

## ENGLISH I – SUMMER READING 2024

Choose ONE of the following books to read:

*Rocket Boys* (also called *October Sky*) by Homer Hickam

- This is Homer (Sonny) Hickam Jr.'s memoir of his life growing up in West Virginia, the son of a coal mine superintendent. In 1957, he is inspired by Sputnik to learn how to build rockets. Sonny and his friends are encouraged by their chemistry teacher.

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle

- In London, 1889, Dr. James Mortimer asks for the aid of Sherlock Holmes, recounting the legend of a curse that has run in the Baskerville family since the time of the English Civil War, when Sir Hugo Baskerville kidnapped a farmer's daughter. When the girl escaped, Hugo made a deal with the devil and pursued her.

*Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein

- “Verity” is arrested by the Gestapo after the plane she and her best friend Maddie were flying is shot down in enemy territory. She is living a spy’s worst nightmare. This is a visceral read of danger, resolve, and survival that reveals just how far true friends will go to save each other.

*Monster* by Walter Dean Myers

- Steve Harmon, a Black, 16-year-old growing up in Harlem, tells his story of being put on trial for robbery and murder. The novel is written in a multimodal format, in both third-person as a film screenplay and a first-person view via Steve's personal diary entries.

*I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith

- Through six turbulent months of 1934, 17-year-old Cassandra Mortmain keeps a journal, filling three notebooks with sharply funny yet poignant entries about her home, a ruined Suffolk castle, and her eccentric and penniless family. By the time the last diary shuts, there have been great changes in the Mortmain household, not the least of which is that Cassandra is deeply, hopelessly, in love.

*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

- In 2045 the planet is on the brink of chaos and collapse, but people find salvation in the OASIS: an expansive virtual reality universe created by eccentric James Halliday. When Halliday dies, he promises his immense fortune to the first person to discover a digital Easter egg that's hidden somewhere in the OASIS. When young Wade Watts joins the contest, he finds himself becoming an unlikely hero in a reality-bending treasure hunt through a fantastical world of mystery, discovery and danger.

*Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green

- The story centers on 16-year-old Aza Holmes, an American high school student with OCD and anxiety, and her search for a fugitive billionaire who happens to be a neighbor's father. She is grieving the loss of her own father while a budding relationship grows between her and the billionaire's son.

In choosing your book, go online to read more reviews and synopses before choosing the book that best suits you as each one is from a different genre and is about a different topic. Some are more modern than others; some have more adult language and situations than others. Do some research to choose the book that you feel you will enjoy most and with which you (and your parents) are most comfortable.

Once you've read your book or as you are reading it, make some notes about the following things: the plot, the characters, the theme(s), the conflict(s), quotes you think are important or find interesting. These notes will be helpful for completing the assessments we'll do during the first week or so of school.

When school begins, you will fill in a plot diagram, a character chart, and a conflict chart on your book. Then you will work with a partner who has read the same book on a creative "one-pager" project during the first week or so of class.

Any questions? E-mail me at [cwilliams@fenwickfalcons.org](mailto:cwilliams@fenwickfalcons.org).

Happy Summer Reading!! And I'll see you in August.

Mrs. Celena Williams