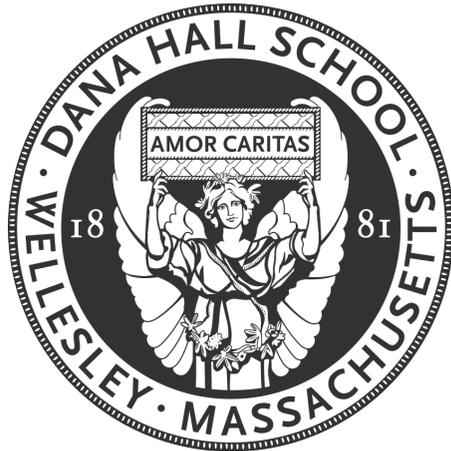


2015 SUMMER READING LIST



Dana Hall School
Wellesley, MA

DANA HALL SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST 2015
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All students at Dana Hall are required to complete summer reading. The books you read will be used in your English class during the first few weeks of the first trimester. As you read, we urge you to remember that the art of reading is a creative act, a collaboration between reader and writer.

Hold a dialogue with these books: question, argue, disagree; underline those passages that exhilarate you as well as those that infuriate you. Keep a notebook to jot down your immediate responses to each of these works and write questions that you want to discuss in your English classes. Encourage your family and friends to join you in these reading experiences.

A number of the books on this list have been made into movies, many of them wonderful in their own right. Seeing a movie instead of reading the book, however, will not prepare you for your teacher's assignment related to that book, nor will it replace the unique experience of interacting with a specific text. A better idea is to read the book first, making note of your responses and completing the assigned work, and then see the movie, which as a result you will experience on two levels.

"From that time on, the world was hers for the reading. She would never be lonely again, never miss the lack of intimate friends. Books became her friends and there was one for every mood. There was poetry for quiet companionship. There was adventure when she tired of quiet hours. There would be love stories when she came to adolescence and when she wanted to feel a closeness to someone she could read a biography. On that day when she first knew she could read, she made a vow to read one book a day as long as she lived."

—Betty Smith, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

"To sit alone . . . with a book spread out before you . . . such is a pleasure beyond compare."

—Yoshida Kinko, *Essays in Idleness*

"...I write because I want to make deposits, not withdrawals. For me, writing is more like having a savings account: it's where we go to when we've run out of checks. I like to think of writing as a kind of gift you give to others, something they can use . . . I'm a die-hard idealist, which is probably why I am compelled to write . . . So far, it's the easiest way I've found to be of some service to the world. More and more of us are realizing that when we open up a book, we are opening up a world."

—Terry McMillan

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

1. During the first few weeks in your English classes, you will be asked to discuss and to write about the books you read during the summer. Your first trimester grade will include work connected with your summer reading.
2. Most of the books we have selected are readily available in paperback, and some are also available in e-book format. Review the reading list early in the summer to make sure that you can obtain copies of your choices. Many of these books are also available at your local library; however, it would be best if you brought the books you read during the summer with you in September.

GRADE 6

- Required: *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, Avi
- Two books from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 6,” “Recommended Books for Grade 7” or “Recommended Books for Grade 8.”

All rising sixth graders will receive an assignment for the required book and the two free-choice books. In addition, this document will be posted on the Helen Temple Cooke Library website at <http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading> by June 1.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 6

KIDS LIKE YOU

Al Capone Does My Shirts, Gennifer Choldenko

When Moose moves to Alcatraz Island, where his dad guards some of the country’s most notorious prisoners, he has a hard time taking care of his autistic older sister and adjusting to his new life.

Becoming Naomi León, Pam Muñoz Ryan

Naomi, Owen, and their great-grandmother take a life-changing trip to Mexico to find the children’s long-lost father.

Close to Famous, Joan Bauer

A warm, funny novel about Foster, her mom, a reclusive movie star, and the world’s best cupcakes.

A Crooked Kind of Perfect, Linda Urban

Zoe longs to be a piano prodigy, but instead of a piano, she ends up with a Perfectone organ. Can playing hits of the seventies in the Perfectone Perform-A-Rama ever compete with dreams of Carnegie Hall?

Skies Like These, Tess Hilmo

Jade is grumpy about spending the summer with her aunt in Wyoming, until she meets cowboy-obsessed Roy and gets caught up in his crazy schemes to save his dad's store.

OTHER WORLDS

The Chronicles of Chrestomanci, Diana Wynne Jones

Christopher has nine lives, can travel between worlds, and is therefore destined to be the next magical leader Chrestomanci. So why is he so hilariously terrible at magic? A must-read for all *Harry Potter* fans! First in a series.

Dealing with Dragons, Patricia C. Wrede

Bored with being a princess, Cimorene runs away to live with dragons in this funny fairy tale. First in a series.

A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L'Engle

With their neighbor Calvin O'Keefe, Meg Murray and her brother Charles Wallace embark on a cosmic journey to find their lost father, a scientist studying time travel. First in a series.

