

British Literature Summer Reading 2023

Welcome to LaGrange Academy British Literature. I hope you will take this task seriously and choose books that truly interest you so that we can get off to a great start. If you have any questions at all regarding the assignment, please feel free to contact me at teresakrizay@lagrangeacademy.org.

Choosing the right books for you

Not all books are appropriate for all readers. Please note that some books may contain explicit language, sexual references, or mature subject matter. Thus, it is suggested that parents help their students make appropriate summer reading selections. To read descriptions and reviews of all the books, go to www.goodreads.com/book/explore.

This year we are trying something new. Attached is a list of books that are all slated to be made into movies. You are required to select a book from this list. If you find another book that interests you and is being made into a movie, you may contact me via email for approval switching books.

Below you will find the requirements for the summer reading project.

Requirement #1 – Read one (1) or more books

You are required to read **1 or more** books by the first day of class. The number of pages read must exceed 300 pages. You may read one book that exceeds 300 pages or you may read multiple books that add cumulatively to 300 or more pages. You may not read books that were a part of any previous year's curriculum. Suggestion: Read one book in June and one in July. Use a calendar to determine the number of pages you'll read each day or week, and then stick to your plan.

Requirement #2 – Complete the three steps outlined after the list of books

On the first day of school, submit your completed work. Follow the directions as outlined on the following page. The work will not be accepted after Friday of the first week. **If for some reason, you cannot fully meet this requirement, hand in the best work of which you are capable. Do not start the year with a zero or forfeit credit on a book which you have, in fact, read.**

Below is a wide selection of projects from which you may choose. **For each book you read, you are to complete a minimum of three (3).** You may not do the same projects for multiple books. Each should be unique.

- Create a mandala with many levels to connect different aspects of the book, its historical time, and culture. Write an explanation of your mandala.

- Create a PowerPoint to include each of the following: a poster, a radio or TV commercial, a magazine or newspaper ad, a bumper sticker, etc.... and prepare to present in class.
- Create a Meme for each book that you have read, or one Meme combining all the books that you have read.
- Imagine that you have been given the task of conducting a tour of the town in which the book you read is set. Create a virtual tour rite a video describing the homes of your characters and the places where important events in the book took place. Be creative!
- Draw an empty head and inside of it draw any symbols, words, or images that are bouncing around in the mind of a character or characters in the book you are reading.
- Make a timeline of the major events in the book you read. Be sure the divisions on the timeline reflect the time in the plot. Use online drawings, words, or magazine to illustrate events along the timeline.
- Make a “wanted” poster for one of the characters or objects in your book. Include the following: (a) an online drawing or picture of the character or object, (b) a physical description, (c) misdeeds (or deeds?), (d) other miscellaneous information, and (e) the reward offered.
- Using the Internet, research what information is contained in a passport. Create a passport, which belongs to one of the characters in the book. Be creative!
- Create a Top Ten List in which you write and illustrate events and ideas you have learned from the book.
- You are the reporter. Write a front-page news story or a report live from the scene. • Write an advice column (Dear Abby) giving the author of the book advice on how they should handle the problems/dilemmas in the text.
- Find five websites a character in your book would most frequently visit. Include the websites and an explanation of why your character would choose these sites.
- Imagine that you are the author of the book you just read. Suddenly the book becomes a bestseller. Write a letter to a movie producer to convince that the book should be made into a movie. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles. You may only use books that have not been made into movies.
- Some characters are interesting, and you can relate to, while others possess a specific personality that is intriguing. Select one of those characters that possess a specific personality that is intriguing, create an online collage and explain how and why it is intriguing. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

- There are scenes and lines that are unforgettable. Select a scene(s) and a line(s) from one of the books you have read and explain how and why you feel they are unforgettable. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Books To Movies 2023

The Lying Life of Adults

ELENA FERRANTE

On the cusp of womanhood, Giovanna finds herself questioning her body's changes when her dad comments that she looks more and more like her Aunt Vittoria every day. Her father claims that Vittoria's scandalous affair with a married man led to his cutting off ties with his entire family. When Vittoria finally meets her aunt, she is told about how her father ruined Vittoria's life. As Giovanna tries to weave through the lies told on both sides, she struggles to reconcile her place in the family. A tale of upper-class intellectuals versus lower-class outcasts, *The Lying Life of Adults* is getting an Italian language book to movie adaptation in 2023.

