

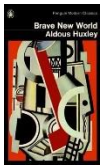
# NAVIGATING YOUR BRAVE NEW WORLD

## ❖ Welcome to 10<sup>TH</sup> Honors English

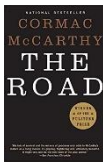
In the fall, each of you will be arriving from your 9<sup>th</sup> grade literature world where you were possibly introduced to concepts like star-crossed lovers, the forever hero, and Plato's perspective on knowledge. You also had darker experiences where the notion of BIG BROTHER was first introduced to you and now will never leave you. 10<sup>th</sup> honors is another journey into darkness and enlightenment—we will investigate our shadowy humanity but celebrate our better selves, too. With that in mind, your 10<sup>th</sup> honors teachers have gathered a list of recommendations for you that fit with the beginning 10<sup>th</sup> honors experience of literature.

On the list below, you'll find compelling fiction where writers investigate the consequences of consumerism, technology, freedom, happiness, power, identity, and rebellion. We offer you these as books to read as an opportunity to become informed citizens of this world, students who read critically, write consciously, speak clearly, so you can tell your truth (Clint Smith [https://www.ted.com/talks/clint\\_smith\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_silence?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/clint_smith_the_danger_of_silence?language=en)).

### Suggested Reading (choose one of these or all of them or none of them—up to you)



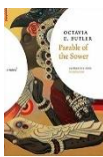
*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley is a dystopian novel in which Huxley investigates and challenges the concept of achieving “happiness” in society. This book is a canon every aspiring college student should read. Huxley's concern with the role technology would play in our lives is both relevant and scary. People constantly reference the book as *the brave new world* we now live in, and the book is a great pairing with Orwell's *1984*.



*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy is a post-apocalyptic novel that follows a father and his son as they travel south through the wasteland that was once the east coast of the United States. Through their journey McCarthy explores what would remain of humanity if civilization and society were suddenly stripped away. The key to this text is the contrast between the ways the father and the son perceive the strangers they pass on the road. The father's cautious cynicism is constantly at odds with his son's innocent hope that there might be goodhearted people on the road. The novel urges the reader to consider which of these views is necessary for humanity's survival.



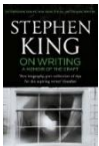
Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* is a dystopian satire which investigates a world in which women are denied their rights to sexual and reproductive freedom. The book was made into the acclaimed Hulu series. It's a fascinating and relevant read, BUT the content is mature, and we do ask that you get parental permission for reading this book.



*The Parable of the Sower* navigates climate change and its impact on society. Octavia E. Butler's book is relevant and horrifying, and her main character offers a possible way out of what appears to be an apocalyptic end to humanity.

If you have not read *1984* or *Animal Farm* by George Orwell or *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, you may want to choose one of these books instead of the list above to expose yourself to the most famous and most referenced dystopian novels out there.

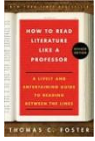
Here's another fun non-fiction option if you have time:



*On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King is an honest account of the joys and struggles of writing. King blends personal anecdotes with the expected lists of tips and tricks about how to improve your prose. Even though these tips are helpful, the most fulfilling parts of the novel are the sections in which King discusses the obstacles he faced and how he overcame them. These are important reminders that even the most prolific of writers face the dreaded writer's block and have doubts about the quality of their work. And that is where the memoir finds its value: helping the reader develop not only the skills of a successful writer but also the mindset.

## Required Reading

These are books that we will read in the 2019-2020 school year (***note the list is subject to change and individual teachers may handle the study of the books in different ways***). You may want to get a head start on the reading, so you don't feel overwhelmed as the year begins.



We don't require you read the whole book, but the following chapters from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* will be read for better understanding of our 10<sup>th</sup> grade experience. Thomas C. Foster makes his book a very accessible study of theme, form, and symbolism in literature. The chapters we will address are: "When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare..." (ch. 6), "...Or the Bible" (ch. 7), "Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too" (ch. 14), "If She Comes Up, It's Baptism" (ch. 18), "It's all about Sex" and "Except Sex..." (ch. 17 and 18), and "Every Trip is a Quest" (ch. 1). You are obviously encouraged to read the whole book to fully prepare yourself for literature study.

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

*Hamlet* or *Julius Caesar* or *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare (depending on your teacher)

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

Choice unit—*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote, *The Color of Water* by James McBride, *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, OR *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward.

Choice Unit—*Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok, *A Step from Heaven* by An Na, OR *Ellen Foster* by Kaye Gibbons