

# PILLOW ACADEMY 2019 SUMMER READING

## 2019 Pillow Academy Summer Reading 9<sup>th</sup> Grade (English I)



Rising 9th graders will read two books this summer: One book is required, and the other selection is a book of choice. A test will be given on the required book on the first full day of school. 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:

#### ***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

- Read ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee carefully.
- As you read, you may want to take notes on the following to prepare for the test:

Author	Foreshadowing
Characters	Conflict
Point of view	Theme
Setting	Characterization
Symbolism	Plot
- A test on the book will be given on the first full day of school in August.

### Book of choice:

Choose ONE book of choice from the list below to read. Students should select a book that they have not already read. The assignment for the book of choice is an assignment on characterization. This assignment is due the first half day of school in August.

- Select and read your book of choice from the list below.
- Make notes as you read to help you remember what happens in the book.
- Choose 2 characters from your book, record evidence from the text (5 quotes or 5 specific examples) about each character, and explain what you can infer about each character. Document the page number from each piece of evidence.
  - Characterization is how an author reveals the characteristics, qualities, actions, behaviors, physical appearances, personality types, morals and values of a character.
- The assignment on the book of choice will be due on the first half day of school in August.

### 9th grade options for book of choice: ***A Time to Kill* by John Grisham**

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The life of a ten-year-old girl is shattered by two drunken and remorseless young men. The mostly white town of Clanton in Ford County, Mississippi, reacts with shock and horror at the inhuman crime. Until her black father acquires an assault rifle and takes justice into his own outraged hands. For ten days, as burning crosses and the crack of sniper fire spread through the streets of Clanton, the nation sits spellbound as young defense attorney Jake Brigance struggles to save his client's life—and then his own.

### ***The Firm* by John Grisham**

When Mitch McDeere signed on with Bendini, Lambert & Locke of Memphis, he thought that he and his beautiful wife, Abby, were on their way. The firm leased him a BMW, paid off his school loans, arranged a mortgage, and hired the McDeeres a decorator. Mitch should have remembered what his brother Ray—doing fifteen years in a Tennessee jail—already knew: You never get nothing for nothing. Now the FBI has the lowdown on Mitch's firm and needs his help. Mitch is caught between a rock and a hard place, with no choice—if he wants to live.

### ***The Testament* by John Grisham**

Troy Phelan is a self-made billionaire, one of the richest men in the U.S. He is also eccentric, reclusive, confined to a wheelchair, and looking for a way to die. His heirs, to no one's surprise—especially Troy's—are circling like vultures. Nate O'Reilly is a high-octane Washington litigator who's lived too hard, too fast, for too long. His second marriage is in a shambles, her is emerging from his fourth stay in rehab armed with little more than his fragile sobriety, good intentions, and resilient sense of humor. Returning to the real world is always difficult, but this time it's going to be murder. Rachel Lane is a young woman who chose to give her life to God, who walked away from the modern world with all its strivings, trappings and encumbrances and went to live and work with a primitive tribe of Indians in the deepest jungles of Brazil. In a story that mixes legal suspense with a remarkable adventure, their lives are forever altered by the startling secret of *The Testament*.

### ***The Chamber* by John Grisham**

In the corridors of Chicago's top law firm: Twenty-six-year-old Adam Hall stands on the brink of a brilliant legal career. Now he is risking it all for a death-row killer and an impossible case. Sam Cayhall is a former Klansman and unrepentant racist now facing the death penalty for a fatal bombing in 1967. He has run out of chances -- except for one: the young, liberal Chicago lawyer who just happens to be his grandson. While the executioners prepare the gas chamber, while the protesters gather and the TV cameras wait, Adam has only days, hours, minutes to save his client. For between the two men is a chasm of shame, family lies, and secrets -- including the one secret that could save Sam Cayhall's life...or cost Adam his.

### ***Calico Joe* by John Grisham**

It's the summer of 1973, and Joe Castle is the boy wonder of baseball, the greatest rookie anyone has ever seen. The kid from Calico Rock, Arkansas, dazzles Chicago Cubs fans as he hits home run after home run, politely tipping his hat to the crowd as he shatters all rookie records. Calico Joe quickly becomes the idol of every baseball fan in America, including Paul Tracey, the young son of a hard-partying and hard-throwing New York Mets pitcher. On the day that Warren Tracey finally faces Calico Joe, Paul is in the stands, rooting for his idol but also for his dad. Then Warren throws a fastball that will change their lives forever.

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### ***Bleachers* by John Grisham**

High school all-American Neely Crenshaw was probably the best quarterback ever to play for the legendary Messina Spartans. Fifteen years have gone by since those glory days, and Neely has come home to Messina to bury Coach Eddie Rake, the man who molded the Spartans into an unbeatable football dynasty. Now, as Coach Rake's "boys" sit in the bleachers waiting for the dimming field lights to signal his passing, they replay the old games, relive the old glories, and try to decide once and for all whether they love Eddie Rake—or hate him. For Neely Crenshaw, a man who must finally forgive his coach—and himself—before he can get on with life, the stakes are especially high.

### ***Bang the Drum Slowly* by Mark Harris**

Henry Wiggen, hero of *The Southpaw* and the best-known fictional baseball player in America, is back again, throwing a baseball "with his arm and his brain and his memory and his bluff for the sake of his pocket and his family." More than a novel about baseball, *Bang the Drum Slowly* is about the friendship and the lives of a group of men as they each learn that a teammate is dying of cancer.

### ***The Southpaw* by Mark Harris**

*The Southpaw* is a story about coming of age in America by way of the baseball diamond. Lefthander Henry Wiggen, six feet three, a hundred ninety-five pounds, and the greatest pitcher going, grows to manhood in a right-handed world. From his small-town beginnings to the top of the game, Henry finds out how hard it is to please his coach, his girl, and the sports page—and himself, too—all at once. Written in Henry's own words, this exuberant, funny novel follows his eccentric course from bush league to the World Series. Although Mark Harris loves and writes tellingly about the pleasures of baseball, his primary subject has always been the human condition and the shifts of mortal men and women as they try to understand and survive what life has dealt them.

### ***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

*The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

\* 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

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*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.*