Choose 3 books from the Humanities Reading List and for each book:
Responding to reading: Write a 1-page letter (see below) and bring it with you on the first day of school. Your reading letter will be factored positively into your marking period 1 grade in English.

Letter guidelines: Letters About Literature is a reading and writing contest sponsored by the Library of Congress for students in grades 9-12. Students are asked to read a book, poem or speech and write to that author (living or dead) about how the book affected them personally.

Letters are judged on state and national levels. Tens of thousands of students from across the country enter Letters About Literature each year. For more information visit: [http://www.read.gov/letters/](http://www.read.gov/letters/)

High school student letters should be no less than 600 words and no more than 1500 words. Information on the content of the letter is on the next page.

**Writing Menu**
For each of the books you read (minimum of 3), complete one of the following typed writing assignments. Each assignment should be approximately 200-300 words, or 2-3 good sized paragraphs. Make sure to label each of your assignments with the title and author of the book!

**DUE Date:** All written assignments are handed in on paper, typed, on the first day you arrive to school. Students must bring in a signed letter from parents.

1. **Type a letter** to one of the major characters of the book. Tell him/her what you respect or do not respect about them or their actions.

2. **Write a diary entry** from the perspective of the main character (pretend you are him/her). Your diary entry should be about what you believe to be the most important event that happens to the character in the book.

3. **Write the transcript of an interview** with the main character (protagonist), a supporting character or antagonist, and an interviewer. The interviewer can be you, or a real-life talk show host (Oprah, Tyra, Steve Harvey, Ellen Degeneres, Michael Fallen, Seth Myers) or another fictional character. *This option should be at least 1 full page*

4. **Write a review** of the book in the format of a book review. (see New York Youth Connections online has sample book reviews)

5. **Pop-up popcorn** - Choose a significant quote and discuss its meaning.

**Typing Format**
- Use 12-point Times New Roman Font.
- Type double spaced (single spaced for option # 3)
- Use the heading below:
Science Skills Summer Reading Choices and Book Talks

**List of Titles** ***Be sure to thoroughly check and test out a book before buying/borrowing it to make sure it is at a proper reading level for you. Some of these books are more difficult than others!***

**Suggested Books for 11th Grade**

- The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
- Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez
- Gather Together in My Name by Maya Angelou
- Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin
- What It Is by Lynda Barry
- All Souls’ Rising by Madison Smartt Bell
- When the Legends Die by Hal Borland
- Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury
- Somebody Told Me: The Newspaper Stories of Rick Bragg by Rick Bragg
- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
- Woman Hollering Creek, and Other Stories by Sandra Cisneros
- Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Juno Diaz
- The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas
- Murder in the Cathedral by T.S. Eliot
- A Cup of Tea, A Novel of 1917 by Amy Ephron
- Cover-up by John Feinstein
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer
- Anansi Boys by Neil Gaiman
- Grendel by John Gardner
- Two Parties, One Tux and a Very Short Film About the Grapes of Wrath by Steven Goldman
- Looking for Alaska by John Green
- Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
- The Photographer: Into War Torn Afghanistan with Doctors without Borders by Emmanuel Guibert
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon Fiction Haddon
- Born Confused by Tanuja Desai Hidier
- The Big Sea: An Autobiography by Langston Hughes
- Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
- The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation by Sid Jacobson
- Lost in the City by Edward P. Jones
- Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts by Maxine Hong Kingston
- The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova
- The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. LeGuin
- Wicked by Gregory Maguire
• **Life of Pi** by Yann Martel
• **Madapple** by Christina Meldrum
• **A Wreath for Emmett Till** by Marilyn Nelson
• **The Things They Carried** by Tim O'Brien
• **DC Noir** by George Pelecanos
• **When I Was Puerto Rican** by Esmeralda Santiago
• **Hamlet** by William Shakespeare
• **Marcelo in the Real World** by Francisco X. Stork
• **The Color Purple** by Alice Walker
• **The Glass Castle** by Jeannette Walls
• **The Time Machine** by H.G. Wells
• **The Wedding** by Dorothy West

**Books Suggested & Available at the New York Public Library:**

*The Haters* by Jesse Andrews
Out of the ashes of jazz camp, a band is formed! Now, Wes, Corey, and Ash are on the road in search of a gig that doesn't suck.

*Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes
Students discover the truth through poetry.
Burn Baby Burn by Meg Medina
Nora is trying to survive the sweltering Queens summer of 1977 but it's tough with a violent brother, a city-wide blackout, and a serial killer on the loose.

Rani Patel in Full Effect by Sonia Patel
"Call my solution a female revolution retribution in the form of rhyme electrocution." MC Sutra in the house.

Noteworthy by Riley Redgate
Desperate to perform, Jordan disguises herself as a guy and joins an all-male a capella group. What could possibly go wrong?

Juliet Takes a Breath by Gabby Rivera
Juliet travels from the Bronx to Portland to intern with her favorite author for the summer.
Scythe by Neal Shusterman
What does it mean to be a human when you can’t die?

Dear Yvette (Throwback Diaries) by Ni-Ni Simone Yvette’s life changes forever after a street fight.