

Reading High School
2018 Summer Reading
English 11

For students taking English 11, choose ONE of the following books to read.

1. *Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout* - Dr. Rick Grigsby (nonfiction)

After his wife died, Rick Rigsby was ready to give up. The bare minimum was good enough. Rigsby was content to go through the motions, living out his life as a shell of himself. But then he remembered the lessons his father taught him years before - something insanely simple, yet incredibly profound.

These lessons weren't in advanced mathematics or the secrets of the stock market. They were quite straightforward, in fact, for Rigsby's father never made it through third grade. But if this uneducated man's instructions were powerful enough to produce a Ph.D. and a judge – imagine what they can do for you.

Join Rigsby as he dusts off time-tested beliefs and finds brilliantly simple answers to modern society's questions. In a magnificent testament to the "Greatest Generation" which gave so much and asked so little in return, *Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout* will challenge you while reigniting your passion to lead a truly fulfilling life.

After all, it's never too late to learn a little bit more about life – just ask the third-grade dropout.

2. *Hillbilly Elegy* - J. D. Vance (nonfiction)

The Vance family story began with hope in postwar America. J.D.'s grandparents were "dirt poor and in love" and moved north from Kentucky's Appalachian region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them.

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of poor, white Americans. The disintegration of this group, a process that has been slowly occurring now for over forty years, has been reported with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. In *Hillbilly Elegy*, J.D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hanging around your neck.

For a successful experience with your summer reading assignment:

1. *Finding the book(s)* -- Check your local library first. The Cincinnati Public Library will help locate a copy for you if your branch does not have it. *Amazon.com* seems to have everything. Ask your parents about ordering a used copy of the novel from that site. Check *Half Price Books*, too.

2. In order to be *actively engaged* with your reading, *you must COMPLETE THE ATTACHED assignments*. These assignments is worth 100 CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK points to start your junior year in English. *Due 1st Day of school.*

**REMEMBER, as JUNIORS, the assignments you complete must be THOROUGH, NEAT, and ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE NOVEL in order to earn FULL CREDIT.

4. Come see me if you have any questions--you can email me throughout the summer; I check school email a couple times during the week, and I'll get back to you as soon as possible. bdoyle@readingschools.org

ASSIGNMENTS: (Worth 100 pts. Classwork/Homework grade)

1. **CREATE a Title acrostic.** - Take a sheet of construction paper and write the title of the book down the side of the paper. For each letter in the title, construct a sentence that begins with that letter and that tells something significant about the story.
2. **Cartoon squares.** - Create a series of six drawings in six squares that shows a significant event in the novel. Under each picture or cartoon, write 3-5 lines of explanation.
3. **Tangible or intangible gifts.** - Select a character and figure out what four or five things you believe your character most needs or wants. Draw or cut out pictures to represent these "gifts" and write to your character an explanation of why you picked these things out for him or her.
4. **Found poems.** - Select a chapter from the novel you have just read that you consider powerful or interesting. Then select words, lines, and phrases that you think project strong images and show the impact the chapter makes. Arrange this material into a poem.

The following example comes from Chapter Twenty in *Spite Fences* by Trudy Krisher (1994)

Violence at the Lunch Counter Sit-in

Fist slammed into George Hardy's face
Glasses slid to his chin
Shattered into a spider's web.
River of red blood
Running from his nose.
It was the red color of the fence.
The red color of the earth on which I stood.
It was red.
The color of my life this summer.
The color of Kinship.
