ENGLISH 1 SUMMER READING—Suggested Books

**Crank by Ellen Hopkins**  Seventeen-year-old Kristina Snow is introduced to crank on a trip to visit her wayward father. Caught up in a fast-paced, frightening, and unfamiliar world, she morphs into "Bree" after she "shakes hands with the monster." Her fearless, risk-taking alter ego grows stronger, "convincing me to be someone I never dreamed I'd want to be." When Kristina goes home, things don't return to normal. Although she tries to reconnect with her mother and her former life as a good student, her drug use soon takes over, leaving her "starving for speed" and for boys who are dangerous. Written in free-verse poems this book paints painfully sharp images of Kristina/Bree and those around her, detailing how powerful the "monster" can be and compelling readers on to the next chapter in Kristina's spiraling world. This is a page-turner and a stunning portrayal of a teen's loss of direction and painful, uncertain future.

**Bonechiller by Graham McNamee**  WELCOME TO NOWHERE. Danny's dad takes a job as caretaker at a marina on the shore of a vast, frozen lake in Harvest Cove, a tiny town tucked away in Canada's Big Empty. If you're looking for somewhere to hide, this is it. It's the worst winter in years. One night, running in the dark, Danny is attacked by a creature so strange and terrifying he tries to convince himself he was hallucinating. Then he learns about Native American legends of a monster that's haunted the lake for a thousand years. And that every generation, in the coldest winters, kids have disappeared into the night. People think they ran away. Danny knows better. Because now the beast is after him.

**Slam by Walter Dean Myers**  On the basketball court 17 year old Greg "Slam" Harris is in control. The ball is an extension of his arms and his powerful legs allow him to elevate above the ground. Off the court however his life is a mess. His grandmother is on her death bed, his grades are horrible, and his best friend, Ice is possibly dealing crack. This is what Slam is facing in life. He wants to go to college then on to play for the NBA. Though his grades may prevent that. He's got some serious work to do both on and off the court if he wants to make it. The ultimate showdown pits friend against friend, Slam versus Ice and a battle that will change their lives forever.

**Mr. Tucket by Gary Paulsen**  Francis Tucket can't believe he has actually gotten the rifle he wanted for his birthday. The wagon train stops for a rest and Francis goes off to practice his shooting. Taken by surprise, Francis is captured by Pawnee Indians. He tries to escape but is not successful. Eventually, a trapper names Jason Grimes convinces the Pawnee to release Francis. Francis stays with Grimes and learns the way of the woodsman. Will he ever get back to his family? Will he be able to survive in the wilderness? Find out in this great Gary Paulsen adventure.

**The Amulet of Samarkand by Johathan Stroud**  Nathaniel is a young magician's apprentice, taking his first lessons in the arts of magic. But when a devious hotshot wizard named Simon Lovelace ruthlessly humiliates Nathaniel in front of everyone he knows, Nathaniel decides to kick up his education a few notches and show Lovelace who's boss. With revenge on his mind, he masters one of the toughest spells of all: summoning the all-powerful Djinni Bartimaeus. But summoning Bartimaeus and controlling him are two different things entirely, and when Nathaniel sends Bartimaeus out to steal the powerful Amulet of Samarkand, Nathaniel finds himself caught up in a whirlwind of magical espionage, murder, blackmail, and revolt. Set in a modern-day London spiced with magicians and mayhem, this extraordinary, funny, pitch-perfect thriller is perfect for fans of Artemis Fowl, Septimus Heap, and The Last Apprentice.

**Peeps by Scott Westerfeld**  One year ago, Cal Thompson was a college freshman more interested in meeting girls and partying in New York City than in attending his biology classes. Now, after a fateful encounter with a mysterious woman named Morgan, biology has become, literally, Cal's life. Cal was infected by a parasite that has a truly horrifying effect on its host. Cal himself is a carrier, unchanged by the parasite, but he's infected the girlfriends he's had since Morgan—and all have turned into the raving ghouls Cal calls peeps. The rest of us view them as vampires. And it's Cal's job to hunt them down before they can create even more of their kind...

**Be More Chill by Ned Vizzini**  Jeremy Heere is your average high school dork. Day after day, he stares at beautiful Christine, the girl he can never have, and dryly notes his former tormentors and has the attention of the hottest girls in school. But Jeremy eventually discovers that there is also a dark side to having a computer inside your brain—and it can have disastrous consequences.

**If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson**  Two 15 year-olds, Jeremiah (Miah) who is black and Elisha (Ellie) who is white, meet during their first year at an exclusive NY prep school and fall in love. Both teens are also dealing with difficult family situations. Miah’s father has left his mom for another woman. And Ellie is trying to fight through her feelings about her mother who has twice abandoned her family for extended periods. The teens must also deal with the subtle and not-so-subtle bigotry they are subject to as a bi-racial couple. The intensity of emotions will make hearts flutter, then ache as evidence mounts that Ellie's and Jeremiah's "perfect" love exists in a deeply flawed society. Knowing from the beginning that tragedy lies just around the corner doesn't soften the sharp impact of this wrenching book.

