

TENTH-GRADE SUMMER READING

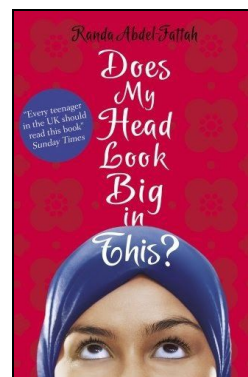
Culture

Throughout the tenth grade, you will be exploring the topic of culture. For your summer reading, choose one of the following books to read and construct a double-entry journal. When we return from school, you will be given a test over the book you read.

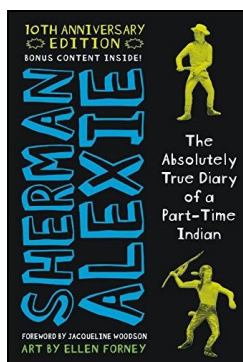
Does My Head Look Big in This? **By Randa Abdel-Fattah** **850L**

Sixteen-year-old Amal makes the decision to start wearing the hijab full-time and everyone has a reaction. Her parents, her teachers, her friends, people on the street. But she stands by her decision to embrace her faith and all that it is, even if it does make her a little different from everyone else.

Can she handle the taunts of "towel head," the prejudice of her classmates, and still attract the cutest boy in school? Brilliantly funny and poignant, Randa Abdel-Fattah's debut novel will strike a chord in all teenage readers, no matter what their beliefs.



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian **By Sherman Alexie** **600L**



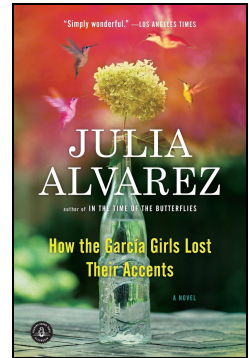
Sherman Alexie, in his first book for young adults, tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the reservation to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Heartbreaking, funny, beautifully written, semi-autobiographical, and coupled with poignant drawings that reflect the character's art, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* will continue to make a lasting impression for many years to come. Bonus content to include an introduction from National Book Award winner and *New York Times* bestselling author Jacqueline

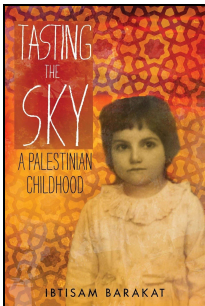
Woodson, a new author's note, an excerpt of a sequel from the character Rowdy's point of view, and more!

How the García Girls Lost Their Accents
By Julia Alvarez
950L

In this debut novel, the García sisters—Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofía—and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father's role in an attempt to overthrow a tyrannical dictator is discovered. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean. In the wild and wondrous and not always welcoming U.S.A., their parents try to hold on to their old ways, but the girls try find new lives: by forgetting their Spanish, by straightening their hair and wearing fringed bell bottoms. For them, it is at once liberating and excruciating to be caught between the old world and the new. *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* sets the sisters free to tell their most intimate stories about how they came to be at home—and not at home—in America.



Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood
By Ibtisam Barakat
870L

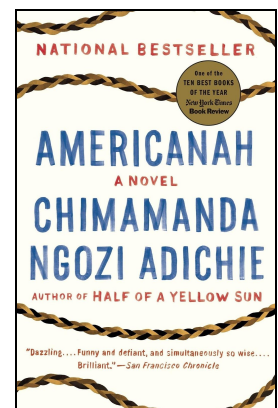


In this groundbreaking memoir set in Ramallah during the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War, Ibtisam Barakat captures what it is like to be a child whose world is shattered by war. With candor and courage, she stitches together memories of her childhood: fear and confusion as bombs explode near her home and she is separated from her family; the harshness of life in the Middle East as a Palestinian refugee; her unexpected joy when she discovers Alef, the first letter of the Arabic alphabet. This is the beginning of her passionate connection to words, and as language becomes her refuge, allowing her to piece together the fragments of her world, it becomes her true home.

Transcending the particulars of politics, *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood* is an illuminating and timely book that provides a telling glimpse into a part of the Middle East that has become an increasingly important part of the puzzle of world peace.

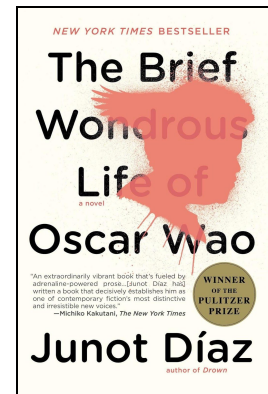
Americanah
By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
940L

Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.

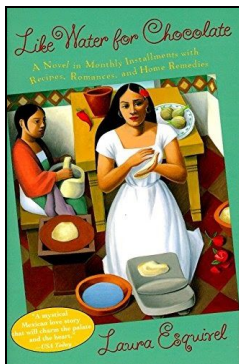


The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
By Junot Díaz
1010L

Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar's family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. Encapsulating Dominican-American history, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* opens our eyes to an astonishing vision of the contemporary American experience and explores the endless human capacity to persevere—and risk it all—in the name of love.