Publication Date: 7 November 2019

The Witching Hour

ANNE RICE

Mayfair Witches, January 5, 2023 – Anne Rice's *The Lives of Mayfair Witches* series is getting a television adaptation in 2023. On New Year's Eve, neurosurgeon Rowan Mayfair finds a drowned man off the coast of California and magically brings him to life. Yet, now Michael finds he also has a mystical ability that terrifies him. As Rowan and Michael fall in love, they set out to solve the mystery of her family history of witchcraft and his newfound mysterious abilities.

Publication Date: 1 October 1990

A Man Called Ove

FREDRIK BACKMAN

A Man Called Otto, January 13, 2023 – Ove, a cantankerous old Swede, just wants to be left in peace so he can commit suicide, but his pesky neighbors keep getting in the way. This heartwarming tale that you'll find downright hilarious will be a book club favorite for years to come. Highlighting our need for connection in the modern world, *A Man Called Ove* typifies how important it is to leave our digital worlds and make sure we check in on our neighbors.

Publication Date: 27 August 2012

Wellmania

BRIGID DELANEY

January 15, 2023 – Wellness has become a huge industry, yet does any of it really work? Journalist Brigid Delaney decided to use herself as a guinea pig to try different strategies promoted as “wellness.” Starting with a 101-day fast, Delaney gives up her partying lifestyle to try to improve her health, journaling it all with wit, humor, and thoughtfulness.

Publication Date: 3 July 2017

The Cabin at the End of the World

PAUL TREMBLAY

Knock at the Cabin, February 3, 2023 – Seven-year-old Wen and her parents are vacationing at a remote New Hampshire cabin. While playing in the grass, Wen is captivated by a stranger named Leonard. Suddenly three more strangers appear carrying menacing weapons. They demand to be let into the cabin, claiming the family must make a sacrifice to prevent an apocalypse.

Text for You

SOFIE CRAMER

It's All Coming Back to Me, February 10, 2023 – After an argument, Clara's fiance stormed out of their apartment and then was killed in a tragic accident. Still in the depths of grief two years later, Clara begins texting his old phone number to tell him all the things left unsaid. When Sven starts getting mysterious text messages, he sets out to find the sender who has him completely captivated.

Publication Date: 2 May 2009

American Prometheus

KAI BIRD AND MARTIN J. SHERWIN

Oppenheimer, July 21, 2023 – “The Father of the Atomic Bomb,” J. Robert Oppenheimer was instrumental in the Manhattan Project. Yet, after the bombing of Hiroshima, Oppenheimer was faced with the moral implications of his work. Radically proposing controls on nuclear armaments, making him a prime target of J. Edgar Hoover during the Red Scare.

Publication Date: 5 April 2005

The Trench

STEVE ALTEN

MEG 2: The Trench, August 4, 2023 – In the sequel to his science fiction thriller MEG, Jonas Taylor, a paleobiologist and Megaladon expert, must face his deepest fears to save his job and his family. Four years after finding a pregnant Megaladon in the Marianas Trench, Jonas’s faltering institute houses the one surviving offspring. When Jonas turns to an eccentric billionaire for funding, he learns that everything comes with a price and that sharks might not be the scariest things he has to face.

Publication Date: 1999

Dracula

BRAM STOKER

The Last Voyage of Demeter, August 11, 2023 – Written in 1897 by Irish author Bram Stoker, *Dracula* tells of the vampire Count Dracula’s planned move from Transylvania to England in search of new feeding grounds and the battle to stop him, led by Professor Van Helsing. Among the books to movies in 2023 is an adaptation of one chapter of *Dracula*, “The Captain’s Log,” as strange events befall the crew of a merchant ship.

