



May 2019

Dear tenth grade students,

We so excited to teach you this fall! To prepare for an exciting and productive school year in English, over the summer, each student will be required to read **two books**. When we return in the fall, there will be a unit on the required novel and a quiz and writing assignment over your chosen novels. Notes are recommended, but not required, to prepare for these assessments.

You will be **required to read** *Night* by Elie Wiesel. For the second book, you have **the option to read** *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, *The Five People You Meet In Heaven* by Mitch Albom, or *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Barbara Silberman (bsilberman@denverjds.org). Have a wonderful summer!

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*Night*: Elie Wiesel

*Night* is Elie Wiesel's masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps.

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*: Stephen Chbosky

*Perks* follows observant “wallflower” Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven*: Mitch Albom

Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination, but an answer. In heaven, five people explain your life to you. Some you knew, others may have been strangers. One by one, from childhood to soldier to old age, Eddie's five people revisit their connections to him on earth, illuminating the mysteries of his "meaningless" life, and revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: "Why was I here?"

*The Last Lecture:* Randy Pausch

Based on the extraordinary final lecture by Carnegie Mellon University professor Randy Pausch, given after he discovered he had pancreatic cancer, this moving book goes beyond the now-famous lecture to inspire readers to live each day with purpose and joy. Photos of Randy and his family and friends are included.