

PILLOW ACADEMY 2019 SUMMER READING

2019 Pillow Academy Summer Reading 10th Grade Honors (English II)

Rising 10th grade Honors students will read three books this summer: Two books are required, and the other selection is a book of choice. A test will be given on one of the required books (*Big Fish*) on the first full day of school in August, and an assignment to be completed over the summer for the other required book (which will be chosen from the list below) will also be due on the first full day of school in August. In addition, an assignment (to be completed over the summer) for the book of choice will be due on the first half day of school.



Required book:

***Big Fish* by Daniel Wallace**

In his prime, Edward Bloom was an extraordinary man. He could outrun anybody. He never missed a day of school. He saved lives and tamed giants. Animals loved him, people loved him, women loved him. He knew more jokes than any man alive. At least that's what he told his son, William. But now Edward Bloom is dying, and William wants desperately to know the truth about his elusive father—this indefatigable teller of tall tales—before it's too late. So, using the few facts he knows, William re-creates Edward's life in a series of legends and myths, through which he begins to understand his father's great feats and his great failings. The result is hilarious and wrenching, tender and outrageous.

- Read *Big Fish* by Daniel Wallace carefully.
- A test on the book will be given on the first full day of school in August.

For the second required book, choose ONE work from the following list:

***Soldier's Pay* by William Faulkner**

Faulkner's first novel, *Soldiers' Pay* (1926), is among the most memorable works to emerge from the First World War. Through the story of a wounded veteran's homecoming, it examines the impact of soldiers' return from war on the people—particularly the women—who were left behind.

***Light in August* by William Faulkner**

Light in August, a novel about hopeful perseverance in the face of mortality, features some of Faulkner's most memorable characters: guileless, dauntless Lena Grove, in search of the father of her unborn child; Reverend Gail Hightower, who is plagued by visions of Confederate horsemen; and Joe Christmas, a desperate, enigmatic drifter consumed by his mixed ancestry.

***As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner**

As I Lay Dying is Faulkner's harrowing account of the Bundren family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Narrated in turn by each of the family members—including Addie herself—as well as others the novel ranges in mood,

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from dark comedy to the deepest pathos. Considered one of the most influential novels in American fiction in structure, style, and drama, *As I Lay Dying* is a true 20th-century classic.

- Select and read your second required book from the list above.
- Students will complete the [Summer Reading Major Work Data Sheet](#) as their assignment for this novel. Download the form and follow the directions to type your answers to the questions.
- This assignment on the second required book will be turned in through Turn It In on the first full day of school.

10th grade Honors options for book of choice:

Choose one book from the [2019-2020 Pillow Academy Summer Reading Book of Choice List for Grades 10-12](#). See Mrs. Pillow for her approval of your choice. You will receive your assignment for your book of choice from Mrs. Pillow at that time. Selections are due by Friday, May 17.

- Completed book of choice assignments are due on the first half day of school.
- [Assignments for book of choice](#)

** Please Note: Summer reading selections are chosen based on literary merit and with high academic standards in mind. The books assigned by the English department at Pillow Academy represent a mix of classic and contemporary literature. Many books address complex situations and may contain adult themes and language. The attempt to expose students to challenging topics and issues is intended to serve as opportunities for students to think, theorize, question, and explore.*