Students entering Pre-AP English II at Oxford High School must have completed the following assignments before the first day of class.

1. Read the four books on the following list.
2. Come to school prepared to a) take a comprehension test and/or produce writing entries on the selections and b) discuss thoroughly and in-depth the concepts and themes of the books.
3. Annotating (taking notes) on the texts is strongly suggested, as you will need a working knowledge of all 4 texts when you return to school in August. It will be easier to review your notes than reread the whole book!
4. Begin examining possible connections among the selections.

**Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury** (Ballantine, 1953)

This classic novel presents for evaluation a dystopian American society of the future in which books are outlawed and ultimately burned. The focus is on the threats of censorship, as well as concerns regarding the suppression of information/knowledge by those in authority.

**Coming of Age in Mississippi, Anne Moody** (Laurel, 1968)

This autobiography of an African-American Mississippi youth takes place in the crux of the Civil Rights Movement. It provides a first hand account of a southern black girl's journey from early childhood through young adulthood, revealing in an honest and raw manner the reality of growing up poor and black in a racially charged southern climate. The reader sees the author through hope and hardship, joy and anger, recognizing that Anne is sometimes a heroine, sometimes a victim.

**Oedipus Rex, Sophocles** (Also known as *Oedipus the King*)

The second in a trilogy of plays by Sophocles, this play tells the story of Oedipus, his curse, and his journey to the truth. This will serve as the background for another play we will read during the school year, *Antigone*. (Any translation of this play is acceptable. Though language may vary a bit, the story is essentially the same.)
Eats, Shoots & Leaves, Lynne Truss (Penguin, 2003)
Former editor Lynne Truss, gravely concerned about our current grammatical state, boldly defends proper punctuation. She proclaims, in her delightfully urbane, witty, and very British way, that it is time to look at our commas and semicolons and see them as the wonderful and necessary things they are. Using examples from literature, history, neighborhood signage, and her own imagination, Truss shows how meaning is shaped by commas and apostrophes, and the hilarious consequences of punctuation gone awry.

Also, please download the accompanying PDF, “An Educational Companion to EATS, SHOOTS & LEAVES,” and work through the packet to prepare for your test in August.

Finding/Purchasing Books:
• All of the listed books are available at Square Books and/or Square Books, Jr.
• For cheaper or used copies, there are many bargain book websites available now, and all titles are currently in print and readily available.
• These books can be found at the public library.
• Classmates are welcome to share books throughout the summer, so as to alleviate the cost of purchasing all four books.