English 10H Independent Reading Assignment:

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coming of Age/Culture, Diversity, and Identity in Adolescence

***Bildungsroman***: a type of novel concerned with the education, development, and maturing of a young protagonist; a “coming of age” novel

There are many books that deal with the theme of identity, growing up, and “coming of age.” Your assignment is to choose one of these books as an independent reading project. You may choose any book which deals with this theme, so long as it is:

1. *not on any school reading lists*
2. *approved by a parent/guardian and your teacher*

Below is a list of books that may interest you. Some of these books are available in the school library; others you may find at local libraries or bookstores. You will be required to write an essay based on this book, so choose wisely.

**Suggested Titles:**

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie native boy’s life changes at all-white high school

Feed\* by M.T. Anderson boy meets unique girl in sci-fi world of computer implants Know Why the Caged Bird Sings+ by Maya Angelou autobiography—growing up, overcoming racism

Tell The Wolves I’m Home by Carol Rifka Brunt a girl deals with her uncle’s death from AIDS in the 1980s Smack\* by Melvin Burgess runaway teenagers deal with drug addiction in England

The Virgin Suicides by Jeffrey Euginedes mysterious suicides of suburban sisters chronicled by neighborhood boys

The House of the Scorpion\* by Nancy Farmer sci-fi thriller about a young clone

White Oleander by Janet Fitch girl grows up in foster homes after her mother commits murder

America\* by E.R. Frank teenage boy who grew up in foster care grapples with his past after a suicide attempt

Better Than Running at Night\* by Hillary Frank college freshman art student spends first year away from home

Autobiography of a Face by Lucy Grealy autobiography--girl deals with disfigurement from cancer

Turtles All the Way Down\* by John Green best friends search for a fugitive billionaire while one copes with spiraling mental illness

Snow in August by Pete Hamill unlikely friendship between Irish boy and older Rabbi through baseball

Rocket Boys: A Memoir by Homer Hickam coming of age at the dawn of the 1960s and rocket science

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini two boys, one rich, one poor who grow up together in the 1970's in Afghanistan

Rich in Love by Josephine Humphreys teenage girl deals with dysfunctional family and first love

Deliver Us From Evie\* by M.E. Kerr town and family crisis when two teenage girls fall in love

A Separate Peace+ by John Knowles friendship and competition at boys boarding school during WWII

We Were Liars\* by E. Lockhart the friendship of three wealthy cousins living on a private island for the summer turns destructive

The Radius of Us\* by Marie MarquardtGretchen suffers from PTSD, Phoenix is running from his gang-life past and deportation

Boy’s Life by Robert McCammon mystery—a boy and his father seek a killer in 1964 Alabama

One of Us is Lying\* by Karen McManus what happens when five strangers walk into detention and only four walk out alive

Coming of Age in Mississippi by Anne Moody growing up black in Mississippi in the 40’s and 50’s

Shizuko’s Daughter\* by Kyoko Mori young Japanese girl must deal with the suicide of her mother

I’ll Give You the Sun\* by Jandy Nelson hyper-competitive yet close twins deal with a series of family tragedies

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng Chinese-American family unravels when their teen daughter goes missing

Life Without Water by Nancy Peacock teenage girl suffers emotional damage due to death of brother in Vietnam

Eleanor & Park\* by Rainbow Rowell two misfit teens fall in love as they deal with abuse, racism, bullying, and body image

If I Was Your Girl\* by Meredith Russo transgender teen girl forms a loving bond with a straight male high school football player

The Bell Jar+ by Sylvia Plath young woman deals with depression and her desire to be a writer

The Chosen+ by Chaim Potok two Jewish boys—one orthodox and one Hasidic—form an unlikely friendship during WWII

The Nowhere Girls\* by Amy Reed enraged by sexual assaults and rape culture at their high school, three new friends take action

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter\* by Erika L. Sánchez girl deals with loss, growing up in a Mexican American home

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold 14-year-old Susie recounts the story of her murder from her new life in heaven

The Hate U Give\* by Angie Thomas teenage girl drawn to activism after witnessing the police shooting of her unarmed friend

It’s Kind of a Funny Story\* by Ned Vizzini teen boy suffers from depression and spends time in a psychiatric ward to recover

The Long Night of Leo and Bree\* by Ellen Wittlinger on the anniversary of his sister’s murder, Leo kidnaps Bree

This Boy’s Life by Tobias Wolfe autobiographical story of adventurous boyhood in the 1950’s

The Sun is Also a Star\* by Nicola Yoon two teens of different cultural backgrounds fall in love just as one is set to be deported

The Book Thief\* by Marcus Zusak orphaned girl during WWII learns to read and forms close relationships with her foster family

Some of the books listed above contain mature themes. Please get the approval of your parent or guardian before you begin reading your chosen book. (See attached sheet.)

Books marked with an \* indicate Young Adult titles (books specifically written for teen audience).

Books marked with a + indicate “time-honored classics.”

You will be completing the following assignments based on this book, to be discussed at a later date:

1. a thematic essay
2. a book trailer

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Other Suggested Titles from Book Talk:

Once you’ve chosen and obtained your book, create the following reading schedule for yourself:

**Reading Schedule:**

By Friday, 11/8, read to p. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

By Friday, 11/15, read to p. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

By Friday, 11/22, read to p. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

By the end of Thanksgiving weekend, finish book

Show your book and reading schedule to your teacher on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English 10H/per. \_\_\_\_\_

# Independent Reading Assignment

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Independent Reading Book: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Some coming of age books contain mature themes. Please get the approval of your parent or guardian before you begin reading your chosen book.

Parent or Guardian’s Signature : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*Indicates parent or guardian’s approval of independent reading choice.

In order to expose you to different books and widen your experience, we ask that you do not select a book you have read before. Sign below to confirm that this title is a new book that you have not read before.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_