

2025 AP/Dual Enrollment Literature Summer Reading Assignment

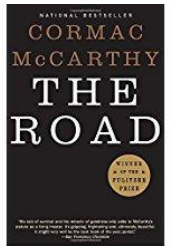
Students enrolled in Coach Rhone's in-person AP Literature/Dual Enrollment Class for the 25-26 school year: choose a novel below to read in July. Your first quarter grade depends on your understanding of the novel. If you are unwilling or unable to read a book, change your schedule. If you have questions: reagan.rhone@hartselletigers.org

The theme for this summer's reading is **good vs. evil**. History shows average people are capable of inspirational acts of love as well as unspeakable atrocities of hate. Are we innately good or evil? What are the circumstances that make saints or demons of everyday people? As you read, annotate for the following questions.

- Which characters/behaviors are obviously good or evil? Which behaviors/characters are caught in gray areas between?
- What are the characters' motivations for their behavior? What circumstances created their evil or goodness?
- What does the book imply about the nature of good and evil in humanity?

The Road by Cormac McCarthy (2006) – The earth is dying in the aftermath of an unidentified apocalyptic event. The sun cannot penetrate the perpetual cloud-cover, and as a result, all plant and animal life is dead. The protagonist and his son travel the ash-covered roads scavenging for food while trying to avoid roving gangs of cannibals. This novel explores the depths of despair and how one finds hope in a seemingly hopeless world.

Cormac McCarthy's diction isn't too difficult, but the lack of punctuation, unconventional chapters, and sparse style can be challenging for some students. A good choice for **above-average readers** who enjoy reading for pleasure. R for violence and language. 287 pages



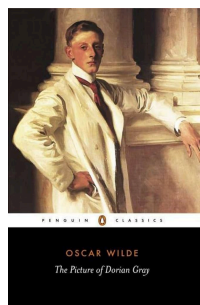
Lord of the Flies by William Golding (1954) – Inspired by his experiences during World War II, Golding crashes a group of English school boys on a deserted island to fend for themselves. Realizing there are no adults to ruin their fun, the boys initially relish their newfound freedom and establish a new social order. But as the realities of their situation set in and the boys struggle to meet their basic needs, they turn on each other in surprisingly violent and creative ways.

A classic literary commentary on humanity's capacity for evil, dictators, and group psychology, *LOTF* is full of Biblical allusions and symbolic imagery. A good choice for **any high-school level reader**. PG for violence, language, and implied sexuality. 202 pages



A Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (1890) - In this psychological novel, Dorian Gray, an attractive and vital young man, sells his soul so that he can stay young forever and take full advantage of his youth and health in as many sinful ways as possible. However, his beautiful portrait, created by his friend Basil, continues to age and depict the ravages of his sensual and decadent lifestyle.

Gothic writers of the 1800s often explored "the duality of man," our capacity for both beauty and horror: vampires, Frankenstein's monster, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. So, "evil" here is in the context of conservative late-Victorian culture; breaking social conventions. A good choice for **college-level readers seeking a challenge** because Victorian literature is wordy and slow developing. PG for violence and implied sexuality (including coded queerness, meaning you'll see it if you look for it but you won't if you don't).



A Woman is No Man by Etaf Rum (2019) - Three generations of Palestinian-American women navigate the balancing act between fulfilling traditional Arab roles as mothers and wives and fulfilling their own needs for love, independence, and meaning. Their lives revolve around the demands of mothers, fathers, and husbands - and family secrets that force them to question everything when they are revealed.

You don't have to know much about Arab culture to appreciate the novel, but the book will send you to Google to fill in some language and culture gaps. Etaf's emotionally-charged novel isn't as literary as the other choices, so it's a good choice for **any high-school level reader**. There is little offensive language, but definitely R for domestic abuse, violence, and sexual assault. 336 pages

