

Taipei American School Upper School English Department
Summer Reading & Course Texts 2025-26

“We cannot help but be interested in the stories of people that history pushes aside so
thoughtlessly”-Min Jin Lee

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."
- Toni Morrison

“You don’t have anything if you don’t have stories”-Leslie Marmon Silko

Storytelling is an art that has long brought people together, within and across cultures and communities. The Taipei American School English Department believes in the power of stories to transform readers. Our reading lists are developed with a focus on sharing with students a diverse selection of voices and perspectives from around the world with the hope that our students will be enriched by and find pleasure in the books they read. Please note that AP, IB, and Honors courses include a summer reading text. You are expected to have read the assigned text prior to the start of the school year, and you will need a physical copy of your summer reading text in class. Students should expect that at the beginning of the school year their summer reading will either be evaluated through an in-class assessment or that the text will be integrated directly into the course curriculum.

ALL STUDENTS:

Students must purchase their books. **Please make sure to purchase the specific edition listed of each text.** Unless otherwise noted, all books should be obtained as soon as possible, ideally by the beginning of the school year. Students should allot the appropriate amount of time for a book shipment to arrive and should not rely on last-minute purchases at local bookstores, which may or may not have enough copies of a particular book. Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased. **A note on Kindles/E-readers: An assigned book may be purchased and read via Kindle only if so indicated (under “Kindle version?”)**; students are not permitted to use e-texts on their laptops, tablets, or phones in the classroom.

NEW STUDENTS:


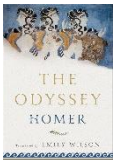


Please select the summer reading text from your grade level in what you anticipate will be your course. For instance, if you are entering grade 11 and are hoping to enroll in an Honors course, but you are uncertain if it will be Honors World Literature or Honors American Literature, choose the one that is most likely. Teachers will be flexible when they give assessments as some students will not know their final English placement until August. When classes begin, your teacher will arrange assessment of the summer text you read as needed. If possible, please get the correct edition of the summer reading text; however, teachers can be flexible with text editions for new students when necessary.

STUDENTS with TWO ENGLISH COURSES:

Students who have two English classes must read the summer text for one course. The student can choose which text, with the exception that those taking Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses must read the texts for these courses. Students may, of course, read both books.

ENGLISH 9

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Messy Roots 	Laura Gao	HarperCollins	978-0063067769	No
The Odyssey 	Homer, translated by Emily Wilson	Norton	978-0393356250	No
Romeo and Juliet 	William Shakespeare	Folger (paperback)	978-1451621709	No
The Hate You Give 	Angie Thomas	Walker Books	978-1406372151	No
Creative Nonfiction Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Writing and Mechanics Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

ENGLISH 10

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they may contain, which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Animal Farm	George Orwell	Signet	978-0451526342	No
Hunger	Lan Samantha Chang	W.W. Norton	978-1324064565	No
The Oedipus Cycle	Sophocles	Mariner	978-0156027649	No
The Tragedy of Macbeth	William Shakespeare	Simon & Schuster	978-1451694727	No
The Reluctant Fundamentalist	Mohsin Hamid	Harvest Books	978-0156034029	No
Poetry Selections	Various	Provided by teacher	N/A	No

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

HONORS ENGLISH 10

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Hunger	Lan Samantha Chang	W.W. Norton	978-1324064565	No
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Purple Hibiscus	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Algonquin books	978-0007189885	No
Frankenstein: the 1818 Text	Mary Shelley	Penguin Classics	978-0143131847	No
The Tragedy of Othello	William Shakespeare	Simon & Schuster	978-1501146299	No
Short Prose Selections	Various	Provided by teacher	N/A	No
Poetry Selections	Various	Provided by teacher	N/A	No

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
<p>Educated</p> 	Tara Westover	Random House Trade Paperbacks	978-0399590528	No
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
<p>Futureproof: 9 Rules for Humans in the Age of Automation</p> 	Kevin Roose	Random House Trade Paperbacks	978-0593133361	No
Social Change Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Essay and article selections	Various	Provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

