



## **The Woodlands College Park Summer Reading Assignment** **Approval Letter to Parents - Due May 9th**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As a part of the College Park 9th grade English curriculum, each student is expected to select an individual, independent novel from a list of pre-approved titles. Students are responsible for reading the book and completing an assignment that will prepare them for the first 9-week assessment.

The primary objective of this assignment is to allow students to choose and read books that interest them. However, because each parent feels differently about what is appropriate for their own child, we require all students to have their book approved first by you. Please see the back of this letter for a brief summary of each novel.

When you are approving your student's selection, please look it over to ensure that the content of the novel is appropriate for your student. If you have objections, have your student choose another book. Once you have approved the book, please sign the provided book approval form.

*Your student will be responsible for providing a copy of the book that you both choose from the list. Please make sure you purchase the correct ISBN number for the chosen book, as there are many different editions of some of the selections.*

Once a student has returned the parent consent form to their 8th grade teacher, he or she will be given clearance to begin the book study. We want your student to feel as though he or she is reading material that is interesting to him or her but is also challenging.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Allred

Mrs. Diaz

Ms. Oliver

Mrs. Scott

Ms. Mahmoud

**Summer Reading Book Approval Form**

**The form is due by May 9th!**

Students – Complete the top portion of the form before giving to parents or teachers.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Book Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Pages:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Parents – Please do not sign a blank form or a form that is not completely filled out above. Please ask your student to show you the letter that accompanies this form.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am aware that my child will be reading the above named book in connection with their English I class. I understand that this book was selected by my child, and by signing this form, I give my student permission to read this book. I understand I am approving the content of this book.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary of Titles for Summer Reading - Due May 9th**

\*\*\* Please research these books further with your student/parent before making a final decision \*\*\*

***Peak* by Roland Smith, pages: 256**

**ISBN- 0152062688 (\$4.98 on Amazon)**

**Teacher Rating:** PG for mild language

**Summary:** 14-year old Peak Marcello is in big trouble. When he is caught climbing the Woolworth Building in New York City, his mother makes a deal that will keep him out of jail. But the deal includes Peak leaving New York and his family to live in Thailand with his famous mountain climber father, Josh. What Peak and his mother do not know is that Josh is planning for Peak to become the youngest climber ever to summit Everest. As Peak becomes aware of his father's plan, he wonders whether his father truly loves him or whether he is using him to gain more publicity and fame for himself.

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, pages 229**

**ISBN-9780316013697 (\$9.45 on Amazon)**

**Teacher Rating:** PG-13 for teenage content

**Summary:** Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. The novel chronicles the struggles of an oddball teenage boy as he comically attempts to find his place in an imperfect world.

***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, pages 464**

**ISBN- 0062498533 (\$10.79 on Amazon)**

**Teacher Rating:** PG-13 for language and politically charged topics

**Summary:** Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

***Butter* by Erin Jade Lange, pages 320**

**ISBN- 978-1619631212 ( \$6.63 on Amazon)**

**Teacher Rating:** PG-13 for dark humor

**Summary:** A lonely obese boy, who everyone calls "Butter," is about to make history. He is going to eat himself to death—live on the Internet—and everyone is invited to watch. When he first makes the announcement online to his classmates, Butter expects pity, insults, and possibly sheer indifference. What he gets are morbid cheerleaders rallying around his deadly plan. Yet as their dark encouragement grows, it begins to feel a lot like popularity. And all of the sudden, maybe this plan doesn't seem like such a good idea.

***I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sánchez, pages 352****ISBN: 1442472421 (\$12.32 on Amazon)****Teacher Rating:** PG-13 for language

**Summary:** Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. But it isn't long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story?

***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, pages 544****ISBN- 978-1501173219 ( \$13.60 on Amazon)****Teacher Rating:** PG for mild war related violence

**Summary:** Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. Meanwhile in a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister and is enchanted by stories and places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing electronic instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to help the Nazis. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another even in dire and uncontrollable circumstances.

***Unwind* by Neal Shusterman, pages 384****ISBN- 978-1416912057 ( \$7.31 on Amazon)****Teacher Rating:** PG-13 for dystopian ideas

**Summary:** The Second Civil War was fought over reproductive rights. The chilling resolution: Life is inviolable from the moment of conception until age thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, parents can have their child "unwound," whereby all of the child's organs are transplanted into different donors, so life doesn't technically end. Connor is too difficult for his parents to control. Risa, a ward of the state, is not enough to be kept alive. And Lev is a tithe, a child conceived and raised to be unwound. Together, they may have a chance to escape, to survive, and to change their society.

***Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, pages 224****ISBN- 978-1451696196 ( \$10.49 on Amazon)****Teacher Rating:** PG-13 for mature subject matter

**Summary:** Observant "wallflower" Charlie charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.