BOOKS TO MAKE YOU LAUGH

Better Nate Than Ever, Tim Federle

Determined to live his dream of Broadway stardom, Nate and his best friend Libby plan an escape to New York to audition for *E. T.: The Musical*.

Holes, Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats and his family have never had anything but bad luck, so it's really no surprise to him when he is falsely accused and convicted of theft. This is a terrific, action-packed story, full of great characters with strong voices; exciting, funny scenes; and enough twists and turns to keep you reading nonstop.

A Tale Dark and Grimm, Adam Gidwitz

Hansel and Gretel and other fairy tale characters meet gruesome, hilarious fates on their way to a happy ending.

BOOKS TO MAKE YOU CRY

Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson

Jess has never had a friend like Leslie. Together they create and explore an imaginary world they call Terabithia — until tragedy strikes.

Ninth Ward, Jewell Parker Rhodes

Unable to leave New Orleans, Laneshia and her elderly caretaker, Mama Ya-Ya, stay to ride out Hurricane Katrina.

The One and Only Ivan, Katherine Applegate

The Newbery-winning tale of a captive gorilla, a baby elephant, and their incredible friendship.

POEMS AND PICTURES

El Deafo, Cece Bell

“Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers!” (Publisher description) A Newbery Honor-winning graphic memoir.

Inside Out & Back Again, Thanhha Lai

When the Vietnam War forces her family to escape to the U.S., Ha faces many challenges in adapting to her new life. An autobiographical story told in poems.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, Grace Lin

“Inspired by [her father’s] stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family’s fortune.” (Publisher description)

OTHER TIMES

The Night Journey, Kathryn Lasky

Rachel dreads the time she spends with her great-grandmother, Nana Sashie, until Sashie begins to relate the story of her Jewish family’s daring escape from turn-of-the-20th-century Russia.

One Crazy Summer, Rita Williams-Garcia

Delphine and her sisters are sent to spend the summer with their long-lost mother in California, where they get caught up in the Black Panther Party and the Civil Rights struggles of 1968.

MYSTERY AND SURVIVAL

Breadcrumbs, Anne Ursu

Hazel and Jack used to be best friends. Then he stopped talking to her...and one day he disappeared. Hazel’s search for Jack takes her into a mysterious forest of ice, where fairy tales are not what they seem.

Doll Bones, Holly Black

Zach, Poppy, and Alice have played an elaborate game of make-believe for years, but they’re growing up and growing apart. They decide to go on one last adventure to lay the game to rest...but the adventure quickly becomes creepier than they planned.

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, E. L. Konigsburg

When Claudia and her little brother Jamie decide to run away, they do it in style: they spend their days and nights in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. But when Claudia's favorite sculpture goes missing and they decide to solve the mystery, they end up with more than they bargained for!

My Side of the Mountain, Jean Craighead George

Tired of living at home, Sam runs away to live off the land. He makes his home in a hollowed-out tree, trains a falcon named Frightful, and survives alone using only his wits.

The Westing Game, Ellen Raskin

Who killed Mr. Westing? His heirs (and you!) must solve the mystery to claim their inheritance.

When You Reach Me, Rebecca Stead

Miranda's normal life is suddenly full of odd characters, like the crazy man who lives under the mailbox on her street and the kid who punches her best friend for no reason. And then she starts getting the notes...

GRADE 7

- Required: *Miles to Go for Freedom: Segregation and Civil Rights in the Jim Crow Years*, Linda Barrett Osborne
- Required: *Brown Girl Dreaming*, Jacqueline Woodson
- Two books from the reading lists "Recommended Books for Grade 7," or "Recommended Books for Grade 8."

All rising seventh graders will receive a reading guide for the required books. This guide will include questions to answer as well as other activities to prepare you to do additional work on the required books when you begin school in September. In addition, this document will be posted on the Helen Temple Cooke Library website at <http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading> by June 1.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 7

GIRL UP: GIRL LEADERS

The Girl of Fire and Thorns, Rae Carson

Marked by God for a great destiny, Elisa is sent to marry the king of a far-off country threatened by war and magic. First in a trilogy.

Hope Was Here, Joan Bauer

Hope has grown up working in diners up and down the east coast with her aunt, Addie. She loves being a waitress, but all that moving around is hard. Now that Addie's taking over a diner in tiny Mulhoney, Wisconsin, will Hope find a home at last?

I Kill the Mockingbird, Paul Acampora

Why don't their classmates love *To Kill a Mockingbird* as much as Lucy and her friends do? The friends hatch a plot to get everyone in town excited about the book, but their schemes quickly get out of hand!

Lions of Little Rock, Kristin Levine

When Marlee's best friend Liz is kicked out of school for passing as white, "Marlee decides that doesn't matter. She just wants her friend back. And to stay friends, Marlee and Liz are even willing to take on segregation and the dangers their friendship could bring to both their families." (Publisher description)

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World, Sy Montgomery and Temple Grandin

Temple loves animals and believes her autism gives her a special understanding of them. Read the fascinating biography of Temple Grandin, animal scientist and one of the most famous people with autism.

