

Independent Reading and Research Project

You will be responsible for purchasing your own novel to read and research following guidelines that will be announced when I know more about how this semester will play out. I am telling you this now so that you have time to casually investigate the title that is right for you. It is District policy that you purchase one book independently; however, speak to me privately, or email me if you need some assistance with this (as the first ten titles are available through the school). You may buy new or used.

Pre-Approved Books for Contemporary Literature:

1. *Invisible Man* (1953) by Ralph Ellison
2. *On the Road* (1957) by Jack Kerouac
3. *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1962) by Ken Kesey
4. *The Bell Jar* (1963) by Sylvia Plath
5. *In Cold Blood* (1966) by Truman Capote
6. *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* (1982) by Anne Tyler
7. *The Color Purple* (1982) by Alice Walker
8. *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985) by Margaret Atwood
9. *Maus* (1986) by Art Spiegelman
10. *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
11. *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* (1962) by Shirley Jackson
12. *The Woman in Black* (1983) by Susan Hill
13. *The Golden Compass* (1995) by Philip Pullman
14. *Wicked* (1995) by Gregory Maguire
15. *Atonement* (2001) by Ian McEwan
16. *Ella Minnow Pea* (2001) by Mark Dunn
17. *The Lovely Bones* (2002) by Alice Sebold
18. *The Plot Against America* (2004) by Philip Roth
19. *Winter's Bone* (2006) by Daniel Woodrell
20. *Elizabeth Is Missing* (2014) by Emma Heley
21. *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrick Backman
22. *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
23. *The Dinner* by Herman Koch

If you have another title in mind, you must be prepared to convince me that it is appropriate for this class. At the very *least* it must fit the following criteria:

1. Be fiction
2. Be written within the past 50 years
3. Be 12th grade reading level or higher