



# Manhasset Public Schools

**Brendan J. McGowan**  
**Director for English, Reading, & Libraries K-12**  
**Manhasset Public Schools**

June 2026

Dear Members of the Manhasset School Community:

Each year we distribute a summer reading list for students entering grades 7-12 in the Manhasset Public Schools. For 2026, to continue aligning summer reading with expectations of the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards and Manhasset's *Standard of Excellence*, the English department indicates, by course level, title(s) that will be taught or referenced in each English course next year. We call these titles "prerequisite" books; students are expected to read, prior to the start of school in September, the prerequisite literature indicated for the English course in which they will be enrolled. This reading will give your child an advantage in English insofar as these titles will frame the instructional themes of the class or will be taught directly during the school year.

As a reminder, summer reading will not be assessed in the form of a test or essay within the first few days of school but will be integrated into the classroom curriculum during the first marking quarter. Rather, we suggest students read as much as possible, with a particular emphasis on the titles which will be referenced or taught in English courses.

We also strongly urge students to develop their own leisure summer reading list. To this end, you will find the names of reputable websites on the suggested reading page that will allow youngsters to select from among hundreds of suggested titles. In addition, both the Social Studies and Science departments indicate timely and topical subject-specific titles on the suggested reading list. Ms. Greenberg, MHS Librarian, has also curated [a list of suggested titles](#) to encourage reading for pleasure to develop lifelong readers in addition to partnering with the Manhasset Public Library for the summer of 2026.

Students may purchase any titles from local bookstores, obtain them from the Manhasset Public Library, or borrow prerequisite titles from the English department. ***When possible, purchasing titles is strongly encouraged as it allows for greater interactive reading and note-taking in the text, both over the summer and at the start of the school year.***

**Students wishing to borrow a copy of prerequisite titles may request a copy by completing this [Google form](#) by Monday, June 29: [2026 Request for Summer Books](#).**

We will contact you to arrange pick up of the selected texts at the Middle School entrance. Borrowed copies must be returned in September or, in the event of loss, paid for by the student.

Thank you very much for your support of English Language Arts!  
 Brendan J. McGowan

## Manhasset Public Schools

### Grade 7 to Grade 12 Summer Reading List – 2026

*Please note: These texts will be taught, supported, and discussed in class.*

Grade	Course	Prerequisite Titles
7	All Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☰ Summer Reading: GRADE 6 into GRADE 7</li> <li>● <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum</li> <li>● <i>That Was Then, This is Now</i> by S.E. Hinton</li> </ul>
8	All Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Please choose TWO from the list:</i></b></li> <li>● <i>Life in a Jar</i> by Jack Mayer</li> <li>● <i>Obsessed: A Memoir of My Life with OCD</i> by Allison Britz</li> <li>● <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> by William Kamkwamba</li> <li>● <i>Salt to the Sea</i> by Ruta Sepetys</li> <li>● <i>I Am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai</li> </ul>
9	Regents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> by Sue Monk Kidd</li> <li>● <i>Of Mice and Men</i> by John Steinbeck</li> </ul>
9	Honors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>*Beowulf</i>, translation by Seamus Heaney</li> <li>● <i>Grendel</i> by John Gardner</li> </ul> <p>*NOTE: Students must read <i>Beowulf</i> first, then <i>Grendel</i>.</p>
10	Regents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Something Wicked This Way Comes: A Novel</i> by Ray Bradbury</li> <li>● <i>The Arrival</i> by Shaun Tan</li> </ul>
10	Honors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee</li> <li>● <i>Outliers</i> by Malcolm Gladwell</li> </ul>
11	Regents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald</li> <li>● <i>Lost in Yonkers</i> by Neil Simon</li> </ul>
11	Advanced Placement English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen</li> <li>● <i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare</li> </ul>

12	Senior English Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science</i> by Atul Gawande</li> <li>● <i>Educated: A Memoir</i> by Tara Westover</li> </ul>
12	Advanced Placement English Lit. & Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>The Stranger</i> by Albert Camus is <b>required</b>. <b>Students must choose ONE additional title.</b></li> <li>● <i>The Awakening</i> by Kate Chopin</li> <li>● <i>Antigone</i> by Sophocles</li> <li>● <i>The Nickel Boys</i> by Colson Whitehead</li> </ul>

## Summer Reading and Writing Contests

*Looking for a challenge over the summer? See below.*

### [The Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards](#)

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)3 organization based in Santa Barbara, California, hosts an annual poetry contest called the Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards. The awards contest is an annual series of awards to encourage poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit. The Poetry Awards include three age categories: Adult, Youth 13-18, and Youth 12 & under. *Deadline: July 1<sup>st</sup>*

### [Bennington College Young Writers Awards](#)

**Students currently enrolled in Grades 9-11** are invited to submit an entry to **one category** by the **November 1** deadline, via the button above.

