

# ENGLISH 11 HONORS NON-FICTION READING LIST

## SURVIVAL & ADVENTURE

*Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer | Pages: 337

A harrowing tale of the Mt. Everest disaster. Krakauer recounts the men and women involved, their bad luck, worse judgment, and heart-breaking heroism.

*Alive* by Piers Paul Read | Pages: 318

An adventure of survival, insurmountable odds, and what people will do to survive, *Alive* tells the tale of sixteen men whose plane crashes in the Andes.

*Into Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis* by Doug Stanton | Pages: 384

A best-selling account of a WW II naval disaster, it is a classic tale of war, survival, and extraordinary courage.

*In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick | Pages: 238

Philbrick's book is a fantastic saga of survival and adventure, steeped in the lore of whaling, with deep resonance in American literature and history. Philbrick uses little-known documents and vivid details about the Nantucket whaling tradition to reveal the chilling facts of this infamous maritime disaster.

*Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing | Pages: 288

Sir Ernest Shackleton's daring attempt to cross the South Pole comes to life. It is an exhilarating account of the men who lived the extraordinary Antarctic adventure, one of the greatest episodes in the history of polar exploration and survival.

*Unbroken: A WWII Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand | Pages: 473

This is a rich and vivid narrative of an unforgettable story of a man's journey in extremity. It is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.

## BUSINESS/ECONOMICS

*Freakonomics* by Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner | Pages: 320

*Freakonomics* is considered readable, interesting, and ground-breaking. Levitt studies the riddles of everyday life—from cheating and crime to parenting and sports—and reaches conclusions that turn conventional wisdom on its head. Economics is, at root, the study of incentives—how people get what they want or need, especially when other people want or need the same thing.

*Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell | Pages: 309

"Outlier" is a term to describe things or phenomena that lie outside normal experience. Gladwell is interested in people who are outliers—in men and women who, for one reason or another, are so accomplished and so extraordinary and so outside of ordinary experience.

## BIOGRAPHY

*Profiles in Courage for our Time* by Caroline Kennedy | Pages: 374

OR

*Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy | Pages: 245

A stirring look at people who rarely thought about what they could do for themselves, but always about what they could do for their country.

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot | Pages: 370

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. A poor Southern tobacco farmer, her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine, uncovering secrets of cancer, and the atom bomb's effects.

*When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi | Pages: 208

A young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis attempts to answer the questions: What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when the future, no longer a ladder toward your goals in life, flattens out into a perpetual present? These are some of the questions Kalanithi wrestles with in this profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir.

## HISTORY

*Is Paris Burning?* by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre | Pages: 385

Hitler's death sentence to the city of Paris in 1944 nearly happened. An extraordinary series of events saved the city from what Hitler wanted to leave "nothing but a field of ruins." The dramatic story of the liberation of Paris is exciting, emotionally charged history, impeccably researched and written.

*The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair* by Erik Larson | Pages: 447

Erik Larson imbues the events surrounding the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with drama. Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor.

## SPORTS

*King of the World* by David Remnick | Pages: 330

On a night in 1964 that Muhammad Ali (then Cassius Clay) stepped into the ring with Sonny Liston. Six rounds later Ali was the new world heavyweight champion: He was "a new kind of black man" who would shortly transform America's racial politics, its popular culture, and its notions of heroism.

*Seabiscuit* by Laura Hillenbrand | Pages: 452

Sports biography of a great American race horse in Depression era America.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

*Plastic* by Susan Freinkel | Pages: 336

Plastic built the modern world. Where would we be without bike helmets, baggies, toothbrushes, and pacemakers? But a century into our love of plastic, we're starting to realize it's not such a healthy relationship. Plastics draw on dwindling fossil fuels, leach harmful chemicals, litter landscapes, and destroy marine life. Journalist Susan Freinkel offers a balanced, engaging, and eye-opening book.

*The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan | Pages: 451

Pollan offers insight into modern food consumption, explaining how an abundance of unlimited food varieties reveals the responsibilities of consumers to protect their health and the environment.

## TRUE CRIME

*Columbine* by Dave Cullen | Pages: 360

Ten years in the making and a masterpiece of reportage, "Columbine" is an award-winning journalist's definitive account of one of the most shocking massacres in American history. It is driven by two questions: what drove these killers, and what did they do to this town?

*The Lynching of Emmett Till* by Christopher Metress | Pages: 360

In 1955, 14 year old Emmett Till, visiting from Chicago, was abducted from his great-uncle's cabin in Mississippi. When his corpse was found three days later and two white men were arrested for his murder, Till's death became the spark that set off the civil rights movement. With a collection of more than one hundred documents, Metress retells Till's story in a unique and daring way.

## OTHER

*This Is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession* by Daniel J. Levitin | Pages: 314

What can music teach us about the brain? What can the brain teach us about music? And what can both teach us about ourselves? In this groundbreaking union of art and science, rocker-turned-neuroscientist Daniel J. Levitin explores the connection between music - its performance, its composition, how we listen to it, why we enjoy it - and the human brain.

*Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain | Pages: 337

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over brainstorming in teams. Although they are often labeled "quiet," it is to introverts that we owe many of the great contributions to society. Passionately argued, impressively researched, and filled with stories of real people, *Quiet* shows how much we undervalue introverts. This book has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and how introverts see themselves.