



Garces Memorial High School

Excellence in Catholic Education



Sophomore Summer Reading List AY 2025-26

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

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

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.

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.

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya

Antonio Marez is six years old when Ultima comes to stay with his family. She is a "curandera," one who cures with herbs and magic. Under her wise wing, Tony will probe the family ties that bind and rend him, and he will discover himself in the magical secrets of the past

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

The classic tale of a reluctant Hobbit who accompanies a wizard and a band of dwarves on a magical quest, encountering goblins, giant spiders, a riddle-asking and ring-hungry creature, and a treasure hoarding dragon named Smaug.

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.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and it is also an exploration of the power of fathers over sons – their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

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.