

# 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Choices- For Standard English- Choose One

## ***Heroes* by Robert Cormier**

Eighteen-year-old Francis Cassavant has returned from World War II an unwilling hero. Although he can still see and hear, a grenade has blown away his nose, his ears, his teeth, and his cheeks, leaving him faceless. Hiding his ghastly wounds with bandages and a white silk scarf, Francis welcomes the anonymity his mutilation brings him, for he has returned to his hometown with a secret mission--a plot for revenge (against his enemy Larry LaSalle) that he values more than his own life. Francis's eerily matter-of-fact acceptance of his hideous mien, along with his sweetness and selflessness, contrast sharply with his obsessive need for vengeance. No one recognizes him as the quiet kid who once loved Nicole Renard and hung out with fellow teens at the Wreck Center. LaSalle, formerly a charismatic youth leader, has also come back from the war a hero, and only Francis knows the dark side of this older man's concern for young people. But does LaSalle's one evil act wipe out all the good he has done? And is Francis just as guilty because he could have prevented it and didn't? 1050L

## ***Running Loose* by Chris Crutcher**

Louie Banks isn't the boy who has everything, but he's not complaining.

In his senior year of high school Louie has good friends, a starting spot on the football team, and a terrific girlfriend, Becky.

Maybe it was too good to last. All at once, everything turns sour when Louie is tossed off the football team for taking a stand against the coach, who ordered an illegal hit against an opposing player. Luckily he's supported by his parents, his best friend, and Becky. Louie can face anything as long as he has her love. The tragedy strikes.

Now everything in life seems unfair to Louie. People say he's acting crazy. Can he let go of his anger and reach for something new to believe in? 870L

## ***The Twisted Window* by Lois Duncan**

When Brad tells Tracy that his little sister Mindy has been kidnapped by his stepfather, she promises to help him locate the child. Tracy is moved by Brad's story and defiant of the aunt and uncle she has lived with ever since her mother was stabbed to death. They find the toddler Brad is searching for, and Tracy arranges to baby-sit for Mindy, then turn her over to Brad. But the situation turns dangerous when Brad shows up with a gun, and Tracy realizes that the story he told was far from the truth. Duncan, a master of the YA suspense novel with such books as *Locked in Time* and *The Third Eye*, has created another gripping psychological tale with an absolutely unpredictable (but thoroughly believable) twist at the end. 950L

# 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English Reading Choices- Choose One

## ***Zorro: A Novel* by Isabel Allende**

Allende's lively retelling of the Zorro legend reads as effortlessly as the hero himself might slice his trademark "Z" on the wall with a flash of his sword. Born Diego de la Vega in 1795 to the valiant hidalgo, Alejandro, and the beautiful Regina, the daughter of a Spanish deserter and an Indian shaman, our hero grows up in California before traveling to Spain. Raised alongside his wet nurse's son, Bernardo, Diego becomes friends for life with his "milk brother," despite the boys' class differences. Though born into privilege, Diego has deep ties to California's exploited natives—both through blood and friendship—that account for his abiding sense of justice and identification with the underdog. In Catalonia, these instincts as well as Diego's swordsmanship intrigue Manuel Escalante, a member of the secret society La Justicia. Escalante recruits Diego into the society, which is dedicated to fighting all forms of oppression, and thus begins Diego's construction of his dashing, secret alter ego, Zorro. With loyal Bernardo at his side, Zorro hones his fantastic skills, evolves into a noble hero and returns to California to reclaim his family's estate in a breathtaking duel. All the while, he encounters numerous historical figures, who anchor this incredible tale in a reality that enriches and contextualizes the Zorro myth. Allende's latest page-turner explodes with vivid characterization and high-speed storytelling. 1170L