Publication Date: 1897

Hallowe’en Party

AGATHA CHRISTIE

A Haunting in Venice, September 15, 2023 – In Hercule Poirot’s 32nd mystery, he meets a teenage girl at a Halloween party who claims that she once witnessed a murder, but no one believes her. When the girl is found drowned in an apple-bobbing tub, Poirot must determine if he’s investigating

one murder or two. Of the books to movies in 2023, I am most curious about this one, since the film is changing the setting to a seance in Venice.

Publication Date: 1969

Dune

FRANK HERBERT

Dune: Part Two, November 3, 2023 – Meet Paul Atreides, the heir apparent to the House of Atreides. At the beginning of the novel, his family takes control of the desert planet Arrakis, the source of the most sought after commodity in the galaxy. But power like that breeds many enemies who will stop at nothing to take over Arrakis. Mixing politics, religion, and mysticism with a whole lot of adventure, Herbert sends you on an epic journey worthy of any science fiction reader. After the massive success of the first film (which is a must-see if you haven't already), the second half of the novel is being adapted in 2023.

Publication Date: August 1965

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

SUZANNE COLLINS

November 17, 2023 – In 2020, Collins shocked fans when she revealed her prequel to *The Hunger Games* would follow none other than the notorious President Snow. During the 10th annual Hunger Games, Coriolanus Snow is selected as a mentor to the female candidate from District 12. Desperate to win a victory, Snow must use all his cunning and skill to help his doomed candidate, a girl he is beginning to care about.

Publication Date: 19 May 2020

The Color Purple

ALICE WALKER

December 20, 2023 – A new musical adaptation of Alice Walker's modern classic, *The Color Purple*, is one of the most intriguing books becoming movies in 2023. In the novel, poor young Black girl Celie writes letters to God in the early 1900s, begging for help from her father who beats and rapes her. After Celie is married off to an abusive man and helps her sister run away, Celie begins writing letters to her sister. Talking frankly about domestic and sexual abuse and homosexuality, *The Color Purple* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1983.

Publication Date: 1 June 1982

Anansi Boys

NEIL GAIMAN

In the sequel to *American Gods*, Fat Charlie Nancy's life is changed forever when his father dropped dead. Returning to America for the funeral, Fat Charlie is shocked to discover his father was a god .. and he has a brother. Now Fat Charlie must navigate the world of the gods in this novel set in the same world as *American Gods*, but not directly connected to the first novel.

Publication Date: 20 September 2005

Blackout

DHONIELLE CLAYTON, ET. AL.

During a summer heatwave, New York City is plunged into darkness from a citywide blackout. Told in six interlinking short stories written by six prominent Black authors (Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon), *Blackout* tells of first love, friendship transformations, and new possibilities when the lights go out.

Publication Date: 22 June 2021

Daisy Jones & The Six

TAYLOR JENKINS REID

Among the most anticipated upcoming books to movies is Taylor Jenkin Reid's bestseller, *Daisy Jones & The Six*. This addictingly fun read is the oral history of the rise and fall of a fictional 70s band. With sex, drugs, and plenty of drama, you'll feel like you are watching a biopic on VH1 – but an extremely well-written one.

Publication Date: 5 March 2019

Evidence of Love

JOHN BLOOM AND JIM ATKINSON

Love and Death – The true crime story of Candy Montgomery and Betty Gore has gained some major attention lately, with a miniseries from Hulu, *Candy*, in 2022 and a new HBO Max adaptation, *Love and Death*, in 2023. In 1984, Candy and Betty were friendly Texas neighbors, singing together in the Methodist choir. Their daughters were even best friends. But when Betty discovered Candy's affair with her husband, a confrontation led to Candy

killing Betty with an axe – a crime for which she was ultimately found not guilty of murder.

