

English 12 Summer Reading Assignment 2023
Canisius High School

In English 12, we focus on non-fiction texts as a means to study rhetorical writing techniques and devices. The books for this class are similar to the types of writing you will encounter in college. The English 12 summer reading assignment is meant to help introduce you to some of the journalistic styles and standards we will study and use in our writing this upcoming year.

Please read **ONE** novel from the list below. You may choose whatever format you prefer (e.g., eBook, paperback). When we return to school in September, you will have a writing assessment and the opportunity to prove your knowledge and comprehension of your chosen text.

OPTION 1:

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

New York Times bestselling author James Swanson delivers a riveting account of the chase for Abraham Lincoln's assassin.

Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.

OPTION 2:

Humble Pi: When Math Goes Wrong in the Real World by Matt Parker

Our whole world is built on math, from the code running a website to the equations enabling the design of skyscrapers and bridges. Most of the time this math works quietly behind the scenes . . . until it doesn't. All sorts of seemingly innocuous mathematical mistakes can have significant consequences.

Math is easy to ignore until a misplaced decimal point upends the stock market, a unit conversion error causes a plane to crash, or someone divides by zero and stalls a battleship in the middle of the ocean.

Exploring and explaining a litany of glitches, near misses, and mathematical mishaps involving the internet, big data, elections, street signs, lotteries, the Roman Empire, and an Olympic team, Matt Parker uncovers the bizarre ways math trips us up, and what this reveals about its essential place in our world. Getting it wrong has never been more fun.

OPTION 3:

Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman by Jon Krakauer

In 2002, Pat Tillman walked away from a multimillion-dollar NFL contract to join the Army and became an icon of American patriotism. When he was killed in Afghanistan two years later, a legend was born. But the real Pat Tillman was much more remarkable, and considerably more complicated than the public knew.

Drawing on Tillman's journals and letters and countless interviews with those who knew him and extensive research in Afghanistan, Jon Krakauer chronicles Tillman's riveting, tragic odyssey in

engrossing detail highlighting his remarkable character and personality while closely examining the murky, heartbreaking circumstances of his death. Infused with the power and authenticity readers have come to expect from Krakauer's storytelling, *Where Men Win Glory* exposes shattering truths about men and war.

OPTION 4:

Midnight in Chernobyl by Adam Higginbotham

April 25, 1986 in Chernobyl was a turning point in world history. The disaster not only changed the world's perception of nuclear power and the science that spawned it, but also our understanding of the planet's delicate ecology. With the images of the abandoned homes and playgrounds beyond the barbed wire of the 30-kilometer Exclusion Zone, the rusting graveyards of contaminated trucks and helicopters, the farmland lashed with black rain, the event fixed for all time the notion of radiation as an invisible killer.

The full story of the events that started that night in the control room of reactor number four of the V.I. Lenin Nuclear Power Plant has never been told - until now. Through two decades of reporting, new archival information, and firsthand interviews with witnesses, journalist Adam Higginbotham tells the full dramatic story, including Alexander Akimov and Anatoli Dyatlov, who represented the best and worst of Soviet life; denizens of a vanished world of secret policemen, internal passports, food lines, and heroic self-sacrifice for the motherland.