

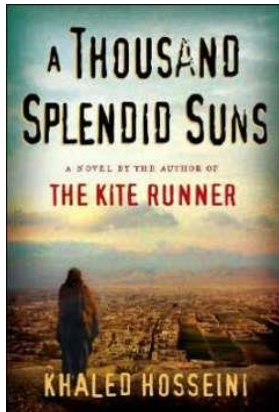
SUMMER READING FOR RISING SOPHOMORES 2020

ALL SOPHOMORES: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini

Please finish your reading in time for the start of the school year, and have the book(s) in your possession for the first weeks of September. You will begin the school year with assignments and discussions pertaining to the reading, but we do not expect heavy annotation or any written work during the summer.

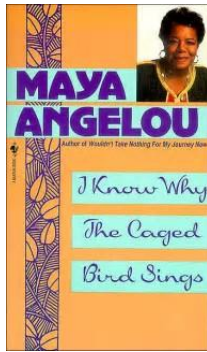
HONORS ENGLISH 10: In addition to *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, you will also read *one of the memoirs listed below*.

We are excited to share these books with you. As you continue to grow up, we hope you will begin to look beyond your immediate environment to understand people and cultures that may, at first glance, feel very foreign. Literature is a wonderful avenue to widen our horizons and help us experience, vicariously, life in faraway places. Ironically, while we gain this window into lives so different from our own, we are simultaneously struck by our common, shared humanity. Happy reading!



By the author of the best-selling *The Kite Runner*, this novel traces two generations of characters during thirty, war torn years in Afghanistan. An unlikely, but stirring friendship between two women is at the heart of this story, a friendship that binds them together despite poverty, violence, and the Taliban oppression. It is an intimate look at life in Afghanistan, and a deeply moving tale of sacrifice and love. Sophomores who read the book last summer were nearly unanimous in their praise for the novel.

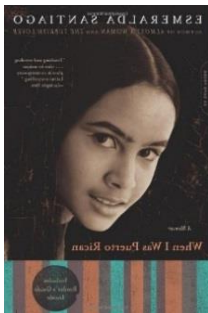
Memoir Choices for Honors English: In an effort to bring engaging non-fiction into your reading experience, we are excited to present four options, each from a different part of the world. These will complement the novel and further enlarge your knowledge of other cultures and lands. Read the description of each (on the next page) and choose the one which interests you the most. Or read more than one! It will be fun to share in September.



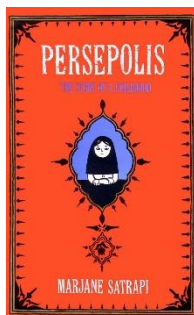
I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou. This beautifully written memoir is the writer's story of her life's journey, from arriving in Stamps, Arkansas at age three to live with her grandmother, until she becomes a mother herself in San Francisco. Her scenes of life in the South in a very segregated town are sobering, but she illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome racism and abuse. The writing is lyrical, but not extraordinarily challenging. There is one brief scene of sexual abuse committed against Maya. Angelou is a beloved writer and poet, and a source of inspiration for many. 304 pages.



Woman Warrior, by Maxine Hong Kingston. This book is now considered a classic and widely read in high schools and colleges. Throughout the book's five chapters, Kingston blends autobiography with old Chinese folktales, myth, and even imaginative passages. What results is a complex portrayal of the 20th century experiences of Chinese-Americans living in the U.S in the shadow of the Chinese Revolution. The book is divided into five interconnected chapters, which read like short stories. While this memoir is shorter, the structure and mix of genres within the book make it quite a challenging read. 209 pgs.



When I Was Puerto Rican, by Esmeralda Santiago. Santiago's story begins in rural Puerto Rico, where her childhood was full of both tenderness and domestic strife, tropical sounds and sights as well as poverty. Growing up, she learned the proper way to eat a guava, and the formula for ushering a dead baby's soul to heaven. As she enters school we see the clash of Puerto Rican and Anglo culture. When her mother, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Esmeralda, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually take on a new identity. Santiago brilliantly recreates the landscape of Puerto Rico and tumultuous family life of her earliest years and her tremendous journey from the *barrio* to high honors at Harvard. 278 pages and medium challenging.



Persepolis (Part 1—The Story of a Childhood), by Marjane Satrapi. Part 1 of Satrapi's memoir tells the story of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white images and text, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. This is a graphic book, so the reading experience involves literacy with hand drawn images and well as text. Also, since some understanding of the historical context of overthrow of the Shah of Iran and the subsequent revolution, students reading this book must do some research about this era in Iran, roughly 1977-1982. 160 pages.