

**Honors English 11**  
**SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**

From the list provided, select ONE that interest you. After reading, respond to the following prompt.

**FORMAT:** Times New Roman, 12, Double-spaced, Length: You decide.

**PROMPT:** A literary critic once wrote, “Each individual carries a seed of destiny within him or herself and is thus endowed with a mission – which may be only dimly perceived

– to grow, to struggle free and assert his or her own unique existence.” After reflecting on characters from this summer reading list, choose a character who can be identified with this idea of mission. Explain whether you think this **character recognizes and** accepts his/her mission. Also explore how one’s knowledge of his or her mission spurs his or her character development within the book.

Please have this assignment PRINTED and ready to turn in on the first day of school.

I can't wait to see you in August! If you have questions, please e-mail me:

stephanie.muntean@strutherscityschools.org

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

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The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his **tres mesos** father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the

process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the KITE

possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons — their love, their sacrifices, their lies. A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years, *The Kite Runner* is an unusual and powerful novel that has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic.

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**1 DS KHALESHOSSEINI**

***Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline** Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to “aging out” out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...

As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a

train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance.

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### **PELKEN:KLEINE**

Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life – answers that will ultimately free them both.

Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

**Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein** Oct. 11th, 1943. A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun.

When “Verity” is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi

interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution. CODE NAME VERITY

As she intricately weaves her confession, Verity uncovers her past, how she became friends with the pilot Maddie, and why she left Maddie in the wrecked fuselage of their plane. On each new scrap of paper, Verity battles for her life, confronting her views on courage, failure and her desperate hope to make it home. But will trading her secrets be

enough to save her from the enemy? A Michael L. Printz Award Honor book that was called “a fiendishly-plotted mind game of a novel” in *The New York Times*, *Code Name Verity* is a visceral read of danger, resolve, and survival that shows just how far true friends will go to save each other.

### **The Lock Artist by Steve Hamilton**

*"I was the Miracle Boy, once upon a time. Later on, the Milford Mute. The Golden Boy. The Young Ghost. The Kid. The Boxman. The Lock Artist. That was all me. But you can call me Mike."* Marked by tragedy, traumatized at the age of eight, Michael, now 18, is no ordinary young man. Besides not uttering a single word in 10 years, he discovers the one thing he can somehow do better than anyone else. Whether it's a locked door without a key, a padlock with no combination, or even an 800 pound

**safe...** he can open them all. It's an unforgivable talent. A talent that will make young Michael a hot commodity with the wrong people and, whether he likes it or not, push him ever close to a life of crime. Until he finally sees his chance to escape, and with one desperate gamble risks everything to come back home to the only person he ever loved, and to unlock the secret that has kept him silent for so long.

Steve Hamilton steps away from his Edgar Award-winning Alex McKnight series to introduce a unique new character, unlike anyone you've ever seen in the world of crime fiction.

STEVE HATHILTO

*Tup!* ARTIST

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***The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*** by E. Lockhart *Frankie Landau-Banks at age 14:* Debate Club. Her father's "bunny rabbit." A mildly geeky girl attending a highly competitive boarding school.