

Every student taking 11 LC needs to read **two books** from this list of contemporary American novels over the summer. Some of you may not be scheduled for this class until 2nd semester, but you are still required to read the books of your choice over the summer. If you have the class 2nd semester, you will need review the texts before we begin discussing them.

As you read, pay close attention to what is distinctively American in the characters' experiences. Consider their perception of the world, others' perception of them, the obstacles they face, and to what degree the obstacles are overcome. You will fill out a graphic organizer for each novel while reading to help you keep track of these ideas. The reading and the organizers will be due by the end of the **second week of class**.

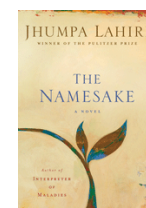
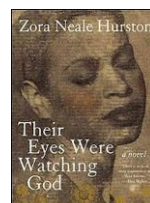
Many of these novels deal with controversial issues, as much of great literature does. If you have concerns about content in any of the books, please ask for guidance in choosing your novels.

If you have read any of these books in a previous English class, please choose something you have not read yet. If you are currently reading one of these novels, you may keep reading that for one of your books in this assignment.

You may substitute a different work from one of these authors.

## The Choices:

1. *The Things They Carried* – Tim O'Brien
2. *In the Lake of the Woods* – Tim O'Brien
3. *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy
4. *All the Pretty Horses* – Cormac McCarthy
5. *The Art of Fielding* – Chad Harbach
6. *Cold Mountain* – Charles Frazier
7. *The Glass Castle* – Jeanette Walls
8. *Into the Wild* – Jon Krakauer
9. *Into Thin Air* – Jon Krakauer
10. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* – Sherman Alexie
11. *The House on Mango Street* – Sandra Cisneros
12. *The Namesake* – Jhumpa Lahiri
13. *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* – Junot Diaz
14. *Beloved* – Toni Morrison
15. *The Bean Trees* – Barbara Kingsolver
16. *Everything is Illuminated* – Jonathan Safran Foer
17. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* – Jonathan Safran Foer
18. *The Beet Queen* – Louise Erdrich
19. *The Joy Luck Club* – Amy Tan
20. *The Old Man and the Sea* – Ernest Hemingway
21. *In Cold Blood* – Truman Capote
22. *Catcher in the Rye* – J.D. Salinger
23. *Slaughterhouse Five* – Kurt Vonnegut
24. *Their Eyes were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston
25. *Water for Elephants* – Sara Gruen
26. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* – Mark Haddon
27. *Americanah* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
28. *I Know why the Caged Bird Sings* – Maya Angelou
29. *Fast Food Nation* – Eric Schlosser
30. *Born to Run* – Christopher McDougall
31. *The Color Purple* – Alice Walker
32. *The Bell Jar* – Sylvia Plath
33. *Catch 22* – Joseph Heller
34. *Native Son* – Richard Wright
35. *The Mermaid Chair* – Sue Monk Kidd
36. *Fried Green Tomatoes: The Ballad of the Sad Café* – Fanny Flagg
37. *The Boys in the Boat* – Daniel James Brown
38. *Invisible Man* – Ralph Ellison
39. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* – Alex Haley
40. *Angela's Ashes* – Frank McCourt
41. *On Beauty* – Zadie Smith
42. *Drown* – Junot Diaz
43. *A Lesson Before Dying* – Ernest Gaines
44. *The Color of Water* – James McBride
45. *Black Like Me* – John Howard Griffin
46. *Between the World and Me* – Ta-Nehisi Coates
47. *How does it feel to be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America* – Moustafa Bayoumi
48. *White Noise* – Don DeLillo
49. *Middlesex* – Jeffrey Eugenides
50. *The World According to Garp* – John Irving



## **Summer Reading Homework:**

**Purpose:** to track the distinct American experiences of your main character.

**Directions:** Please print these documents. Then, fill out the following charts thoroughly (may use bullet points or complete sentences). You must include **two cited quotes** in **each box** to help you support your answers.

**Book One:** \_\_\_\_\_

<p>What are the main character's perception of the world?</p>	<p>How is the main character perceived by others?</p>
<p>What are the main obstacles the character faces?</p>	<p>To what extent are these obstacles overcome?</p>

**Book Two:** \_\_\_\_\_

What are the main character’s perception of the world?

How is the main character perceived by others?

What are the main obstacles the character faces?

To what extent are these obstacles overcome?