**Students enrolled in Grade 12** must submit their YWA entry by first completing either the **Common Application** or **Coalition Application** (no app fees, non-binding, no supplemental essays required). Once the application is complete, we will send a follow-up email with YWA submission instructions. Since so many YWA participants also apply to Bennington, this approach allows students to submit their college and YWA applications through a single process. *Please see the website for prizes! Runs from September 1 – November 1*

### [NYS Summer Assembly Reading Challenge 2026](#)

K-12 students are invited to enter the titles of three books read over the summer.

### [17th Annual Summer Reading Contest 2026](#)

**New this year:** Students must compose written submissions, from start to finish, in a Google Doc and share it with us at studentchallenges@nytimes.com. Google Docs provides a version history, which will help us see your brain at work. We care about the writing process. All you have to do to participate is tell us what you're reading, watching or listening to in The New York Times and why. **Students can enter by submitting a short written response — or they can make a video up to 90 seconds long.**

## Suggested Reading Websites for Literature

*Middle School Suggested Summer Reading Websites for Literature. Wide-ranging lists that reflect books for almost everyone. Look carefully to find titles that best suit you.*

- [YALSA Book and Media Awards for Libraries](#)
- American Library Association's Best Fiction for Young Adults
- [American Library Association's Best Non-Fiction for Young Adults](#)

## High School Suggested Summer Reading Websites for Literature

- [25 Essential High School Reads from the Last Decade](#)
- [College Board's 101 Books for the College-Bound Reader](#)

## Manhasset Public Library's Summer Programs!

<https://manhassetlibrary.org/site/2026-summer-reading-program/>



## Science Related Titles for Suggested Reading

- Ariely, Dan. *Predictably Irrational*
- Bodanis, David. *E=mc<sup>2</sup>: A History of the World's Most Famous Equation*
- Bryson, Bill. *A Short History of Nearly Everything.*
- Burke, James. *Connections*
- Dawkins, Richard. *The Selfish Gene*
- De Kruif, Paul. *Microbe Hunters*
- Feynman, Richard. *The Meaning of it All: Thoughts of a Citizen-Scientist*
- Gould, Stephen Jay. *The Mismeasure of Man*
- Hakim, Joy. *The Story of Science: Aristotle Leads the Way*
- Harari, Yuval Noah. *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*
- Johnson, Steven. *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How it Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World*
- Kandel, Dr. Eric. *In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of the Mind*
- Kean, Sam. *The Disappearing Spoon*
- Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life As We Knew It*
- Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma*
- Preston, Richard. *The Hot Zone: A Terrifying True Story*
- Sacks, Oliver. *The River of Consciousness*
- Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
- Watson, James. *The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA*



# Manhasset Public Schools

*Margaret Ronai*  
*District Coordinator, Social Studies*  
*Manhasset Schools*

## **Social Studies Department: Required Summer Reading and Assignments 2026**

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

The Social Studies department recommends summer reading to enhance students' understanding of the course curriculum for most of our Advanced Placement courses. We believe these readings and assignments introduce students to the level of reading they will encounter during the school year and prepare students for success in these rigorous classes.

The Suggested Summer Reading information can be found below.

If you have any questions about Social Studies summer reading, please contact me at 516- 267-7576 or via email at [Margaret\\_Ronai@manhassetsschools.org](mailto:Margaret_Ronai@manhassetsschools.org)

We encourage our students to continue developing the habits of good readers and to include reading as a part of their academic and leisure activities. To this end, below is a list of suggested titles for summer reading. These are not required but merely a suggestion for interested students. Thank you for your support of the summer reading program.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Ronai*  
District Coordinator, Social Studies

### ***Social Studies Related Titles for Suggested Reading***

*These books are not required, but students may find these titles interesting for further study.*

#### **Grade 8**

- Hersey, John. *Hiroshima*
- Marrin, Albert. *The Great Adventure: Theodore Roosevelt and the Rise of Modern America,*

#### **Grade 9:**

- Weatherford, Jack. *The Secret History of the Mongol Queens: How the Daughters of Genghis Khan Rescued His Empire*

#### **Grade 10**

- Harden, Blaine. *Escape from Camp 14*
- Lipiner, Lucy. *Long Journey Home: A Young Girl's Memoir of Surviving the Holocaust*

#### **Grade 11**

- McCullough, David. *1776*
- Pattillo Beals, Melba. *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High*

#### **Grade 12**

- Friedman, Thomas. *The World Is Flat*
- Levitt, Steven, & Dubner, Stephen. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*

