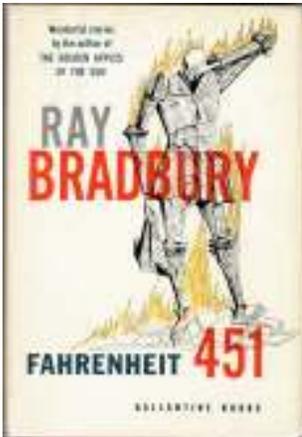


Welcome to high school English! As preparation for the start of the 2016-2017 school year, please select one novel from the list below that you feel you would most enjoy (as long as you have not previously read it). You are welcome to switch books if you change your mind, but be sure you are able to finish one of the novels before the start of the school year.

The novels below have been chosen based on relevance to English I unit themes, student interest level, and independent accessibility. Completion and comprehension will be assessed as school opens, with continued discussion and activities during the first few weeks of school. You are highly encouraged to annotate as you read. (See the back side of this handout for more information on annotating.)

By encouraging reading, the goal is to create lifelong learners as well as better readers, writers, listeners, and speakers.

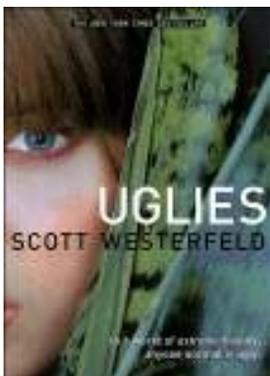


Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

This is the terrifyingly prophetic novel of a post-literate future. Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, as they are the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house? The Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those dissidents who defy society to preserve and read books. The classic dystopian novel, *Fahrenheit 451* stands alongside Orwell's *1984* and Huxley's *Brave New World* as a cautionary tale of Western civilization's enslavement by the media, drugs, and conformity. Bradbury's powerful and poetic prose combines with uncanny insight into the potential of technology to create a novel which, decades on from first publication, still has the power to dazzle and shock.

Steelheart by Brandon Sanderson

Ten years ago, Calamity came. It was a burst in the sky that gave some ordinary men and women extraordinary powers. The awed public started calling them Epics. But Epics are no friend of man. With incredible gifts came the desire to rule. And to rule man, you must crush his will. Nobody fights the Epics...nobody but the Reckoners. A shadowy group of ordinary humans, they spend their lives studying Epics, finding their weaknesses, and then assassinating them. And David wants in. He wants Steelheart — the Epic who is said to be invincible, the one who killed his father. For years, like the Reckoners, David has been studying and planning — and he has something they need. Not an object, but an experience. He's seen Steelheart bleed, and he wants revenge. *Steelheart* is a fast-moving, action-packed, clever take on superheroics, set at a time after supervillains have taken over the world. This dystopic young-adult novel is highly popular (4.15/5 Goodreads stars), on the "Florida Teen Reads" list for 2016, and the first of a series (in case you love it).



Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Everybody gets to be supermodel gorgeous. What could be wrong with that? Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. In just a few weeks, she'll have the operation that will turn her from a repellent Ugly into a stunning Pretty. And as a Pretty, she'll be catapulted into a high-tech paradise where her only job is to have fun. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to become a Pretty. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the Pretty world — and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally a choice: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. Tally's choice will change her world forever. A futuristic sci-fi that explores our culture's obsession with physical perfection, *Uglies* is a high-interest teen read from the *New York Times* bestseller list and the first in a series.

Annotation Guidelines

Annotating simply means making meaningful notes about what you read while reading. While there are many ways to annotate a text, there is no “right” way, but the method below is recommended. When marking on the text is not possible, use post-its (ensuring to note page numbers).

THINGS TO ANNOTATE:

Vocabulary: As you read, identify (e.g. circle) and define (in margin) any unknown words for which you cannot discover the meaning through context clues.

Summaries: Summarize main ideas or important plot events in the chunk of text that you just read. It is suggested that these be written, at a minimum, at the end of each chapter.

Literary Elements: Note the basic building blocks of the story. Determine the setting(s). Determine the point of view from which the story is being told. Track the characters and their development, adding new characters as they appear and noting their relationships with one another. Keep a running list of major plot points and conflicts. Write themes as they become apparent.

- Setting
- Character (Web)
- Themes
- Point of View
- Plot Points/Conflicts

Literary Analysis: Circle a word, underline a phrase/sentence, or bracket a paragraph(s) that struck you as significant, powerful, perplexing, revealing author’s purpose, or containing deeper meaning. This is what you will analyze in class. Please only annotate for literary devices with which you are familiar.

- Imagery (5 senses)
- Similes
- Repetition for Effect
- Personification
- Metaphors
- Irony

Personal Connections: Note anecdotes and personal connections you have between the characters, settings, events, etc.

Quotes/Excerpts: Note quotes or excerpts that resonate with you, for whatever reason.