



## Holy Name High School Summer Reading 2023

### Senior AP Summer Reading List

Before the year starts, students taking **AP English Literature & Composition (141)** will be required to read the following **three (3)** works of literature:

#### **Required Books:**

##### *The Last Lecture* - Randy Pausch

A lot of professors give talks titled "The Last Lecture." Professors are asked to consider their demise and to reflect on what matters most to them. And while they speak, audiences can't help but mull the same question: What wisdom would we give to the world if we knew it was our last chance? If we were to vanish tomorrow, what would we leave as our legacy?

Randy Pausch seemed to have it all: a loving wife, three children, and a successful teaching career. However, the one thing that he did not have was good health. At 46, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. His doctor gave him three to six months to live. When Randy, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last. But the lecture he gave--"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"--wasn't about dying. It was about overcoming obstacles, enabling the dreams of others, and seizing every moment (because "time is all you have...and you may find one day that you have less than you think"). It was everything Randy had come to believe. It was about living.

##### *No Exit* - Jean-Paul Sartre

A one-act philosophical drama by Sartre that suggests true misery comes from the human inability to control the nature of one's own existence.

##### *Our Missing Hearts: A Novel* - Celeste Ng

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. His mother Margaret, a Chinese American poet, left without a trace when he was nine years old. He doesn't know what happened to her—only that her books have been banned—and he resents that she cared more about her work than about him.

Then one day, Bird receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, and soon he is pulled into a quest to find her. His journey will take him back to the many folktales she poured into his head as a child, through the ranks of an underground network of heroic librarians, and finally to New York City, where he will learn the truth about what happened to his mother, and what the future holds for them both.