AMERICAN LITERATURE

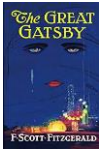
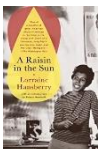
You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	Scribner	978-0743273565	No
When the Emperor Was Divine	Julie Otsuka	Anchor	978-0385721813	No
Interior Chinatown	Charles Yu	Knopf Doubleday	978-0307948472	No
Essay Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Short Story Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Poetry Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Little Fires Everywhere	Celeste Ng	Penguin Books	978-0735224315	Yes
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
The Great Gatsby 	F. Scott Fitzgerald	Scribner	978-0743273565	No
A Raisin in the Sun 	Lorraine Hansberry	Vintage	978-0679755333	No
Interior Chinatown	Charles Yu	Knopf Doubleday	978-0307948472	No
Hamilton: An American Musical	Lin-Manuel Miranda	Screened in class; Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
American Short Stories and Poetry Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Get Out	Jordan Peele	Screened in class; Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Everything Everywhere All at Once	Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert	Screened in class; Course reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Science Fiction Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

ASIAN LITERATURE

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Almond: A Novel	Won-pyung Sohn	HarperVia	978-0062961389	No
Tiny Moons: A year of Eating in Shanghai	Nina Mingya Powles	The Emma Press	978-1912915347	No
Green Island	Shawna Yang Ryan	Vintage	978-1101872369	No
Science Fiction Reader (stories and essays)	Ted Chiang	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Wawa no Cidal	Lekal Sumi, Yu-chieh Cheng	Screened in class; Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Food & Identity Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

HONORS ASIAN LITERATURE

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Tiny Moons: A year of Eating in Shanghai	Nina Mingya Powles	The Emma Press	978-1912915347	No
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Pachinko	Min Jin Lee	Grand Central Publishing	978-1455563920	No
Almond: A Novel	Won-pyung Sohn	HarperVia	978-0062961389	No
Raise the Red Lantern	Su Tong	Text provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Wawa no Cidal	Lekal Sumi, Yu-chieh Cheng	Screened in class; Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Parasite	Bong Joon-Ho	Screened in class; Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Food & Identity Reader	Various	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

WORLD LITERATURE

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
The Time Machine	H.G. Wells	Dover Thrift	978-0486284729	No
Tsotsi	Athol Fugard	Grove	978-0802142689	No
Iphigenia, Phaedra, Athaliah	Jean Racine	Penguin Classics	978-0140441222	Yes
Convenience Store Woman	Sayaka Murata	Grove	978-0802129628	Yes
Ramayana	R. K. Narayan	Penguin Classics	978-0143039679	Yes
The Metamorphosis and Other Stories	Franz Kafka	OUP	978-0199238552	Yes

HONORS WORLD LITERATURE

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
The Summer Book	Tove Jansson	NRYB Classics	978-1590172681	No
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Chronicle of a Death Foretold	Gabriel García Márquez	Vintage	978-1400034710	No
Convenience Store Woman	Sayaka Murata	Grove Press	978-0802129628	No
The Thing Around Your Neck	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Vintage	978-0307455918	No
The Lion and the Jewel	Wole Soyinka	Oxford University Press	978-0199110834	No
Selected Poems	Wisława Szymborska	Provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

IB ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (SL/HL) YEAR 1

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Interior Chinatown	Charles Yu	Knopf Doubleday	978-0307948472	No
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
The World's Wife	Carol Ann Duffy	Farrar, Straus and Giroux	978-0571199952	No
*The Bees	Carol Ann Duffy	Pan Macmillan/Picador	978-1509852925	No
Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants	Robin Wall Kimmerer	Milkweed Editions	978-1571313560	No
Wawa no Cidal	Lekal Sumi, Yu-chieh Cheng	Screened in class; Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
The Thing Around Your Neck	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Anchor Books	978-0307455918	No
Get Out: The Complete Annotated Screenplay	Jordan Peele	Inventory Press	978-1941753286	No
Non-literary works	Various	Provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

*This text is for HL students only (SL students do not need a copy).

