Meet Oskar Schell, an inventor, Francophile, tambourine player, Shakespearean actor, jeweler, pacifist, correspondent with Stephen Hawking and Ringo Starr. He is nine years old. And he is on an urgent, secret search through the five boroughs of New York. His mission is to find the lock that fits a mysterious key belonging to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on 9/11.

An inspired innocent, Oskar is alternately endearing, exasperating, and hilarious as he careens from Central Park to Coney Island to Harlem on his search. Along the way he is always dreaming up inventions to keep those he loves safe from harm. What about a birdseed shirt to let you fly away? What if you could actually hear everyone's heartbeat? His goal is hopeful, but the past speaks a loud warning in stories of those who've lost loved ones before. As Oskar roams New York, he encounters a motley assortment of humanity who are all survivors in their own way. He befriends a 103-year-old war reporter, a tour guide who never leaves the Empire State Building, and lovers enraptured or scorned. Ultimately, Oskar ends his journey where it began, at his father's grave.

Students are strongly encouraged to finish reading by the first day of school. We begin our year digging deeply into the writing process, and each day’s student-led discussions will rely heavily on your understanding and analysis of the text. This book is very engaging and well-written. You should enjoy it while lounging by the pool sipping cool lemonade. Additionally, students are expected to maintain a conversation with the book as they read. This is best accomplished by underlining or highlighting, making notes in the margin, and posing questions as they appear in the reading. This type of internal dialogue enhances the deep reading necessary to study literature. I welcome you to watch the film adaptation (IN ADDITION TO YOUR READING) as part of our early discussions will analyze the art forms of literature and film.

Contact:
Glennda Bayron
glennda.bayron@wylieisd.net
wehsugi.seebley.com
@BayronLit

Leny Philipose
Leny.philipose@wylieisd.net
whsugi.org
@mrsphilipose
2017 Humanities I
Books for the Year

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* – Foerr

*Ethan Frome* – Wharton

*Macbeth* – Shakespeare (Folger Shakespeare Library version)

*To Kill a Mockingbird* – Lee

*1984* – Orwell (WHS only)

Students will choose two of the following for literature circles:

- *Metamorphosis* – Kafka
- *Twelve Angry Men* – Rose
- *Woman Hollering Creek* – Cisneros
- *Interpreter of Maladies* – Lahiri

We ask that you purchase these books and have them available on the day we start reading. At times, you may receive extra credit for having your book on the day requested.

If noted, it is important that you get the edition requested.