

To: Incoming English 10 Honors Students  
From: The English Department  
Re: Summer Reading Assignment  
Date: June 2017



Those students who are accepting the challenge of American Lit Honors must **READ THREE TEXTS** by the first week of school in September. You will be assessed on your reading, and the grades will count towards the first marking period. In addition, you are expected to **participate in GoogleDoc Discussions** (see below for directions).

**EVERYONE MUST READ:**

1) ***Our Town* by Thornton Wilder (play)**

Tells the story of the fictional American small town of Grover's Corners between 1901 and 1913 through the everyday lives of its citizens.

2) ***Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver (fiction)**

Taylor Greer hits the road wanting only to get as far away from Kentucky as possible, ending up in Arizona with a 3-year-old Cherokee girl she has inherited from a woman in a bar.

3) ***Look Me In the Eye: My Life With Asperger's* by John Elder Robison (personal memoir)**

The author describes life growing up different in an odd family, his unusual talents, his struggle to live a "normal" life, his diagnosis at the age of forty with Asperger's syndrome, and the dramatic changes that have occurred since that diagnosis.

It is recommended that you give yourselves enough time to read carefully and thoughtfully. You **MUST USE POST-ITS TO ANNOTATE. USE YOUR SIGN-POSTS.**

Two of the texts are being distributed to you; you are encouraged to purchase your own copy of *Look Me in the Eye*.

To help you pace your reading/manage your time and engage in good discussion, here is the reading schedule that should be followed:

***Our Town*** (finish reading and participate in GoogleDoc discussion **by Friday, July 14th**)

***Bean Trees*** (finish reading and participate in GoogleDoc discussion **by Friday, August 11th**)

***Look Me in the Eye*** (finish reading and participate in GoogleDoc discussion **by Tuesday, Sept 5th**)

If you are looking for additional recommendations for personal reading, consider the titles below. They are all wonderful reads!



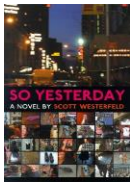
**Delirium (Lauren Oliver)**

Before scientists found the cure, people thought love was a good thing. They didn't understand that once love -- the deliria -- blooms in your blood, there is no escaping its hold. Things are different now. Scientists are able to eradicate love, and the government demands that all citizens receive the cure upon turning eighteen. Lena Holoway has always looked forward to the day when she'll be cured. A life without love is a life without pain: safe, measured, predictable, and happy. But with ninety-five days left until her treatment, Lena does the unthinkable: She falls in love.



**Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment (James Patterson)**

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.



**So Yesterday (Scott Westerfeld)**

Hunter Braque, a New York City teenager who is paid by corporations to spot what is "cool," combines his analytical skills with girlfriend Jen's creative talents to find a missing person and thwart a conspiracy directed at the heart of consumer culture.



**Sorta Like a Rockstar (Quick)**

Although seventeen-year-old Amber Appleton is homeless, living in a school bus with her unfit mother, she is a relentless optimist who visits the elderly at a nursing home, teaches English to Korean Catholic women with the use of rhythm and blues music, and befriends a solitary Vietnam veteran and his dog, but eventually she experiences one burden more than she can bear and slips into a deep depression.

## DIRECTIONS FOR GOOGLDOC DISCUSSION ENTRIES AMERICAN LIT HONORS

While you are reading this summer, you will have an opportunity to reflect on the readings, post questions and share your insights with your classmates and your teacher. This will happen using a GoogleDoc.

### What is a GoogleDoc?

It is an online document to which people are invited so that they can collaborate and share ideas.

### Getting Started:

**Step 1**—Using your school account, email Mrs. Papadopoulos at [academicsforlife@gmail.com](mailto:academicsforlife@gmail.com)

Include the following message:

Hi Mrs.Paps,

This is type your name. Here is my email address. I am taking identify the honors course.

**Step 2**—You will receive an "invitation" from Mrs. Papadopoulos to join a GoogleDoc. Click the link in the invitation, so that you can access the GoogleDoc.

(NOTE: If these directions are confusing, please stop by room 101 after school, and Mrs. Papadopoulos will assist you.)

**Step 3**—As you read your texts, you must access the GoogleDoc and post your contributions (follow the directions included in the GoogleDoc). You will be invited to a separate GoogleDoc for each novel which you are reading.

(NOTE: Each time you complete a post, make sure to identify yourself—name and date.  
Log on early and follow the reading schedule so that you can benefit from the on-line discussions.)

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

*When are these reading logs due?* As you read, take the time to complete your posts. Make sure that you complete your responses by the first full week of school.

*How do I access the GoogleDoc?* Besides access from the emailed invitation, you can also go to [google.com](http://google.com) and sign-in to your account.

*Who do I contact over the summer if I have questions?* You can email Mrs. Papadopoulos at [academicsforlife@gmail.com](mailto:academicsforlife@gmail.com)