Publication Date: January 1984

Exit West

MOHSIN HAMID

In a country on the brink of civil war, fierce Nadia and gentle Saeed begin an intense romance, nestled securely in love as the city erupts around them. As violence escalates, they begin to hear rumors of doors with the ability to whisk you away to a free land. One of the most powerful book to movie 2023 adaptations, *Exit West* is a tale of desperately clinging to the past while trying to forge a new future.

Publication Date: 7 March 2017

Killers of the Flower Moon

DAVID GRANN

If you are looking for exciting new movies based on books, you should keep your eye out for this true crime story about the fascinating case of the Osage murders in the 1920s. After discovering oil on their land, the Osage Indian Nation in Oklahoma was among the richest people in the world at the time. Once the death toll surpasses 24 Osage, the newly created FBI takes up the investigation to expose an alarming conspiracy behind these notorious crimes. After plenty of delays in filming, let's hope that Martin Scorsese's film adaptation starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro will come out in 2023.

Publication Date: 18 April 2017

The Last Thing He Told Me

LAURA DAVE

Before Owen Michaels disappeared, he smuggled a note to his new wife Hannah: *Protect her*. Hannah knows he's referring to his sixteen-year-old daughter Bailey, but Bailey doesn't want anything to do with Hannah. As Owen's boss gets arrested and the FBI comes knocking, As Hannah tries to unravel Owen's true identity and learn to connect with her stepdaughter, the suspense keeps you turning pages.

Publication Date: 4 May 2021

Leave the World Behind

RUMAAN ALAM

While vacationing at a home rental in a remote part of Long Island, a white couple is surprised when a Black couple shows up claiming to be the homeowners. They say they are fleeing from a mass blackout and disaster in New York City. But without tv and the internet, neither couple knows what to believe or who to trust.

Publication Date: 6 October 2020

Lessons in Chemistry

BONNIE GARMUS

Elizabeth Zott has always defied stereotyping, especially as the only woman chemist at the Hastings Research Institute in the 1960s. After falling in love with another chemist who sees her for who she is, life throws her a curveball. Now as a single mom, she unexpectedly finds herself the host of a tv cooking show. When Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking charms her audience, the women who watch her begin to question the status quo in their own lives, making Elizabeth a target of those who find the change unwelcome.

The Marsh King's Daughter

KAREN DIONNE

Helena Pelletier may seem like a normal mom, but she has a long-buried secret. Her mother was kidnapped as a teen by her father and held captive in the marshlands of Upper Michigan. She loved growing up in nature until she realized how evil her father was. When Helena's father escapes from prison and fled into the marsh. Knowing the police don't stand a chance to track him, Helena sets off to capture her father since only she knows the marshlands as he does.

Publication Date: 13 June 2017

The Nightingale

KRISTIN HANNAH

Set in a small village in occupied France, the story centers around two sisters. Forced to house a German officer in her home, the older sister Vianne Mauriac must decide, to protect her daughter, where exactly she should draw the line of being complicit with German demands. On the other hand, her younger sister Isabelle Rossignol feels committed to doing anything she can

to resist the German occupation. Although one of my most anticipated books to movies, *The Nightingale*'s release date still has been set and I'm not sure if we'll actually be seeing this one in 2023.

Publication Date: 3 February 2015

The Power

NAOMI ALDERMAN

What if all women suddenly developed the power of sparking electricity with their hands? How would that ability change the balance of power in the world? Naomi Alderman does a good job of setting up this dystopian scenario. Her narrative follows several individuals who see opportunity in the shifting times and manage to change the world, but not always for the better.

Publication Date: 27 October 2016

Red, White & Royal Blue

CASEY MCQUISTON

When the President's son falls in love with the Prince of Wales, international relations take on a whole new term. At first, America's darling Alex Claremont-Diaz can't stand the royal British heir, Prince Henry. Forced to develop a fake friendship for the publicity, the two soon realize that no faking is required.

Publication Date: 14 May 2019

‘Salem’s Lot

STEPHEN KING

The list of books to movies 2023 couldn't be complete without at least one Stephen King adaptation. In his second published work, King depicts the tale of Ben Mears, a writer returning to the town of his childhood to write his next book. As a boy, he had a supernatural experience in a haunted house in Jerusalem's Lot and thinks it would be a great inspiration. Though as he starts his book about the power of evil, vampires start to take over the small Maine town.

