

English 10 Summer Reading List
Soddy Daisy High School
Dalton, Skyles, Sneed, and Wilson

For the 2020-2021 school year, upcoming sophomores must read one of the following novels for standard-level English 10 and two for the honors level. This list has been curated from the Hamilton County Schools Curriculum Guide for English 10; therefore, they have been chosen by the County, not by Soddy Daisy High School. Unit 1 of English 10 explores the theme of “Outsiders and Outcasts,” a thematic thread evident in all of the titles below. Summer reading will comprise the largest portion of the first unit, meaning that if students have not read, they will not be able to complete the work, which will result in multiple grades of zero. Summer reading must be finished by the first full week of school. Parents with questions are encouraged to call the school.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian semi-autobiographically examines life in a racial minority -- specifically, the complications that arise from choosing to live differently than the others in one's primary ethnic group. Arnold contends with the implications of being Native American in a sea of White people, the hopelessness many of the adults around him feel on the reservation, and the anger of those who feel he betrayed them by choosing a different life for himself. Our hope for discussions around this novel is an increase of empathy and understanding among diverse races and appreciation of varied cultures. Parents should be advised of profanity and some references to sexuality.

American Street, Ibi Zoboi

American Street conveys the hardships of immigration in the United States. When Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. Immigration, she is left to figure out the “American Dream” on her own with the help of her Haitian family in Detroit. Fabiola is faced with difficult decisions, coming to a crossroads that could change her life. She learns how to prevail as a woman and in a country she doesn't feel is her own. Our hope is to grow students' empathy toward those struggling with the issues of being without family or in a new place, having to learn an unfamiliar way of life. Parents should be advised of profanity, violence, mild sexual content, substance use, and references to voodoo.

The Book Thief, Markus Zusak

The Book Thief unfolds the story of Liesel, a girl in foster care who steals when she encounters something she can't resist — books. In her new foster family, she learns to read with the help of Papa, sharing her books with neighbors during bomb raids and

with the Jewish man hidden in the basement. Set in 1939 Nazi Germany, Liesel's story is one of heartbreak and hope. We hope that students will learn more of history through this lens but also the importance of things we daily take for granted, such as reading, writing, and family. Parents should be advised of war and death.

Every Falling Star, Sungju Lee

Every Falling Star autobiographically portrays a survival story of escaping North Korea under dictatorship. Sungju's parents both go missing in their efforts to improve the family's quality of life, forcing the fourteen-year-old to fend for himself on the streets. Sungju meets a number of young men with similar fates who become his "brothers": boys who vow to care for each other and, most importantly, to never leave each other behind. Our hope as students read this novel is to foster their ability to appreciate each other's stories, encouraging empathy for those who feel like outsiders due to poverty and/or loss of family. Parents should be advised of violence and references to opium.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Stephen Chbosky

The Perks of Being a Wallflower follows Charlie's journey into young adulthood. He differs from his peers in ways that are never clearly defined by the novel but which some readers will associate with the autism spectrum. As such, Charlie experiences teenage life from somewhat of a remove from his cohort until he meets Sam and Patrick, who show him friendship for the first time in his life. Our hope for the inclusion of this novel is bringing awareness to the transformative power of friendship, especially among teenagers who feel left out as a result of their differences. Parents should be advised of sexual content, profanity, and substance use.

Turtles All the Way Down, John Green

Turtles All the Way Down is a primer to the reality of adolescent anxiety disorders. For those battling such conditions, this book offers the sense of not being alone. For those lucky enough not to, it increases empathy and understanding of peers. Our hope for those who read this book is to encourage acceptance of those students always on the outside and to give voice to those students who feel they must act a certain way to fit in, join a certain crowd, or silence their pain. Parents should be advised of mild sensual content and some profanity.