### ***The Lovely Bones: A Novel by Alice Sebold***

Sebold has taken a grim, media-exploited subject and fashioned from it a story that is both tragic and full of light and grace. The novel begins swiftly. In the second sentence, Sebold's narrator, Susie Salmon, announces, "I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973." Susie is taking a shortcut through a cornfield when a neighbor lures her to his hideaway. The description of the crime is chilling, but never vulgar, and Sebold maintains this delicate balance between homely and horrid as she depicts the progress of grief for Susie's family and friends. She captures the odd alliances forged and the relationships ruined: the shattered father who buries his sadness trying to gather evidence, the mother who escapes "her ruined heart, in merciful adultery." At the same time, Sebold brings to life an entire suburban community, from the mortician's son to the handsome biker dropout who quietly helps investigate Susie's murder. Much as this novel is about "the lovely bones" growing around Susie's absence, it is also full of suspense and written in lithe, resilient prose that by itself delights. Sebold's most dazzling stroke, among many bold ones, is to narrate the story from Susie's heaven (a place where wishing is having), providing the warmth of a first-person narration and the freedom of an omniscient one. It might be this that gives Sebold's novel its special flavor, for in Susie's every observation and memory of the smell of skunk or the touch of spider webs is the reminder that life is sweet and funny and surprising. 890L

### ***Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut***

**Cat's Cradle**, one of Vonnegut's most entertaining novels, is filled with scientists and G-men and even ordinary folks caught up in the game. These assorted characters chase each other around in search of the world's most important and dangerous substance, a new form of ice that freezes at room temperature. At one time, this novel could probably be found on the bookshelf of every college kid in America; it's still a fabulous read and a great place to start if you're young enough to have missed the first Vonnegut craze. 790L

**CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING 6 CREATIVE PROJECTS TO COMPLETE**

1. Create a comic book relating to a chapter from the 2nd half of the book.
2. Make three (full 22" X 28" poster board) posters about the book using two or more of the following media: paint, crayons, chalk, paper, ink, real materials.
3. Rewrite the story for younger children in picture book form.
4. Make a scrapbook about the novel using information from the book, or choose one character and create that character's scrapbook of the events in the book.
5. Create a board game based on events and characters in the book you read. By playing your game, members of the class should learn what happened in the book. Your game must include the following: a game board, a rule sheet and clear directions, events and characters from the story with images.
6. Complete a series of five drawings that show five of the major events in the plot of the book you read. Write captions for each drawing so that the illustrations can be understood by someone who did not read the book. Drawings must be a minimum of 8.5" X 11" and must include color.

\* If you want to do something different from the above choices you **MUST** receive **PRIOR** approval from the English teacher you will have in the fall.

At the start of school, you will present your project to the class, below is the grading rubric for this presentation of your creative project.

<b>Name:</b>				
<b>Type of Project:</b>				
	<b>Less Points</b>	<b>Full Points</b>	<b>Points</b>	
<b>Length of Presentation</b>	Less than 1.5 minutes or more than 4 minutes.	1.5 to 4 minutes	10	
<b>Creative Artifact &amp; Overall Presentation</b>	Displayed ineffectively	Displayed effectively	10	
	Presented ineffectively	Presented effectively	10	
	Shows low quality and low quantity effort	Shows high quality and high quantity effort	10	
	Unclear connection between artifact and text.	Clear connection between artifact and text.	10	
		<b>Total Points:</b>	50 points	

## Major Works Data Sheet

Title: _____  Author: _____	<b>Point of View (POV)</b> - What is the POV from which the story is told? How does the POV affect the reading?	<b>Setting Information</b> – Consider both time and place:
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**Conflict/Resolution** – Describe some of the major conflicts and how they were resolved:

### MEMORABLE QUOTES

\*\* Include at least ten (10) memorable quotes which are significant in relation to the themes of the work or to the author's style and/or character development.

Quotation	Significance/Personal Reaction

## CHARACTERS

**\*\*In discussing characters, identify *each major and minor character*. Discuss how the author develops each character. Does the character change (dynamic) or stay the same (static) throughout the story?**

Name	Role in Story	Significant acts/actions?	Character's perception of himself/herself?	How do you perceive the character?	Changes in character (external & internal)?

**Themes** – A theme is an idea the writer wishes to convey about the subject—the writer's view of the world or a revelation about human nature: **\*\* List all major themes developed in the novel.**

**Vocabulary:** **\*\*List and define 20 new words you encounter while reading the novel.**

**\*\*\* Use each of the 20 words in an original sentence.**