Like Water for Chocolate
By Laura Esquivel
1030L

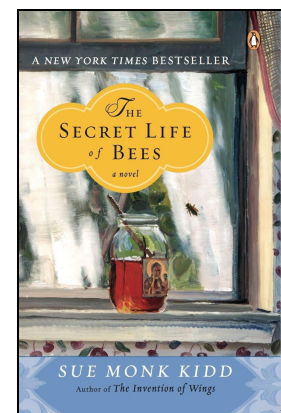


Earthy, magical, and utterly charming, this tale of family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico blends poignant romance and bittersweet wit.

This classic love story takes place on the De la Garza ranch, as the tyrannical owner, Mama Elena, chops onions at the kitchen table in her final days of pregnancy. While still in her mother's womb, her daughter to be weeps so violently she causes an early labor, and little Tita slips out amid the spices and fixings for noodle soup. This early encounter with food soon becomes a way of life, and Tita grows up to be a master chef, using cooking to express herself and sharing recipes with readers along the way.

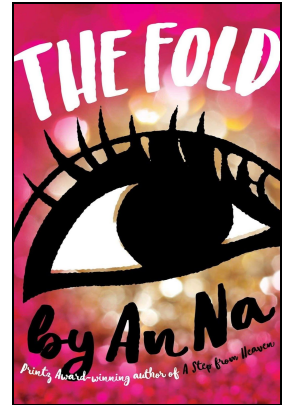
The Secret Life of Bees
By Sue Monk Kidd
840L

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.



The Fold
By An Na
700L

From master storyteller and Printz Award–winning author An Na comes a thoughtful novel about American beauty standards through the eyes of a Korean-American teenager who must decide how far she’s willing to go to be seen as beautiful.



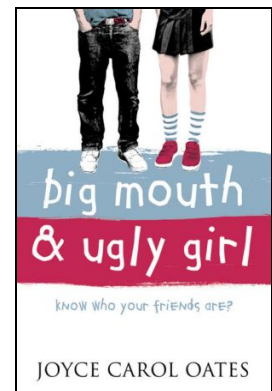
On the last day of her junior year, Joyce Park finally musters up the courage to ask her crush to sign her yearbook, but he can’t remember her name. Joyce questions whether she’ll ever be pretty or special enough to stand out, especially when her older sister, Helen, outshines her in every way. When Joyce’s plastic-surgery-crazed aunt wins the lottery and decides to help everyone in the family improve their looks, Joyce is offered the chance to have eyelid surgery to give her monolids a fold. Joyce is certain that this surgery could change her life, then she’ll look more like the typical white American beauty—the kind of girl her crush dates. But Joyce hates pain. Any pain. And while her best friend can’t believe she would give up the opportunity to change her looks, Joyce’s sister can’t believe she would even consider the surgery. Is fitting in worth going under the knife for?

Big Mouth and Ugly Girl
By Joyce Carol Oates
720L

Hard-hitting, page-turning and celebratory of friendship in unlikely circumstances, Joyce Carol Oates' sure touch with small town life hits home in her first young adult novel.

Matt Donaghy is the class joker, and Ursula Riggs is the misfit loner. Neither knows the other. But when Matt is suddenly arrested on a charge of threatening to blow up the school and massacre the students, Ursula is the only one who sees through the hysteria and hypocrisy, and corroborates Matt's story.

The case is dropped, but Matt's old friends avoid him, and his teachers treat him with kid gloves. Even Ursula, apparently his only friend during the crisis, can't meet his eye. But Ursula can't remain aloof when she catches Matt contemplating suicide and a strange friendship is born.



Double-Entry Journal

As students read, they will be responsible for keeping a double-entry journal. Five entries should be written about the first half of the book and five entries should be written about the second half of the book (for 10 entries total). Students may choose to record their entries electronically or on paper. That is their choice. However, they must format their entries like the following example...

passage copied from book	page number	personal response / commentary
"I knew that as Safina and I got older, we'd be expected to cook and clean for our brothers. We could become doctors because female patients. But we couldn't become lawyers or engineers, fashion designers or artists— or anything else we dreamed of. And we wouldn't be allowed to go outside our homes without a male relative to accompany us."	18	Wow! I didn't realize how different life in other countries can be. I think it's unfair that girls have limited opportunities and are expected to take care of their brothers. I can't imagine my mother or aunts not being allowed to go outside our home without a male relative to escort them. Life is very different for women in other parts of the world.

If you're having trouble thinking of what to write for your personal responses, try these sentence starters...

- I feel like...
- I wonder why...
- I predict that...
- When the character said, "... " it really struck me because...
- This reminds me of a time when...
- This part surprised me because...
- This part was significant because...

Students' journals will be graded on the following criteria:

Learning Target	4	3	2	1
Reading 9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text	Excellent Ideas and comments thoroughly explain all passages	Good Ideas and comments explain all passages	Satisfactory Ideas and comments explain most passages	Needs Improvement Ideas and comments explain some passages
Language 9-10.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing	Excellent All spelling, capitalization, and punctuation is correct	Good Few spelling, capitalization, and punctuation errors	Satisfactory Several spelling, capitalization, and punctuation errors	Needs Improvement Many spelling, capitalization, and punctuation errors
College and Career Readiness Student followed directions. Student met deadlines.	Excellent Submitted on time.	Good Submitted one day late.	Satisfactory Submitted two days late.	Needs Improvement Submitted three or more days late.