

Advanced English 10 Suggested Summer Reading List

“We read to know we are not alone.” ~ C.S. Lewis

In Advanced English 10, we will be working with the memoirs below. During your semester in English, you will need to read one during the school year. We know that a lot of people like to read over the summer, so we wanted to offer this list to you in case you would like to add one to your own summer reading list.

1. ***Girl, Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen** - “In the late 1960s, the author spent nearly two years on the ward for teenage girls at McLean Hospital, a renowned psychiatric facility. Her memoir encompasses horror and razor-edged perceptions, while providing vivid portraits of her fellow patients and their keepers.”
2. ***A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah** - “The devastating story of war through the eyes of a child soldier. Beah tells how, at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he’d been picked up by the government army, and became a soldier.”
3. ***Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun* by Geoffrey Canada** - “Recreating his childhood world in the South Bronx and examining current crime legislation, the author offers an analysis of how a chain of events set in motion by 1960s drug laws has led to the child violence on the streets today.”
4. ***I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai** - “When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.” (Be sure to read the original - do NOT read the abridged version)
5. ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou** - “Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local “powhitetrash.” At eight years old and back at her mother’s side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime.”
6. ***The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow** - “Based on the extraordinary final lecture by Carnegie Mellon University professor Randy Pausch, given after he discovered he had pancreatic cancer, this moving book goes beyond the now-famous lecture to inspire readers to live each day with purpose and joy.”
7. ***Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi** - “Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *Persepolis* is Marjane Satrapi’s memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah’s regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.”

8. ***Flags of Our Fathers* by James Bradley & Ron Powers** - “In this unforgettable chronicle of perhaps the most famous moment in American military history, James Bradley has captured the glory, the triumph, the heartbreak, and the legacy of the six men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima. Here is the true story behind the immortal photograph that has come to symbolize the courage and indomitable will of America.”
9. ***Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* by Ben Carson** - “Gifted Hands by and about Ben Carson, M.D., is the inspiring story of an inner-city kid with poor grades and little motivation, who, at age thirty-three, became director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University Hospital.”

All book descriptions are from [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com)