Incoming 11A Students
Students entering English 11A are required to read TWO books (ONE from each of the lists below). Students will need to bring their annotated books to class during the first two weeks of school. We expect that students will have annotated their books. If using library books, students should record their insights and observations in a journal/notebook. Make sure that you note the page numbers.

List A
- East of Eden John Steinbeck
- The Bonesetter's Daughter Amy Tan
- Cat's Cradle Kurt Vonnegut
- The Kitchen House Kathleen Grissom
- The Bread Givers Anzia Yezierska
- The Namesake Jhumpa Lahiri

List B
- A Walk Across America Peter Jenkins
- No Impact Man Colin Beavan
- The Glass Castle Jeanette Walls
- Nickel and Dimed Barbara Ehrenreich
- Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis - J.D. Vance
- The Other Wes Moore Wes Moore

East of Eden - John Steinbeck
Steinbeck probes into the psyche of two brothers and their life long conflicts. This classic American novel has biblical parallels and is layered with symbolism that resonates truths about the human condition. Steinbeck is a master of characterization and detailed setting description.

The Bonesetter's Daughter - Amy Tan
Amy Tan’s novel brilliantly describes the complexities of a mother-daughter bond and the Chinese heritage they share. The book is filled with at first unsolved mysteries, history, religion, and culture. The patient reader will be richly rewarded as the puzzle pieces of so many lives come together.

Cat's Cradle - Kurt Vonnegut
Vonnegut’s clever and biting satire of American life is intentionally irreverent as it pokes fun at both science and religion. This witty author does not shy away from confronting the vulgarity he observes around him, and he is sophisticated in his treatment of mature themes. This book is hilarious to some readers and decidedly unfunny to others.

The Namesake - Jhumpa Lahiri’s book details a father and mother, a son and daughter: two generations of a typical Bengali-American family, poised uneasily atop the complex and confounding fault lines common to the immigrant experience.

The Kitchen House - Kathleen Grissom
Grissom tells the tale of a white servant girl who violates the order of plantation society. Orphaned while onboard ship from Ireland, seven-year-old Lavinia arrives on the steps of a tobacco plantation where she is to live and work with the slaves of the kitchen house. Under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate daughter, Lavinia becomes deeply bonded to her adopted family, though she is set apart from them by her white skin.

The Bread Givers - Anzia Yezierska
Yezierska’s novel portrays the struggles of a Jewish immigrant family in the early 1920s as they attempt to deal with life in the “new world.” Part of the conflict centers on the battles between the main character and her father who tenaciously holds onto his values from the “old country.”

A Walk Across America - Peter Jenkins
Peter Jenkins’ book, part travelogue and part memoir, captures the journey he makes down the Appalachian Trail during the 1970s. This is a local color story of the places Jenkins visits and the people he meets as he seeks to find what’s good about America.

No Impact Man - Colin Beavan
Colin Beavan’s story of how he swore off plastic and toxins, turned off his electricity, went organic, became a bicycle nut, and tried to save the planet from environmental catastrophe for one year.

The Glass Castle - Jeanette Walls
As a successful journalist, Jeanette Walls, discloses the inhumane conditions of her childhood at the hands of irresponsible parents. With each move, the family's lifestyle deteriorates to the point that Walls and her siblings escape from their parents’ care. The Glass Castle is a story of survival and being able to live successfully as an adult by coming to terms with a damaging childhood.
**Nickel and Dimed** - Barbara Ehrenreich
Ehrenreich composes a non-fiction report about the class system in contemporary America. The author goes “undercover” and takes low wage jobs to uncover injustices and to report on them.

**Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis** – J.D. Vance
A deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.

**The Other Wes Moore** – Wes Moore
Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question.