

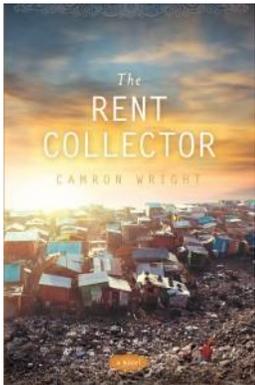
## Northside High School Summer Reading 2019

### Honors 10<sup>th</sup> Grade American Literature

For the summer of 2019, Northside High School is requiring rising Honors 10<sup>th</sup> Grade American Literature students who will be returning next fall to read the two books listed below. As an AP department, our goal is to encourage our honors students to read broadly, investing time in both “classic” novels and more modern texts.

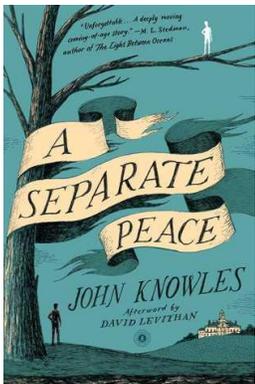
The books chosen for this summer complement each other in at least one sense: *The Rent Collector* is in many ways a novel about the importance of great literature, and *A Separate Peace* is considered by many to be great literature. As students read they should consider this connection.

I highly suggest reading the two books in the order shown below; however, it is not required. I also think students should divide up the work, reading one novel in June and one in July.



Survival for Ki Lim and Sang Ly is a daily battle at Stung Meanchey, the largest municipal waste dump in all of Cambodia. They make their living scavenging recyclables from the trash. Life would be hard enough without the worry for their chronically ill child, Nisay, and the added expense of medicines that are not working. Just when things seem to be at their worst, Sang Ly learns a secret about the bad-tempered rent collector who comes demanding money--a secret that sets in motion a tide that will change the life of everyone it sweeps past.

*The Rent Collector* is a story of hope, of one woman's journey to save her son, and another woman's chance at redemption.



An American classic and great bestseller for over thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is timeless in its description of adolescence during a period when the entire country was losing its innocence to the second world war.

Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

A bestseller for more than thirty years, *A Separate Peace* is John Knowles' crowning achievement and an undisputed American classic.

Please keep in mind that **students can expect a multiple choice exam over both novels as well as an essay upon returning to school in the fall**. Also, **students should annotate their books**. Remember, annotating is simply a conversation with the text, and it encourages active, thoughtful reading.

If there are any questions or concerns about the novels, please feel free to contact me via e-mail. While I will not be available every day this summer, I will do my best to respond in a timely manner.

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