Publication Date: 17 October 1975

Shriver

CHRIS BELDEN

When he is mistaken for a reclusive writer of the same name, Shriver attends a writer's conference at a small Midwestern liberal arts college. However, Shriver doesn't realize how popular his alter ego's novel is and must fake his way through literary panels and fancy dinners. As Shriver falls in love with the conference organizer, he suddenly finds himself the prime suspect when another attendee disappears.

Publication Date: 29 September 2013

Spaceman of Bohemia

JAROSLAV KALFAR

Raised in the Czech countryside by loving grandparents, Jakub Procházka has become a leading scientist and his country's first astronaut. When he leaves on a dangerous solo mission to Venus, Jakub realizes too late how much he and his wife have sacrificed for his ambition. As he befriends an alien spider, Jakub spends his time in space pondering the deep questions of life, hoping to return home to give his marriage another chance.

Publication Date: 7 March 2017

The Three-Body Problem

CIXIN LIU

During China's Cultural Revolution, a secret project sends signals into space hoping to make contact with extraterrestrials. When their signal is received by an alien species intent on conquering Earth, mankind must decide how to

respond. Do you acquiesce to superior beings since Earth is already so corrupt or do you fight against them, a seemingly impossible task?

Publication Date: May 2006

Triptych

KARIN SLAUGHTER

Will Trent – ABC has ordered a new television series based on Karin Slaughter's *Will Trent* books, set to run during midseason. In *Triptych*, a serial killer is stalking Atlanta, leaving women's mutilated bodies behind to spark an intense manhunt from a diverse cast of characters: Michael, a detective with a failing marriage; Angie; a vice cop, Michael's ex-lover turned enemy; and Will, with a mysterious past called in to assist.

Publication Date: 15 August 2006

Troubled Blood

ROBERT GALBRAITH

The British series C. B Strike is set to return for a third season, adapting the fifth book in J. K. Rowling's Cormoran Strike series. Private Investigator Strike takes on the cold case of a mother who mysteriously disappeared forty years ago. Meanwhile, his trusty colleague Robin Ellacott is going through a messy divorce while struggling with her feelings for Strike.

Publication Date: 15 September 2022

Turtles All the Way Down

JOHN GREEN

John Green's young adult novel follows sixteen-year-old Aza as she investigates the mystery of a fugitive billionaire. Hoping to earn the \$100,000 reward, Aza and her best friend Daisy befriend his son Davis hoping to find answers. John Green eloquently delves into Aza's mental health issues with severe anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder, which makes this novel especially significant for teenagers today.

Publication Date: 10 October 2017

Uglies

SCOTT WESTERFELD

Good dystopian books for teens tap into their fears, and *Uglies* takes a hard look at self-image issues. Tally is thrilled to be turning sixteen soon so she can undergo an extensive procedure that will transform her from an ugly duckling to flawlessly gorgeous. Once you're a pretty, you are welcomed into a life of luxury and amusement. When Tally's best friend runs away to avoid the procedure, Tally is recruited to find her, or be refused the surgery herself.

Publication Date: 8 February 2005

White Bird

R. J. PALACIO

R. J. Palacio is best known for her book *Wonder*, which was adapted to film in 2017. In the graphic novel *White Bird*, Palacio extends the *Wonder* universe to tell the story of Julian's grandmother, Grandmère, who, as a young Jewish girl during World War II, was hidden away by a family in Nazi-occupied France.

Publication Date: 3 September 2019

Wicked

GREGORY MAGUIRE

Gregory Maguire imagines the life of the Wicked Witch of the West, a misunderstood little green-skinned girl named Elphaba who was not as wicked as our preconceived notions tell us. Maguire's book, which garners mixed reviews, inspired the hit Broadway musical which is the basis for the film which has been delayed repeatedly over the last few years.

Publication Date: 1995