

# Grades 11 & 12 English Summer Reading

Dear Carver Students & Parents:

Students entering the 11 & 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be expected to read the following:

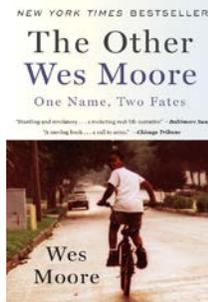
- a. 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade CP: one book from the list
- b. 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Honors: two books for the list

All of the following books are memoirs, books that deal with the author's real life experiences.

Upon your return to school, be ready to discuss and write about the following:

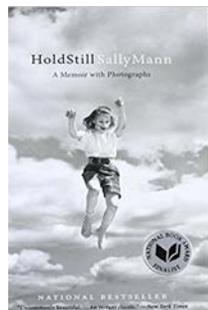
## Essential Question

What can we learn about ourselves and our own place in the world from readings about others' experiences?



## The Other Wes Moore

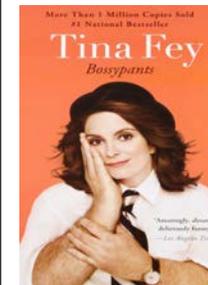
Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world. *from amazon.com*



## Hold Still

In this groundbreaking book, a unique interplay of narrative and image, Mann's preoccupation with family, race, mortality, and the storied landscape of the American South are revealed as into her DNA by the

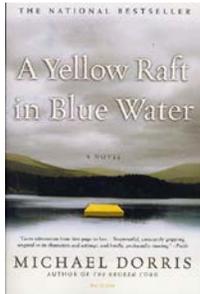
Sorting through boxes of family papers and yellowed photographs she finds more than she bargained for: "deceit and scandal, alcohol, domestic abuse, car crashes, bogeymen, clandestine affairs, dearly loved and disputed family land . . . racial complications, vast sums of money made and lost, the return of the prodigal son, and maybe even bloody murder." In lyrical prose and startlingly revealing photographs, she crafts a totally original form of personal history that has the page-turning drama of a great novel but is firmly rooted in the fertile soil of her own life. *from amazon.com*



## Bossypants

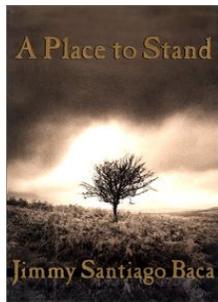
Before Liz Lemon, before "Weekend Update", before "Sarah Palin", Tina Fey was just a young girl with a dream: a recurring stress dream that she was being chased through a local airport by her middle-school gym teacher. She also had a dream that one day she would be a comedian on TV. She has seen both of those dreams come true. At last, Tina Fey's story can be told. From her youthful days as a vicious nerd to her tour of duty on Saturday Night Live; from her passionately halfhearted pursuit of physical beauty to her life as a mother eating things off the floor; from her one-sided college romance to her nearly fatal honeymoon - from the beginning of this paragraph to this final sentence. Tina Fey reveals all, and proves what we've all suspected: you're no one until someone calls you bossy. *from amazon.com*

# Summer Choice list for Grade 11 & 12 cont.



## *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*

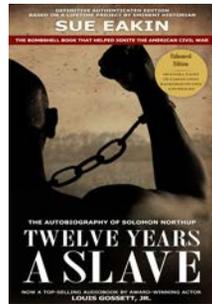
Michael Dorris has crafted a fierce saga of three generations of Indian women, beset by hardships and torn by angry secrets, yet inextricably joined by the bonds of kinship. Starting in the present day and moving backward, the novel is told in the voices of the three women: fifteen-year-old part-black Rayona; her American Indian mother, Christine, consumed by tenderness and resentment toward those she loves; and the fierce and mysterious Ida, mother and grandmother whose haunting secrets, betrayals, and dreams echo through the years, braiding together the strands of the shared past. *from amazon.com*



## *A Place to Stand*

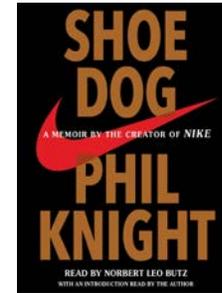
Jimmy Santiago Baca's harrowing, brilliant memoir of his life before, during, and immediately after the years he spent in a maximum-security prison garnered tremendous critical acclaim and went on to win the

prestigious 2001 International Prize. Long considered one of the best poets in America today, Baca was illiterate at the age of twenty-one and facing five to ten years behind bars for selling drugs. *A Place to Stand* is the remarkable tale of how he emerged after his years in the penitentiary -- much of it spent in isolation -- with the ability to read and a passion for writing poetry. A vivid portrait of life inside a maximum-security prison and an affirmation of one man's spirit in overcoming the most brutal adversity, *A Place to Stand* "stands as proof there is always hope in even the most desperate lives" -- (Fort Worth Morning Star-Telegram). *from amazon.com*



## *Hold Still*

This unforgettable memoir was the basis for the Academy Award-winning film *12 Years a Slave*. This is the true story of Solomon Northup, who was born and raised as a freeman in New York. He lived the American dream, with a house and a loving family - a wife and two kids. Then one day he was drugged, kidnapped, and sold into slavery in the deep south. These are the true accounts of his twelve hard years as a slave - many believe this memoir is even more graphic and disturbing than the film. His extraordinary journey proves the resiliency of hope and the human spirit despite the most grueling and formidable of circumstances. *from amazon.com*



## *Shoe Dog*

In this instant and tenacious New York Times bestseller, Nike founder and board chairman Phil Knight "offers a rare and revealing look at the notoriously media-shy man behind the swoosh" (Booklist, starred review), illuminating his company's early days as an intrepid start-up and its evolution into one of the world's most iconic, game-changing, and profitable brands. But Knight, the man behind the swoosh, has always been a mystery. In *Shoe Dog*, he tells his story at last. He details the many risks he encountered, the crushing setbacks, the ruthless competitors and hostile bankers—as well as his many thrilling triumphs. Above all, he recalls the relationships that formed the heart and soul of Nike, with his former track coach, the irascible and charismatic Bill Bowerman, and with his first employees, a ragtag group of misfits and savants who quickly became a band of swoosh-crazed brothers. *from amazon.com*

Here are links to reviews of each book:

- [The Other Wes Moore](#)
- [Hold Still](#)
- [Bossypants](#)
- [A Yellow Raft in Blue Water](#)
- [A Place to Stand](#)
- [12 Years a Slave](#)
- [Shoe Dog](#)