbury
- *Windfall* by Jennifer E. Smith

\*\*Please note that some reading materials in the high school curriculum have mature language and themes. Course content is carefully chosen and structured to meet course of study requirements for the state of Alabama. If you have concerns about selection choices for this course, please see the instructor.

## AP Required Summer Reading Selections 2019

### AP Language 11:

- *Big Fish* by Daniel Wallace
- *Thank You for Arguing* by Jay Heinrichs

\* AP Language 11 students **MUST** see Ms. Davis (Room 223) for the actual summer reading assignment.

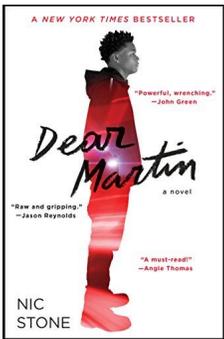
### AP Literature 12:

- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka

\* AP Literature 12 students **MUST** see Ms. Plaia (Room 204) for the actual summer reading assignment.

\* Honors English 10 students will begin reading *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd the first week of school. Please have a copy on the first day of school.

## OMHS 2019 Summer Reading Options



### ***Dear Martin*** by Nic Stone

**\*\*Mature Language**

Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught

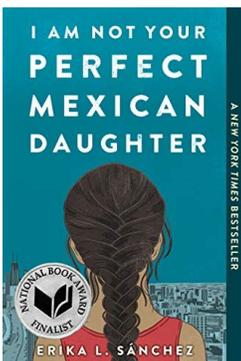
in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.



### ***Dragon Pearl*** by Yoon Ha Lee

To keep the family safe, Min's mother insists that none of them use any fox-magic, such as Charm or shape-shifting. They must appear human at all times. Min feels hemmed in by the household rules and resents the endless chores, the cousins who crowd her, and the aunties who judge her. She would like nothing more than to escape Jinju, her neglected, dust-ridden, and impoverished planet. She's counting the days until she can follow her older brother, Jun, into the Space Forces and see more of the Thousand Worlds. When word arrives that Jun is suspected of leaving his post to go in search of the Dragon Pearl, Min knows that something is wrong. Jun would never desert his battle cruiser, even for a mystical object rumored to have tremendous power. She decides to

run away to find him and clear his name. Min's quest will have her meeting gamblers, pirates, and vengeful ghosts. It will involve deception, lies, and sabotage. She will be forced to use more fox-magic than ever before, and to rely on all of her cleverness and bravery. The outcome may not be what she had hoped, but it has the potential to exceed her wildest dreams.

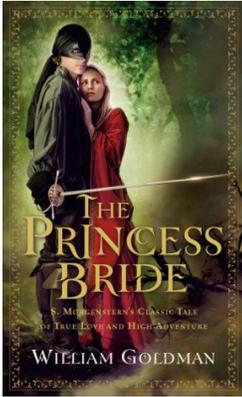


### ***I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*** by Erika L. Sanchez

**\*\*Mature Language**

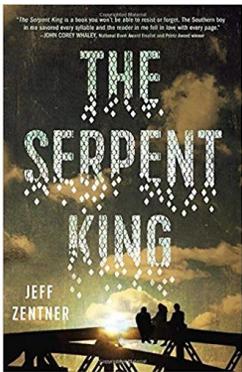
Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the

help of her best friend Lorena, and her first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?



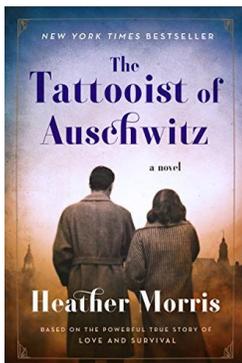
### ***The Princess Bride* by William Goldman**

As Florin and Guilder teeter on the verge of war, the reluctant Princess Buttercup is devastated by the loss of her true love, kidnapped by a mercenary and his henchman, rescued by a pirate, forced to marry Prince Humperdinck, and rescued once again by the very crew who absconded with her in the first place. In the course of this dazzling adventure, she'll meet Vizzini—the criminal philosopher who'll do anything for a bag of gold; Fezzik—the gentle giant; Inigo—the Spaniard whose steel thirsts for revenge; and Count Rugen—the evil mastermind behind it all. Foiling all their plans and jumping into their stories is Westley, Princess Buttercup's one true love and a very good friend of a very dangerous pirate.