*Descriptions adapted from BarnesandNoble.com Reviews, Keane's Quick and Simple, and School Library Journal*
**PRE-AP/HONORS ENGLISH 1 SUMMER READING—Suggested Books**

**The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho**  
The story centers on both the physical and personal journey of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd-boy who dreams of a hidden treasure near the pyramids. Santiago journeys from the countryside of Spain, the streets of Tangiers and finally across the African desert, to the great pyramids of Egypt. The story begins with a gypsy woman who interprets Santiago’s dreams and tells him that he must go to Egypt to find his treasure. As he sets out to find it, he meets an array of spiritual guides who help him along the way: A king, a merchant, an Englishman, a woman of the desert and an alchemist. This novel tells a compelling story as Santiago pursues his treasure. It is about following your heart & trusting others to guide you along the way to realizing your destiny.

**Good Night, Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian**  
London is on the brink of World War II. Shy, skinny Willie Beech — the abused child of a single mother — is evacuated to the English countryside. At first, he is terrified of everything, of the country sounds and sights, even of Mr. Tom, the gruff, kindly old man who has taken him in. But gradually Willie forgets the hate and despair of his past. He learns to love a world he never knew existed, a world of friendship and affection. His old world of harsh words and daily beatings are only a thing of the past. That is, until a telegram comes. Willie is told that he must leave Mr. Tom and must return to his mother in London. When weeks pass by with no word from Willie, Mr. Tom who is worried for Willie’s safety, sets out for London to look for the young boy he has come to love as a son.

**The Iliad by Homer**  
Homer’s **Iliad** tells the story of the darkest episode of the Trojan War. At its center is Achilles, the greatest warrior-champion of the Greeks, and his conflict with his leader Agamemnon. The tragic sequence of events in this work, include powerfully moving descriptions of the agony & bloodshed of battle, the city of Ilium— under siege, the feud between the Greek gods, & the fate of all mankind, hanging in the balance.

**The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova**  
Late one night, a 16-year-old girl, she discovers a mysterious book and collection of letters in her father’s library — a discovery that will have dreadful and far-reaching consequences, and will send her on a journey of mind-boggling danger. While seeking clues to the secrets of her father’s past and her mother’s puzzling disappearance, she follows a trail from London to Istanbul to Budapest and beyond, and learns that the letters in her possession provide a link to one of the world’s darkest powers man has ever known. Generation after generation, the legend of Dracula has enticed and eluded both historians and opportunists alike. What does the legend of Vlad the Impaler have to do with the modern world? Is it possible that the Dracula of myth truly existed & that he has lived on, century after century, pursuing his own evil, unknowable ends? Now this young girl must undertake the same search that ended in the death and defilement of so many others — can she save her father from an unspeakable evil? Find out in The Historian.

**Long Day’s Journey into Night by Eugene O’Neill**  
**Long Day’s Journey Into Night** is an autobiographical play by Eugene O’Neill. The story takes place in the summer home of aging actor James Tyrone and his family. Tyrone, patterned after Eugene O'Neill's father James O'Neill, has long abandoned any hopes of becoming a truly great actor, choosing instead to tour in the same weary stage crew year after year. His wife, Mary feels worthless and retreats into a drug-induced haze. Oldest son Jamie is a troublemaking alcoholic, envious of the writing talent of his sickly younger brother Edmund. This play gives a shattering depiction of a day in the dreary life of this couple and their two sons. As the hellish night goes on, Mary sinks into hallucination and madness, father and sons confront each other in searing scenes that are truly tragic.

**Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass**  
This book opens by describing parts of Douglass’s life that he was never allowed to know: the identity of his father, the warmth & care of his mother (who was a stranger), & even his own date of birth. As a child, he suffered & observed savage beatings. As he grew, Douglass searched for ways to free himself. His mental freedom began when he was taught to read and write, realizing the power of literacy; his spiritual freedom came when he discovered Christianity and the will to resist his beatings; his physical freedom arrived when he finally escaped to the North. After his escape, Douglass committed himself to telling the world about those he left behind. Douglass shows us the fields, cabins & lives of many slaves to reveal the real human cost of slavery. He focused on the dehumanizing aspects of slavery: not just the beatings, but children taken from their mothers, the denying education, and the abuses of slave masters. He ends the book with this statement: “Sincerely and earnestly hoping that his little book may do something toward throwing light on the American slave system, and hastening the glad day of deliverance to the millions of my brethren in bonds...” The book was an incredible success: It has sold thousands of copies and has become an international bestseller.

**The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde**  
After having his portrait painted, Dorian Gray who lives in Victorian England, is captivated by his own handsomeness. Tempted, Dorian wishes to stay young forever and pledges his very soul to keep his good looks. As Dorian slides into a life of crime and his cr...