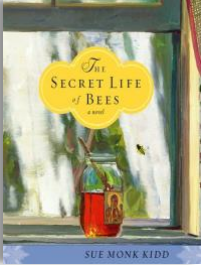
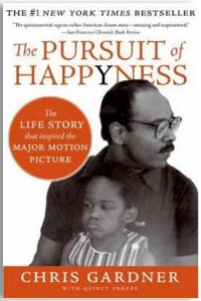

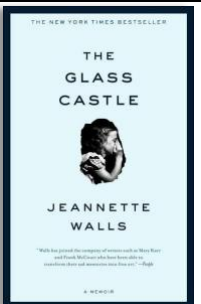
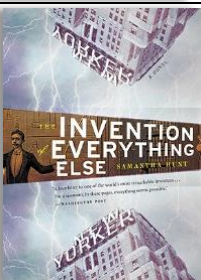


Book Title and Author	Description	Difficulty Level
Secret Life of Bees Sue Monk Kidd Fiction	 <p>A story about a fourteen-year old girl who loses her mother, but finds guidance in an eccentric trio of black, beekeeping sisters. Takes place in South Carolina during the Civil Rights era. Deals with love, loss, betrayal, forgiveness, and racism.</p>	<p>Written for adults, but quite accessible for teens. A film version exists.</p>
The Pursuit of Happyness Chris Gardner Memoir	 <p>The astounding yet true rags-to-riches story of a homeless father who raised and cared for his son on the mean streets of San Francisco and went on to become a crown prince of Wall Street. More than a memoir of Gardner's financial success, this is the story of a man who breaks his own family's cycle of men abandoning their children.</p>	<p>Because Garner is not a writer by trade, his writing is pretty easy to read. A film version exists.</p>
Makers Corey Doctorow Science Fiction	 <p>From the author of <i>Little Brother</i> comes a tale about a future America that has collapsed. It concerns two geeky trash-hackers who find inspiration in the growing pile of abandoned, technical junk. A commentary on commercialism and technology.</p> <p>Can be downloaded for free from the author: http://craphound.com/makers/download/</p>	<p>Written for young adults, though can be challenging. A little more complex than <i>Little Brother</i>. For lovers of technology.</p>
The Glass Castle Jeanette Walls Memoir	 <p>A captivating memoir about growing up with two loving, but highly flawed parents. Her father was brilliant, but an alcoholic. Her mother was a free spirit who cared more about her art than cooking for the family. The family moves too many times to recall and often suffer from the irresponsibility of the parents. Jeanette Walls grew up to be successful journalist for MSNBC and tells her fascinating, inspirational (and sometimes heartbreaking) story with generous affection.</p>	<p>A rather straight forward memoir, but the vocabulary can be a challenge for some.</p>
The Invention of Everything Else Samantha Hunt Fiction	 <p>A quirky and surreal historical novel about Nikola Tesla, the inventor of the radio and alternating current. Samantha Hunt intertwines real American history (Thomas Edison and Mark Twain make an appearance) with fictional accounts of time travel and pigeons. A cool portrait of 1943 New York City. This book is fun, funny, and ultimately, a sweet love story.</p>	<p>The depth of the novel may be lost without a little historical knowledge about Tesla. Look him up!</p>

Summer Reading Choices for Students Entering the Eleventh Grade

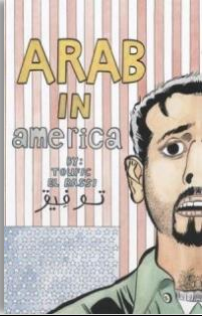
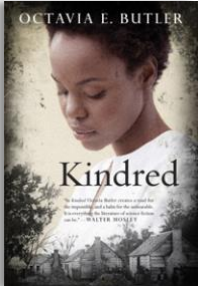
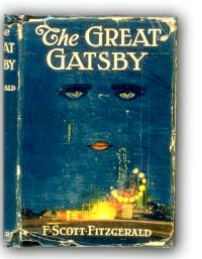
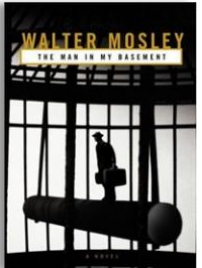
Because you will be studying US History in eleventh grade, each of your summer reading choices are in some way related to American themes or American history.

Requirements:

You must read two of the following books. There will be a writing assignment the second week of school that will require you to be familiar with these books.

Disclaimers:

- Film versions exist for some of these titles. While it is okay to watch the movie versions, it is not okay to assume that watching the movie is a substitute for reading the book.

Book Title and Author	Description	Difficulty Level
Arab in America Toufic El Rassi Memoir/Graphic Non-fiction	 <p>The real-life story of an average Arab-American struggling with his identity in an increasingly hostile nation. From childhood through adolescence, and as an adult, Toufic El Rassi illustrates the prejudice and discrimination Arabs and Muslims experience in American society. He faces ignorant teachers, racist neighbors, bullying classmates, and a growing sense of alienation. Most easy to find on Amazon.com.</p>	<p>Wordy passages and a few history lessons make this an occasional challenge, but the comic format makes it easier to understand.</p>
Kindred Octavia Butler Science Fiction	 <p>A peculiar tale of time travel. A modern black woman mysteriously gets pulled into the pre-Civil War South and saves the life a plantation owner's son. A novel about the effects of slavery and modern day race relations in America. First published in 1979.</p>	<p>The language is accessible, making this a fairly easy read.</p>
The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald Fiction	 <p>Often considered one of the greatest American novels ever written, <i>The Great Gatsby</i> tells the tale of a man who reinvents himself for love. Set in the wealthy, fast times of the 1920s, <i>Gatsby</i> is also melancholic in the best of ways. A great novel to use on the English Regents exam.</p>	<p>Fitzgerald's highly descriptive, poetic writing can make some impatient, but the novel is commonly read in the 10th grade. A film version exists.</p>
The Man in My Basement Walter Mosely Fiction	 <p>A black man who falls upon financial hard times accepts a strange request from a wealthy white man – to keep him prisoner in his basement so that he can atone for his sins. A very unique storyline that deals explicitly with race relations and racial identity.</p> <p>Contains some mature scenes.</p>	<p>The novel is written for adults, but Mosely, who mostly writes mysteries, has a pretty accessible style.</p>