### ***The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner**

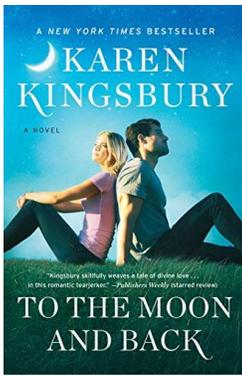
Dillard Early, Jr., Travis Bohannon and Lydia Blankenship are three friends from different walks of life who have one thing in common: none of them seem to fit the mold in rural Tennessee's Forestville High. Dill has always been branded as an outsider due to his family heritage as snake handlers and poison drinkers, an essential part of their Pentecostal faith. But after his father is sent to prison for sexual abuse of a young parishioner, Dill and his mother become real pariahs. His only two friends are Travis, a gentle giant who works at his family's lumberyard and is obsessed with a Game of Thrones-like fantasy series (much to his alcoholic father's chagrin); and Lydia, who runs a popular fashion blog that's part Tavi Gevinson and part Angela Chase, and is actively plotting her escape from Redneckville, Tennessee. As the three friends begin their senior year, it becomes clear that they won't all be getting to start a promising new life after graduation. How they deal with their diverging paths could cause the end of their friendship. Until a shattering act of random violence forces Dill to wrestle with his dark legacy and find a way into the light of a future worth living.



### ***The Tattooist of Auschwitz: A Novel* by Heather Morris (Non-fiction)**

**\*\*Some mature language**

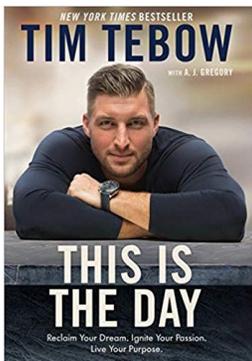
In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a *Tätowierer* (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners. Imprisoned for over two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive. One day in July 1942, Lale, prisoner 32407, comforts a trembling young woman waiting in line to have the number 34902 tattooed onto her arm. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her.



## ***To the Moon and Back: A Novel* (The Baxter Family) by Karen Kingsbury**

Brady Bradshaw was a child when the Oklahoma City bombing killed his mother. Every year, Brady visits the memorial site on the anniversary to remember her. Eleven years ago on that day, he met Jenna Phillips, who was also a child when her parents were killed in the attack. Brady and Jenna shared a deep heart connection and a single beautiful day together at the memorial. But after that, Brady never saw Jenna again. Every year when he returns, he leaves a note for her in hopes that he might find her again. This year, Ashley Baxter Blake and her sister Kari Baxter Taylor and their families take a spring break trip that includes a visit to the site to see the memorial's famous Survivor Tree. While there, Ashley spots a young man, alone and troubled. That man is Brady Bradshaw. A chance moment leads Ashley to help Brady find Jenna, the girl he can't forget.

Ashley's family is skeptical, but she pushes them to support her efforts to find the girl and bring them together. But will it work? Will her husband, Landon, understand her intentions? And is a shared heartache enough reason to fall in love?



## ***This Is the Day: Reclaim Your Dream. Ignite Your Passion. Live Your Purpose.* by Tim Tebow (Non-fiction)**

Beyond Tim Tebow's exploits as a Heisman-winning football player, he is widely known and respected for his exemplary character and personal excellence, which have made him a role model for millions. When Tim interacts with the public, he often encounters people who feel "stuck"--unable to take action on matters ranging from daily life to pursuing lifelong dreams. In response, Tim often identifies a crippling fear or lack of courage, to which he advises: "now is the time to take some risks, to quiet the voices of defeat, to step forward and make a mark, because *this is the day.*" In this inspiring, motivational book, readers will receive the advice and

encouragement to daily move from "pause" to "play" in finding deeper meaning and success. Tim illustrates the book's themes with stories from his personal life that will delight all readers, including his an update on his dream pursuit of a baseball career.



## ***Windfall* by Jennifer E. Smith**

Alice has never believed in luck, but that doesn't stop her from rooting for love. After pining for her best friend Teddy for years, she jokingly gifts him a lottery ticket—attached to a note professing her love—on his birthday. Then, the unthinkable happens: he *actually wins*. At first, it seems like the luckiest thing on earth. But as Teddy gets swept up by his \$140 million windfall and fame and fortune come between them, Alice is forced to consider whether her stroke of good fortune might have been anything but. She bought a winning lottery ticket. He collected the cash. Will they realize that true love's the real prize?

**\*\*Please note that some reading materials in the high school curriculum have mature language and themes. Course content is carefully chosen and structured to meet course of study requirements for the state of Alabama. If you have concerns about selections choices for this course, please see the instructor.**

Book Reviews from Amazon and GoodReads.