

# Memo

**To:** All Students Taking English 12

**From:** Senior English Teachers

**Date:** June 2019

**Re:** Summer Reading Assignment

---

We look forward to having you in class next year and hope that you have an enjoyable summer. To start the year with shared experiences, you will need to do the following:

There are three parts to your summer assignment: the reading of two books and the writing of a personal essay. There will be related assignments to be completed when we return to the high school in the fall.

- A. **The first of the books should be selected from the attached list**—Please do not select a book that you have already read. For this book, you should be able to recount the plot, determine the strengths and weaknesses, identify key features of the author’s style, and determine what type of reader would enjoy reading this book. Additionally, you need to reflect upon what you have gained from reading this book, why it appealed or did not appeal to you, and if you would recommend it to someone else. You will be quizzed on your reading of this book and you will be asked to prepare and present a book talk.
- B. **The second book you need to read is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein.** This book is part of our One School-One Book program and you will be hearing the author speak on October 4. As you read take notes on each important incident. Keep track of characters and plot. You will have a reading check quiz the first week of school. Consider how Denny and Enzo might serve as an inspirations.
- C. **Personal Essay** – this assignment asks you to write a personal essay in anticipation of senior year’s application process. See assignment on website for details.
- D. **Senior 20 Reflections**—this assignment asks you to reflect upon your passions, inspirations, and aspirations and view 3 Ted Talks. See assignment on website for details.

Happy reading and enjoy the summer!

## Summer 2019 Reading List for James Caldwell High School:

*The Art of Racing in the Rain* and 1 book from either of the two lists below:

### Fiction:

Atwood, Margaret -- *Oryx and Crake* (dystopian)  
Bronte, Charlotte -- *Jane Eyre* (gothic romance)  
Cleave, Chris -- *Little Bee*  
Differbaugh, Vanessa -- *The Language of Flowers*  
Fowler, Therese Anne -- *Z: a Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald*  
Garcia Marquez, Gabriel -- *100 Years of Solitude*  
Hemingway, Ernest -- *A Farewell to Arms*  
Hesse, Hermann - *Siddhartha*  
Hurstun, Zora Neal - *Their Eyes Were Watching God*  
McCann, Colum -- *Let the Great World Spin*  
McCreight, Kimberley -- *Reconstructing Amelia*  
McLain, Paula -- *The Paris Wife*  
Monk Kidd, Susan -- *The Invention of Wings*  
Moore, Alan -- *Watchmen*  
Morrison, Toni -- *A Mercy*  
O'Brien, Tim -- *Going After Cacciato*  
Reid, Taylor Jenkins -- *Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*  
Roy, Arundhati- *The God of Small Things*  
Ruiz Zafon, Carlos- *Shadow of the Wind*  
Tolkien, JRR -- *The Fellowship of the Ring*  
Towles, Amor -- *Rules of Civility*  
Vonnegut, Kurt -- *Sirens of Titan*  
Wolff, Tobias -- *Old School*

### Nonfiction

Bernard, Emily -- *Black is the Body*  
Coates, Ta-Nehisi -- *Between the World and Me*  
Hobbs, Jeff -- *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace*  
Jahren, Hope -- *Lab Girl*  
Keegan, Marina -- *The Opposite of Loneliness*  
Kidder, Tracey -- *The Strength in What Remains*  
Krakauer, Jon-- *Under the Banner of Heaven or Missoula*  
Larson, Eric -- *Devil in the White City*  
Lewis, John -- *March: Book One*  
Miller, Patricia -- *Bringing Down the Colonel*  
Moore, Wes -- *The Other Wes Moore*  
Nafisi, Azar -- *Reading Lolita in Tehran*  
O'Malley Greenburg, Zack- *3 Kings: Diddy, Dr. Dre, Jay-Z and Hip Hop's Multibillion-Dollar Rise*  
Stevenson, Bryan-- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*  
Westover, Tara -- *Educated*  
Vance, Ashlee -- *Elon Musk*