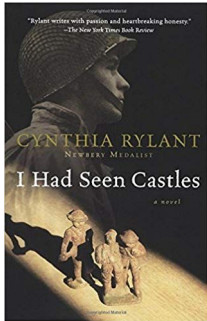


Kirtland High School  
College Preparatory English 11  
The BIG Summer Read 2019 #Eng11BSR

Welcome to English 11! I look forward to working with you in the fall. Summer reading is intended to be high interest and thought-provoking. The first 4 weeks of school will be devoted to the study and discussion of your summer reading assignments. Should you procrastinate or wait until the week before school starts to begin reading and taking notes, you will have a difficult first few weeks. In order to have a productive start to your school year, you must complete these readings to the best of your ability. Your work should always reflect careful reading and critical attention. Have a fun, safe, and productive summer!

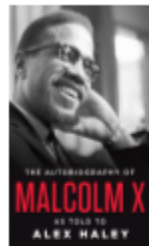
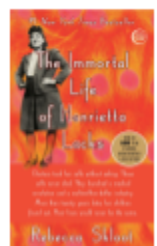
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| <p><b>Why read during the summer?</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Researchers have proven that reading increases vocabulary and that reading and writing skills are inextricably connected to each other.</li> <li>● Good writers are good readers. Written and oral communication is most effective when you have a command of language and a broad vocabulary; reading gives you exposure to descriptive and rich vocabulary used in well-written and powerful phrases and sentences.</li> <li>● The accuracy and effectiveness of your communication is determined by your ability to read critically.</li> <li>● Reading can be one of the most satisfying and personal life-long habits you will ever develop.</li> <li>● Reading gives you knowledge and knowledge is power.</li> </ul> |
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**Novel Assignment:** We will pair *I Had Seen Castles* with Tim O'Brien's novel *The Things They Carried* in the fall. Please be prepared to discuss and write about this book when you return to school in August.

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|  | <p><b><i>I had Seen Castles</i> by Cynthia Rylant</b> - John Dante is so enmeshed in WWII's patriotic fever that he can hardly wait for his 18th birthday, in 1942, to enlist. Meanwhile, his sister, stricken with empathy and concern, is engaged to two soldiers and pregnant by a third; Dad, a nuclear physicist, is called from Pittsburgh to California for secret research; and John falls sweetly, ardently in love with pretty Ginny, who urges him to become a conscientious objector. To John, her fervent pacifism is incomprehensible; but as he endures active combat, without relief, until 1945, stereotypes give way to the reality of the enemy's humanity, and Ginny's ideas become clear. Still, after his long immersion in horror, John never communicates with her again--until a message at the end of this novel, narrated in 1992 when he's a retired professor in Canada: "I want you to know that I am really alive. And I still love you." Yet John has not been "alive" as he might have been: a lifelong solitary, he was even driven from his home by the war ("I could not stay in America because America had not suffered"). Excising all but the essential explanations (we never learn how Ginny became a CO) to focus on John's spiritual journey and the events that shape it, Rylant depicts--with some irony and much insight and compassion--the tragedy of young men putting aside their true selves ("We were the ghosts of boys and we had come to believe in nothing but each other") to meet war's terrible demands. A brief tale, in wonderfully spare language and imagery, with a poignant love story and an unexpectedly quiet, melancholy conclusion. -Kirkus Review</p> |
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NONFICTION CHOICE: CHOOSE ONE!



## **NONFICTION CHOICE:**

***Something Like the Gods: A Cultural History of the Athlete from Achilles to Lebron* by Stephen Amidon** *Something Like the Gods* explores the powerful grip the athlete has always held on the Western imagination. Amidon examines the archetype of the competitor as it evolved from antiquity to the present day, from athlete-warriors such as Achilles and Ulysses to global media icons like Ali, Jordan, and Tiger Woods. This book will change the way you look at athletes.

***The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley*** - In the searing pages of this classic autobiography, originally published in 1964, Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. His fascinating perspective on the lies and limitations of the American Dream, and the inherent racism in a society that denies its nonwhite citizens the opportunity to dream, gives extraordinary insight into the most urgent issues of our own time.

***The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston** - A lyrical, experimental, moving, and thought-provoking memoir about Chinese-American woman and her identity, personal history, and views of America and her ancestry. A challenging and rewarding read. Very, very well-written.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot** - This imaginative and informative work traces the history and development of HeLa cells -- human cells that can survive in a laboratory. A lively mix of medical history, family history, and investigative journalism.

***The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls** - *The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.

***Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers** - The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving her husband Zeitoun to watch over their business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, *Zeitoun* is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.

***Read not to contradict, nor to believe, but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some to be digested. That is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read but curiously, and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man.*** -- Francis Bacon

Please use #Eng11BSR to participate in optional Twitter chats this summer!

Please Sign-up for Remind by texting the message @ek7fg to 81010.

**Earn BONUS PTS:** 1) Sign up for Remind by 6/4/19

2) Text/tweet a selfie with summer book choice using #Eng11BSR by 7/15/19

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [meriah.duncan@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:meriah.duncan@kirtlandschools.org)