



# BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

## Summer Reading List 2024: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade American Literature and Composition (Standard)

*“A writer only begins a book. A reader finishes it.”*  
-Samuel Johnson

### A Rationale for Summer Reading

- To generate interest and pleasure that enriches literary and philosophical experience
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading

### Required Texts

- *The Crucible* Arthur Miller ISBN 0-14-243733-6  
(Please purchase only this edition and no other!)

This modern drama retells the classic story of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history, the witch-hunts and trials in seventeenth-century Salem, Massachusetts. The riveting classic examines hypocrisy and power in the hands of adults and youth.

*Note:* Read the *Introduction* by Christopher Bigsley in the beginning of the book.

- *My Antonia* Willa Cather ISBN 9780140187649  
(The publisher is Penguin Random House)

*My Antonia* is considered one of the most significant American novels of the twentieth century. Set during the great migration west to settle the plains of the North American continent, the narrative follows Antonia Shimerda, a pioneer who comes to Nebraska as a child and grows with the country, inspiring a childhood friend, Jim Burden, to write her life story. The novel is important both for its literary aesthetic and as a portrayal of the important aspects of American social ideals and history, particularly the centrality of migration to American culture.

### General Instructions/Evaluations

1. Students should be prepared to take *The Crucible* evaluation on the first day of class and the *My Antonia* evaluation on the second day of class.
2. Students will be assigned journal entries, the first essay of the school year, and participate in a seminar over *The Crucible* during the first weeks of the school year.
3. Students should bring both summer reading books on the first day of school.

## **Recommendations While Reading**

1. Remember to read all stage directions with *The Crucible*. Refer to the Cast of Characters frequently. Read all the expository narrative between certain scenes.
2. Annotation (highlighting, margin notes, summaries) of the reading is a beneficial tool for comprehension, retention, and application.

***Please remember the BA English Department policy:  
Do not consult internet novel guides, any other electronic or printed summaries, or  
movies; read and mark the texts themselves.***