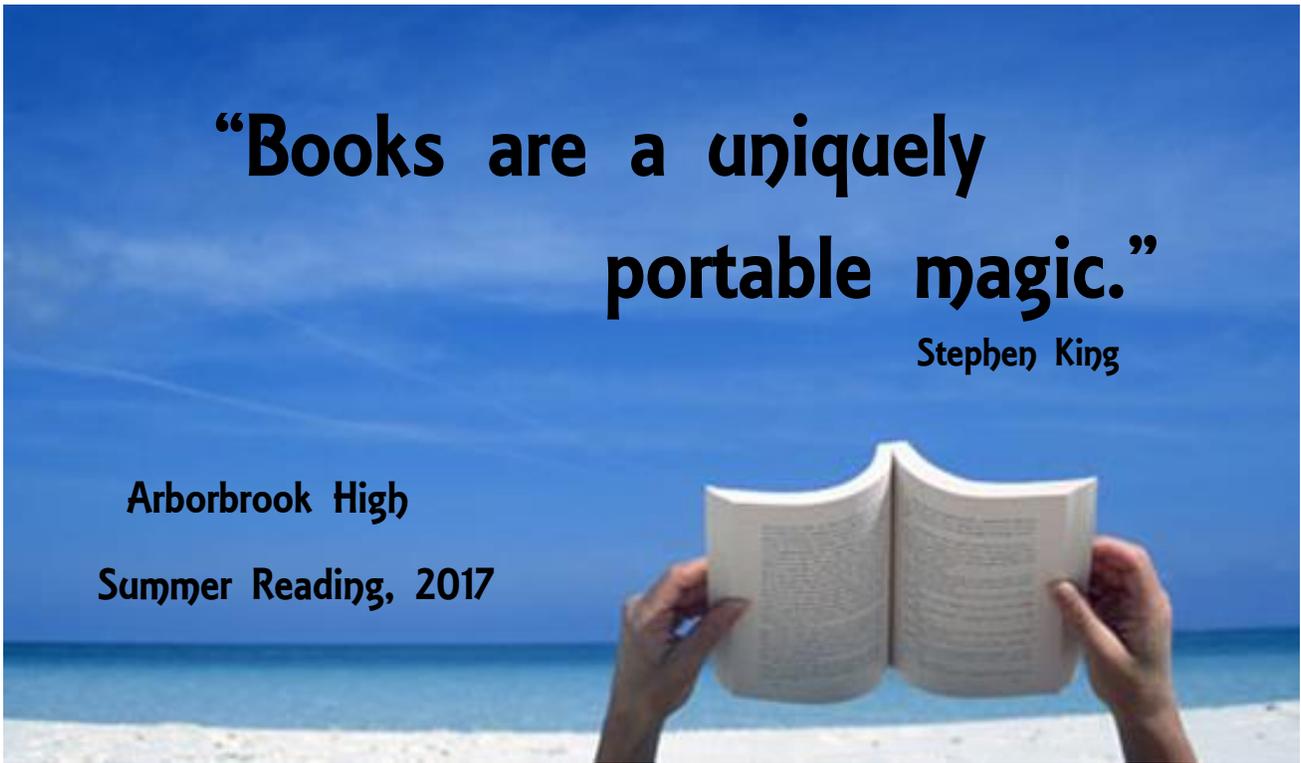


**“Books are a uniquely
portable magic.”**

Stephen King

Arborbrook High

Summer Reading, 2017



JK Rowling says that “if you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book yet.”

Hopefully, one of the following books will be just right for you this summer! Please choose one to read and then complete the assignment that goes along with it before August 15, the first day of school. This will be your first English grade of the new year.

The Books

***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys (Published in 2016)**

“World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety. Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people—adults and children alike—aboard must fight for the same thing: survival.” *Amazon*

Note: As with most books about war, there are some scenes that may affect sensitive readers. However, this book is written for a teen audience and respectfully conveys the horrors of war in an appropriate manner. It is also a story of love, sacrifice, and hope.

***Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot**

“In 1956, five young men, including Elliot's husband, Jim, traveled into the jungles of Ecuador to establish communication with the fierce Huaorani Tribe, a people whose only previous response to the outside world had been to attack all strangers. The men's mission combined modern technology with innate ingenuity, sparked by a passionate determination to get the gospel to those without Christ. In a nearby village, their wives waited to hear from them. The news they received--all five missionaries had been murdered--changed lives around the world forever. This book is Elisabeth Elliot’s personal account of their brave final mission.” *-Amazon*

***The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas**

This is a classic book and a wonderful adventure story. A man who was wrongfully imprisoned escapes from jail and acquires a vast fortune. He then uses his money and time to seek revenge on those who had him falsely imprisoned. However, things never go according to plan and the consequences of his actions force him to face his own darkness as well as that of others.

***All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot**

James Herriot was a veterinarian for decades in the beautiful Yorkshire region of England. This book tells the many poignant, funny, and dramatic adventures he faced treating large and small animals. This book reveals “the magical, unforgettable world of James Herriot, the world’s most beloved veterinarian, and his menagerie of heartwarming, funny, and tragic animal patients.” -*Amazon*

The Assignment

Freshmen and Sophomores: Write a two page essay following the attached rubric in which you answer the following question: *What is the most important decision the main character makes in the novel you read?* You must explain why the decision you write about is the *most* important one he or she has to make.

Juniors and Seniors: Write a three page essay following the attached rubric in which you answer the following two questions: *What is the most important decision the main character makes in the novel you read and would you make the same decision if placed in the same circumstances?* You must explain why the decision you write about is the *most* important and why you would or would not make the same choice.

The Rubric

Rubric to be used by all students:

Essay directly answers the given question	/25
Essay provides adequate and relevant examples from the novel	/30
Essay includes at least three quotations from the novel that serve as examples.	/10
Ideas are presented clearly and logically throughout the essay.	/15
Essay is free from spelling, punctuation, or mechanical mistakes	/10
Essay follows all assignment guidelines	/10

Due Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2017