

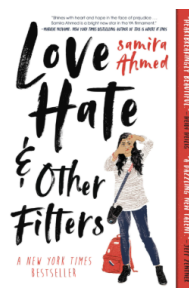
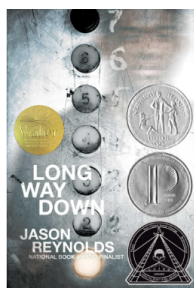
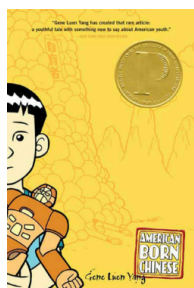
2025-2026 AP Seminar Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Seminar! This is a wonderful class with important, transferable life skills, and I am excited to begin. Email Mrs. Gorgeot if you have any questions: Terri.Gorgeot@hartselletigers.org.

Choose one of the following books. As you read, annotate for the following questions:

1. How do systems of power (e.g., social, political, cultural) shape the characters' experiences, identities, and opportunities?
2. In what ways does the protagonist resist, internalize, or challenge the dominant narratives or stereotypes about their identity or community?
3. What broader societal issue does this story illuminate, and how might different perspectives deepen or complicate our understanding of that issue?

Title	Overview	Best For	Trigger Warnings	Pages
<i>American Born Chinese</i> by Gene Luen Yang	A graphic novel blending myth, satire, and realism to explore cultural identity and self-acceptance.	Visual learners, reluctant readers, all levels	Racial slurs, stereotypes, bullying	~240 (graphic novel)
<i>Long Way Down</i> by Jason Reynolds	A powerful novel in verse that follows a teen on a 60-second elevator ride as he decides whether to avenge his brother's murder.	Reflective readers, poetry lovers, mid to advanced	Gun violence, grief, trauma	~320 (verse format)
<i>Love, Hate & Other Filters</i> by Samira Ahmed	A Muslim-American teen confronts Islamophobia and cultural expectations after a national tragedy.	YA readers, identity-focused readers, mid to advanced	Islamophobia, racism, hate crimes	~288
<i>American Street</i> by Ibi Zoboi	A Haitian girl adjusts to life in Detroit while coping with her mother's detention. Explores immigration, choice, and identity.	Advanced readers ready for complexity	Immigration issues, violence, trauma, drugs	~336



Other things that will help you but are not required:

Read nonfiction texts over the summer. I will be reading a couple of non-fiction narratives this summer to prepare, and I suggest you do the same. The more you read, the better your writing will be.

Watch/read/listen to the news. Try to consume from different organizations from all over the spectrum. See how the same story is presented by different news organizations. Try to be up on current events.

GIVE YOURSELF TIME – I know this may seem contradictory, but go outside, go to the beach, and hang out with friends. If you prefer to read fiction – read fiction! Any reading you do this summer will help. The summer should be fun! Soak up some relaxation so that you are ready to rock in August.