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

IB ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (SL/HL) YEAR 2

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
*Taiwan Travelogue 	Shuang-zi Yang	Graywolf Press	978-1644453155	No
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Flee	Jonas Poher Rasmussen	Screened in class; Course reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Non-literary works	Various	Provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
We Do Not Part 	Han Kang	Hogarth	978-0593595459	No
Medea 	Euripides	Norton Critical Editions	978-0393265453	No
Raise the Red Lantern: Three Novellas 	Su Tong	William Morrow	978-0060596330	No
Chronicle of a Death Foretold 	Gabriel García Márquez	Vintage	978-1400034710	No

*This text is for HL students only (SL students do not need a copy).

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

IB ENGLISH LITERATURE (SL/HL) YEAR 1

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

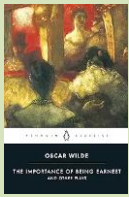
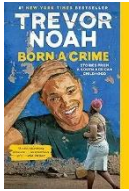

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Taiwan Travelogue 	Shuang-zi Yang	Graywolf Press	978-1644453155	No
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
The Thing Around Your Neck	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Anchor Books	978-0307455918	No
Raise the Red Lantern: Three Novellas 	Su Tong	William Morrow	978-0060596330	No
Small Things Like These 	Claire Keegan	Faber and Faber	978-0571368709	No
*Chronicle of a Death Foretold 	Gabriel García Márquez	Vintage	978-1400034710	No
Sula	Toni Morrison	Vintage	978-1400033430	No
Selected Poems	Wisława Szymborska	Reader provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

* This text is for HL students only (SL students do not need a copy).

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

IB ENGLISH LITERATURE (SL/HL) YEAR 2

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus assessments, as well as the pagination. Please do not purchase other paper or electronic editions.

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
*All the Light We Cannot See	Anthony Doerr	Scribner	978-1501173219	Yes
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Twelfth Night 	William Shakespeare	Simon & Schuster	978-0743482776	No
*The Importance of Being Earnest 	Oscar Wilde	Penguin Classics	978-0140436068	No
Born a Crime 	Trevor Noah	One World	978-0399588198	No
Ceremony 	Leslie Marmon Silko	Penguin Books	978-0143104919	No

* This text is for HL students only (SL students do not need a copy).

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

You must purchase the specific edition listed of these texts, including summer reading due to the critical material and explanatory notes they contain which will be part of the assigned reading and thus both assessments and the daily reading quizzes in this course. Please do not purchase other paper (or electronic) editions as reading a different edition will deprive you of essential information necessary for success in this course.

Summer Reading Text	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	W.W. Norton	978-0393264876	No
Course Texts	Author/Writer	Edition	Amazon ISBN-13	Kindle version?
Playground	Richard Powers	W.W. Norton	978-1324086031	No
Peach State	Adrienne Su	U. of Pittsburgh Press	978-0822966562	No
Death of a Salesman	Arthur Miller	Penguin	978-0140481341	No
Sweat	Lynn Nottage	TCG	978-1559365321	No
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	Penguin	978-0385474542	No
Beginning Theory	Peter Barry	Manchester University Press	978-1526121790	No
Interior Chinatown	Charles Yu	Knopf Doubleday	978-0307948472	No
W;t	Margaret Edson	Faber & Faber	978-0571198771	No
Oculus	Sally Wen Mao	Graywolf Press	978-1555978259	No
A Poetry Handbook	Mary Oliver	Ecco	978-0156724005	No
Exit West	Mohsin Hamid	Riverhead Books	978-0735212206	No
Critical Theory and Contextual Readers	various	Provider by teacher	N/A	N/A
Poetry	Various	Provided by teacher	N/A	N/A
Supplementary Course Reader (this includes the entire text of <u>The Importance of Being Earnest</u>)	Various	Provided by teacher	N/A	N/A

Texts highlighted in red will be provided by the teacher and do not need to be purchased.

ALL JOURNALISM COURSES
Summer Reading
Find and watch at least one movie/TV show about journalism. Some notable examples include "All the President's Men," "Shattered Glass," "Capote," "Good Night and Good Luck," "Kill the Messenger," "True Story," or "Spotlight." Alternatively, you can watch episodes from the TV show "The Newsroom" if you prefer. Please choose one that you have not seen before. You can find these titles available on Amazon, Google Play, Apple iTunes or wherever you prefer to rent movies.
There are no course texts required to be purchased for Journalism

ALL CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP COURSES: No texts need to be purchased in advance.
