MUS 11th-Grade Summer Reading List
Rising 11th graders should read three books over the summer. On his honor a student should choose books that he has not already read. Students will be tested on all three books during the first week of school. AP Language and Composition students are required to read at least 2 works of non-fiction.

Friday Night Lights by HG Bissinger. Non-fiction.
When journalist HG Bissinger spent a year in Odessa, Texas, he observed more than just the daily lives of the Permian Panther football team players, coaches, and fans. Indeed, he tried “to capture the other aspects of the town . . . the values about race and education and politics and the economy.” Though “Odessa is the setting of this book, . . . it could be anyplace in this vast land where, on a Friday night, a set of spindly stadium lights rises to the heavens to so powerfully, and so briefly, ignite the darkness.”

All Over But the Shoutin’ by Rick Bragg. Memoir.
Journalist Rick Bragg's memoir chronicles his journey from childhood poverty to adulthood acceptance of the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing at the New York Times. Bragg writes that his book is “the story of a strong woman, a tortured man and three sons who lived hemmed in by thin cotton and ragged history in northeastern Alabama.”

A study of friendship, human nature, and the American wilderness, this book chronicles travel writer Bill Bryson's attempt to walk the Appalachian Trail.

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote. Non-fiction.
Capote's chilling account of the murder of a young Kansas family and of their killers’ capture and imprisonment. Considered to be the first true crime novel.

Salvation on Sand Mountain by Dennis Covington. Non-fiction.
Journalist Dennis Covington is drawn into the lives and faith of the Church of Jesus with Signs Following in Scottsdale, Alabama, as he covers the trial of its pastor—accused of trying to murder his wife with the poisonous snakes they handle during worship services.

My Losing Season by Pat Conroy. Memoir.
Pat Conroy recalls his senior year at The Citadel, where he started for the basketball team. Conroy recalls, "I was born to be a point guard, but not a very good one."

Columbine by Dave Cullens. Non-fiction.
In this account of the massacre at Columbine High School, Cullens delves deeply into the minds of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, asking—and answering—the question: “Why?”

So Brave, Young, and Handsome by Leif Enger. Fiction.
A washed-up writer of Western fiction and a true-to-life ex-train robber team up for a strange journey across the American West.

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich. Non-fiction.
Over an expensive lunch of salmon and field greens, journalist Barbara Ehrenreich accepts an assignment: Join the American working poor and try to support herself on minimum wages.

The Good Soldiers by David Finkel. Non-fiction.
A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, David Finkel spent eight months in Baghdad with a battalion of US soldiers charged with securing “a balanced, secure and self-sufficient environment for the Iraqi people.”
**Confederates in the Attic** by Tony Horwitz. *Non-fiction.*

“Southerners are very strange about that war” (Shelby Foote). In this book you’ll go state to state in the South with a journalist determined to get to the bottom of Civil War obsession.

**King Leopold’s Ghost** by Adam Hochschild. *Non-fiction.*

In the late nineteenth century, King Leopold of Belgium exploited the Congo and its people, reducing the population by half. This is the story that King Leopold never wanted told. When he left, he said: "I will give them my Congo, but they have no right to know what I did there." (Recommended—but not required—by the History Department.)

**The Perfect Storm** by Sebastian Junger. *Non-fiction.*

This book is not only a riveting account of the fate of the Andrea Gail crew but also a study of the commercial fishing industry and the fishermen's relationship to their work and with the powerful sea.

**The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver. *Fiction.*

"We came from Bethlehem, Georgia, bearing Betty Crocker cake mixes into the jungle.” So begins the saga of the Price family, missionaries in Africa in the 1950's. Though Nathan Price, a Baptist minister, has made the decision to bring his family to the Congo, his wife and children narrate their dramatic experiences there.

**Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World** by Margaret McMillan. *Non-fiction.*

In 1919 the “Big Three”—President Wilson, Prime Minister Lloyd George, and Prime Minister Clemenceau—negotiated peace after the Great War. That settlement, of course, impacts the world today. In fact, “[s]o frequently do current events, particularly in the Balkans but also in the Middle East, take us back to the Paris Peace Conference that MacMillan's book often reads like a commentary on the daily newspaper” (The Washington Post). (Recommended—but not required—by the History Department.)

**1984** by George Orwell. *Dystopian fiction.*

In this dystopian novel, Winston Smith, civil servant in the Oceania province of Airstrip One, dares challenge the Party. Big Brother is watching you.

**The Omnivore’s Dilemma** by Michael Pollan. *Non-fiction.*

Journalist and activist Michael Pollan's work is "a wide-ranging invitation to think through the moral ramifications of our current eating habits. Pollan undertakes a pilgrim's progress along modern food chains, setting standards for ethical eating" (*The New Yorker*).

**Angle of Repose** by Wallace Stegner. *Fiction.*

Wheelchair-bound Lyman Ward looks into the past and finds the story of America in the experience of his grandparents who went West in the 19th century.

**The Once and Future King** (Parts 3 and 4) by TH White. *Fantasy.*

This is a fantasy novel about Lancelot, Guinevere, and the downfall of King Arthur and his Camelot.

**Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty** by Muhammad Yunus. *Non-fiction.*

With an original idea—micro-lending to the poor—Yunus set out to rid the world of poverty—to put “homelessness and destitution in a museum so that one day our children will visit it and ask how we could have allowed such a terrible thing to go on for so long.” Memphis Leaders selection.