

11th GRADE AMERICAN LITERATURE SUMMER READING LIST (Pick ONE)

Stephen Ambrose

Lewis & Clark: Voyage of Discovery

255 pages

Photographs and text help chronicle the expedition Meriwether Lewis and William Clark took from the Missouri river to the Pacific ocean in 1803.

Nixon: The education of a politician

752 pages

A biography of Richard Nixon, covering the first fifty years of his life, from his birth in 1913 to his political defeats in 1960 and 1962.

Undaunted Courage : Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West.

521 pages

Using exhaustive research, Ambrose writes an amazing historical novel about Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery.

Dan Brown

The da Vinci Code (Lexile: 850)

454 pages

Investigating the murder of a Louvre curator, Harvard symbolologist Robert Langdon and French cryptologist Sophie Neveu find clues painted into a Da Vinci work, inadvertently uncovering a plot involving the Holy Grail and the secret society known as the Priory of Sion.

Deception Point

557 pages

White House intelligence analyst Rachel Sexton is thrust into a life-or-death situation when she travels to the Arctic to investigate the discovery of a rare meteorite that might prove the existence of extraterrestrial life, and finds instead evidence of scientific trickery.

Digital Fortress

639 pages

Cryptographer Susan Fletcher finds herself fighting for her country, her life, and the life of the man she loves when she is called in by the National Security Agency to decipher a mysterious code and discovers a plot that has the power to cripple U.S. intelligence.

Tom Clancy

The cardinal of the Kremlin

547 pages

Jack Ryan, CIA analyst, must rescue Colonel Filitov, America's highest agent in the Kremlin, from the KGB as the race to build the first Star Wars missile defense system continues.

Stephen King

It (Lexile: 970)

1,093 pages

In 1985, six men and one woman are called back to Derry, Maine search for a creature of unspeakable evil that had stalked them as children.

On writing: a memoir of the craft (Lexile: 1110)

288 pages

Stephen King reflects on how his writing has helped him through difficult times and describes various aspects of the art of writing.

Wally Lamb

She's come undone (Lexile: 760)

465 pages

A series of tragedies, including the death of her baby brother, her parent's divorce, her mother's nervous breakdown, and her own rape at the age of thirteen, leaves Dolores Price wounded both mentally and physically, but she miraculously finds the strength to give herself one more chance at life and love.

Cormac McCarthy

All the pretty horses (Lexile: 940)

301 pages

The story of young John Grady Cole, the last of a long line of Texas ranchers, who, along with two companions, sets off on an idyllic, sometimes comic adventure, to a place where dreams are paid for in blood.

The road (Lexile: 670)

241 pages

Traces the journey of a father and his son as they walk alone after a great fire has consumed the nation and left everything in ashes.

Toni Morrison

Beloved (Lexile: 870)

275 pages

Sethe, an escaped slave who now lives in post-Civil War Ohio, has borne the unthinkable and works hard at "beating back the past." She struggles to keep Beloved, an intruder, from gaining possession of her present while throwing off the legacy of her past.

The bluest eye (Lexile: 920)

215 pages

An eleven-year-old black girl in Ohio, in the early 1940s, prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be beautiful.

Tar baby

305 pages

A beautiful African-American woman of privilege finds herself attracted to the kind of man she has dreaded since childhood: uneducated, violent, and contemptuous of her.