The first unit in English II investigates common allusions, archetypes, and symbols used in American literature. As an introduction for the unit, please choose at least one of the novels below, but feel free to read more than one! You may want to read this as close to the beginning of school as possible — BUT NOT THE NIGHT BEFORE — so it will be fresh in your memory.

You will need your own personal copy of the text the first day in class.

**While reading:** use a colored post-it to tag quotes you find interesting, speak to you, or you question.

**After reading:** Using society from your chosen novel, make a list of social attitudes (how they think, what’s important to them). Make sure to identify social attitudes held by certain groups, along with the attitudes of society. You can list these on loose leaf paper. Using a different color post-it, locate scenes or quotes illustrating these social attitudes. On the post-it, write the social attitude for easy identification.

Choose one of the main characters from the novel. Consider how the character encounters hardship, dangers, and/or the evils of the adult world. In a 300 word essay, explain how the character confronts these aspects. Also, what does the character come to realize? You may write this on loose leaf.

- *Nyxia* by Scott Reintgen
- *Small Great Things* by Jodi Piccolt
- *The Astonishing Color of After* by Emily X.R. Pan
- *The Lying Woods* by Ashley Elston
- *The Lock Artist* by Steve Hamilton
- *Goodbye Days* by Jeff Zentner
- *It’s Kind of a Funny Story* by Ned Vinzini
- *Paper Towns* by John Green
- *Sleeping Beauties* by Stephen King & Owen King
- *Out of the Easy* by Ruta Sepetys

**First Day of School:** Please make sure to bring your chosen novel, social attitudes list, and essay to class. If you choose to read more than one novel, you only need to do the assignment for one novel.

You may want to consider Thriftbooks.com or Halfpricebooks.com for a discounted novels.