World Literature is the study of texts from different regions of the world throughout history. 10th grade students are asked throughout the year to read books and understand the implications of political and religious impact on the time period and the social commentary that books can play in said time period.

Even though this year looks different, we still encourage students to read in whatever way possible. Not only is reading pivotal for academic success, it is more importantly a way for students to immerse themselves in a story outside their own and it can be helpful for social and emotional stress. As 10th grade teachers, we hope that students will choose a book (or two!) that interests them to read this summer.

We've put together a list of books that different 10th grade teachers love in order to give you some inspiration for reading. These books are some of our favorites but are simply suggestions. Find a book YOU love and keep reading!

**Staff Suggestions and Books We LOVE**

*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck (1947). A short novella about the dangers and evils of greed, set in southern California and Mexico.

*Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds (2017). An award-winning book about a young boy’s decision to avenge the death of his brother in a gang-related shooting. The book is written in poetic verse rather than standard prose but is very easy to follow.

*The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson (2003). A historical non-fiction book detailing the architectural endeavors required to bring the 1893 World’s Fair to Chicago. Oh, and also, America’s first serial killer, H.H. Holmes, is a central figure in the book, killing people and cremating them in a hotel basement.

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* (2007) by Khaled Hosseini. Set in Afghanistan from the early 1960s to the early 2000s, the story follows two women with intertwining stories who meet and become a family in an unexpected way. This book pulls you in and has you cheering for the characters to overcome their circumstances throughout.

*In the Time of the Butterflies* (1994) by Julia Alvarez. A work of historical fiction based on the lives of the four Mirabal sisters, who participated in underground efforts to topple Rafael Leonidas Trujillo’s three-decade-long dictatorial regime in the Dominican Republic.

*I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* (2017) by Erika Sanchez. A poignant but often laugh-out-loud funny contemporary YA about losing a sister and finding yourself amid the pressures, expectations, and stereotypes of growing up in a Mexican-American home.

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (2004) by Mark Haddon about a boy with autism who sets out to solve the murder of a neighbor’s dog and discovers unexpected truths about himself and the world. This book is incredibly funny and surprising.
There are lots of ways to access reading materials and audio books even while we are uncertain about what will be open this summer!

Another option is the visit OverDrive.com or download the OverDrive “Libby” app. Here, you can get a Gwinnett County Library Card online and then rent eBooks and audiobooks to read online or hardcover books and pick-up at any library brand. It’s free and easy to access!

Enjoy ebooks and audiobooks for free through your local public library or school

You can search for your nearest library branch and sign-in or scroll to the bottom and hit “Need a Library Card?” to create one.

We hope this list helps you get started on your summer reading adventures!

Brookwood HS 10th Grade Language Arts Teachers