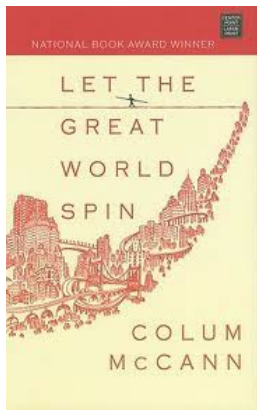


School of the Arts  
Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition  
2024-2025 Summer Reading Selections



***Equus*, Peter Shaffer, 1975 (play)**

Shaffer's drama raises numerous questions regarding the stifling effects of modern civilization. After a teenage boy in a fit of passion blinds six horses, his psychiatrist is thrown into an identity crisis, unsure whether to "cure" the boy or learn from him.



***Let the Great World Spin*, Colum McCann, 2009 (novel)**

Called "The greatest 9/11 novel," *Let the Great World Spin*, the 2009 National Book Award winner, takes place in New York City. Though it never quite addresses 9/11, that tragedy looms in the background of every page. McCann's book, however, is a life-affirming celebration of what is best in humanity. It takes place primarily on August 7, 1974, the day Philipp Petit strung a tightrope between the twin towers and danced across the quarter mile abyss above Manhattan. Also unforgettable for the voice of its narrators, the story is told from the points-of-view of eleven fictional characters touched in some way by the tightrope walker's act of beauty and courage, a feat that has been called "the artistic crime of the century."

Instructions:

Read and annotate both works. Annotations should reveal a careful critical reading.

Evaluation:

- 1) Annotations will be graded.
- 2) Students will take an objective test on both works on the first day of class.
- 3) Students will participate in a graded discussion on the works.

Please e-mail questions to [John\\_Cusatis@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:John_Cusatis@charleston.k12.sc.us)