



GARCES

MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Sophomore Summer Reading List AY 2026-27

All students enrolled in English 10 (Honors) **MUST** read Night by Elie Wiesel **PLUS** one book of their choosing from the selection below.

Choose **ONE** of the following books to read over summer. Come prepared to take the reading test on the first day back to school.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak *

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. Death has never been busier, but it is through the eyes of Death that we encounter a young foster girl named Liesel, who learns to read and savor the power of words. Soon she is rescuing books from burnings and stealing them whenever she can. But when the family decides to hide a Jewish man in their basement, the true nature of “rescuing” unfolds.

Parrot in the Oven by Victor Martinez

Fourteen-year-old Manny Hernandez wants to be the kind of guy people respect, but in Manny’s world, the way to get respect is to join a gang – and when Manny begins to feel the heat from his abusive father, dysfunctional family, and explosive environment, it may be too much for Manny to handle.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

Paul Baumer enthusiastically joins the German army during WW I, but as horrible war plods on year after year, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principles of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other – if only he can come out of the war alive.

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

A riveting memoir of a girl’s painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s has startling similarities to the Cinderella fairytale, complete with a wicked stepmother and spoiled stepsisters. Ultimately, however, it is a stirring testimony to the strength of human character and the power of education, a fairytale not born out of fantasy, but out of reality.

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

This is a heart-wrenching story of a condemned man learning to read from a young teacher. Together they learn about education, racism, punishment, and in the end, the heroism of resisting – but most importantly, they are lessons learned together.

* = Book taught during summer school.