



English Department West Seneca West Senior High School

June 2026

Dear Parents / Guardians of Students Entering English IV & English IV Alternatives:

Reading during the summer develops lifelong reading habits and it is an important part of West Senior's English curriculum.

The reading choices for students entering English IV/English IV alternatives are listed on the attached page and on West Senior's website. Students will complete a written assessment in English class during the first week of school. We recommend students take notes while reading their book and/or bring their book to class the first week. Students will be able to use their handwritten notes and/or the book during the written assessment.

Each grade level has a different list, so students should be sure to choose from the list that corresponds to the grade level they are entering in September. *Students entering Grade 9 Honors, English 10 Honors, English 11 Honors and 12 Honors/AP have a different assignment.* Students who are enrolled in one of those classes in the fall but did not receive the assignment specific to that class can access the correct assignment on West Senior's website under *School Resources* and then under *2026 Summer Reading List*.

The books on the list cover a wide range of reading levels and genres. If needed, students can receive help selecting a book from the list by speaking to their English teacher or Ms. Knaze, West Senior's school librarian, before the end of school in June. While students may want to purchase a copy of the book to bring it to school in September, it is also possible to borrow the book from the library or an English teacher. Depending on availability, students can check out their selected book from West Senior's library before school ends in June or borrow it from the public library. An electronic copy of the book may be obtained using SORA, accessible through the West Senior library's web site at <http://wswhs.wscschools.libguides.com/home>, or through the West Seneca Public Library's catalog of ebooks and via Overdrive at https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default. If students are borrowing a book/e-book from the library, they should take notes as they read to review before the in-class written assessment. *Students will not be permitted to use their phones to access ebooks or notes.*

We believe this program will enhance our students' reading skills. If students have any questions during the summer, they can email their previous English teacher or pcarlone@wscschools.org. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to an exciting and successful school year!

Sincerely,

The Faculty of the West Seneca West English Department

Summer Reading List for Students Entering English IV and English IV Alternatives, 2026

- *Tyrell* by Coe Booth
- *Blackout: A Novel* by Dhonielle Clayton and Tiffany Jackson
- *Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet* by Laekan Zea Kemp
- *Don't Hate the Player* by Alexis Nedd
- *Clean* by Amy Reed
- *Jackpot* by Nic Stone
- *Warcross* by Marie Lu
- *Little Thieves* by Margaret Owen
- *An Ember in the Ashes* by Sabaa Tahir
- *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by Laini Taylor
- *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys
- *The Eagle's Claw: A Novel of the Battle of Midway* by Jeff Shaara
- *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein
- *Devolution: A Firsthand Account of the Rainier Sasquatch Massacre* by Max Brooks
- *I Hunt Killers* by Barry Lyga
- *The Girls I've Been* by Tess Sharpe
- *The Darkest Corners* by Kara Thomas
- *Don't Look for Me* by Wendy Walker
- *The River Has Teeth* by Erica Waters
- *The Last Summer of You and Me* by Ann Brashares
- *Getting Over Max Cooper* by Marcelle Karp
- *I Kissed Shara Wheeler* by Casey McQuiston
- *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell
- *The Living* by Matt de la Peña
- *Survivor: A Novel* by Chuck Palahniuk
- *The Liar's Club* by Mary Carr
- *The Power of a Positive Team* by Jon Gordon
- *The First Wave: The D-Day Warriors Who Led the Way to Victory in WWII* by Alex Kershaw
- *No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row* by Susan Kuklin
- *Mox* by Jon Moxley
- *No Summit Out of Sight* by Jordan Romero
- *Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team* by Steve Sheinkin

Titles available from English Teachers:

- *Now Is the Time For Running* by Michael Williams
- *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer
- *Hole In My Life* by Jack Gantos
- *Beauty Queens* by Libba Bray
- *Impulse* by Ellen Hopkins
- *Shout* by Laurie Halse Anderson