The True Meaning of Smekday, Adam Rex

When the alien Boov invade Earth and abduct her mom, Gratuity "Tip" Tucci, her cat Pig, and an outlaw Boov named J. Lo go on a road trip to save the planet. Read now before you see the movie *Home*!

KIDS LIKE YOU

Dairy Queen, Catherine Gilbert Murdock

D.J. Schwenk is overworked enough as she tries to keep the family farm running – then she also agrees to secretly train the rival high school's quarterback. First in a trilogy.

One for the Murphys, Lynda Mullaly Hunt

When Carley joins a new foster family, the lovable Murphys, she finally starts to feel at home. What will she do when her mother wants her back?

Tell Us We're Home, Marina Budhos

Best friends Jaya, Maria, and Lola are the daughters of maids who work for their classmates' wealthy families. That's hard enough – and then Jaya's mother is accused of theft.

TWISTS & TURNS

Graceling, Kristin Cashore

Katsa was born with an unstoppable fighting ability which causes her to be feared by everyone in her life—until she meets Po, a prince with the same gift. Their investigation of the kidnapping of Po's grandfather puts them in danger as they discover the horrible secret behind a distant king's rule.

Greenglass House, Kate Milford

Milo's parents' inn is filling up with odd guests, one of whom appears to be a thief. Snowbound for days, Milo and his new friend Meddy are determined to solve all the mysteries of Greenglass House. A cozy, perfect mystery.

The Lost Conspiracy, Frances Hardinge

Gullstruck Island: downtrodden native tribes, baffled colonists, telepathic powers, and two sisters on a dangerous quest. This complex, amazing fantasy is impossible to describe -- just read it!

Riverman, Aaron Starmer

Are Fiona's tales of her trips to the magical land of Aquavania true, or is she in a more real-world sort of trouble? The Riverman is stalking her -- but who is he really? First in a trilogy.

GLOBAL ADVENTURES

The Boy on the Wooden Box, Leon Leyson

This is the only memoir written by a child saved from the Holocaust by Oskar Schindler's famous List.

Endangered, Eliot Schrefer

Sophie, whose mother runs a sanctuary for bonobo apes in Congo, becomes a foster mother to an orphan baby bonobo, Otto. When Congo breaks out in civil war, Sophie and Otto must survive alone in the jungle and make it to safety.

Golden Boy, Tara Sullivan

Habo is an albino -- a boy born without any pigment in his skin. In his small village in Tanzania, he is feared and hunted, so he runs away to the big city. Will he find a home at last?

In Real Life, Cory Doctorow and Jen Wang

In this graphic novel, Anda questions her love of the videogame Coarsegold when her gaming adventures intersect with real life on the other side of the world.

War Horse, Michael Morpurgo

The unforgettable story of a brave farm horse sold into battle in World War I.

CLASSICS FOR A REASON

Anne of Green Gables, L. M. Montgomery

Red-headed orphan Anne Shirley is far too dramatic and imaginative for the likes of her prim, proper new family! Discover her misadventures with green hair dye, red currant wine, and Gilbert, the dreadful (but cute) boy down the road.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, C. S. Lewis

Four siblings slip through a wardrobe in their new home and find themselves in a magical land ruled by the cruel White Witch. First in a series.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith

Growing up in Brooklyn in the early 1900s, shy Francie Nolan faces challenge and tragedy to grow into a strong young woman.

GRADE 8

- Required: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie
- Three books from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 8” or “Recommended Books for Grade 9.”

All rising eighth graders will receive a reading guide for the required book. This guide will include questions to answer as well as other activities to prepare you to do additional work on the required book when you begin school in September. In addition, this document will be posted on the Helen Temple Cooke Library website at <http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading> by June 1.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 8

CLASSIC ADVENTURES

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The first collection of stories about the world’s most famous detective.

Call of the Wild, Jack London

Buck is a dog born to luxury, but his life changes dramatically when he is sold to be a sled dog in the Yukon Territory.

Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie

When someone commits murder on the luxurious Orient Express train, it is up to Detective Poirot to solve the case.

TWISTS & TURNS

All the Truth That’s in Me, Julie Berry

Four years ago, Judith and her best friend disappeared from their small town. Judith has now returned, alone and unable to speak. What happened to her? How can she heal and reclaim her life?

Chime, Franny Billingsley

If Briony keeps secrets – about her powers, about her sister’s accident – she believes she can keep her family safe. But sometimes secrets are more dangerous than the truth.

Feed, M. T. Anderson

In the near future, almost everyone has a feed – a brain implant that constantly “feeds” them entertainment and shopping. Titus’s easy, empty life is threatened when he meets Violet, a girl who dares to think for herself...and whose feed is dangerously malfunctioning.

ON THE SHORTER SIDE

Book of Everything, Guus Kuijer

Growing up in a difficult family, Thomas records the magic he sees in the world in his “Book of Everything.”

Maggot Moon, Sally Gardner

Standish’s life is harsh, bound by the Motherland’s strict rules. But on the other side of the wall behind Standish’s house, he discovers the Motherland’s deepest secret... This book is brief, strange, and full of mysteries even when you’ve finished reading it.

Make Lemonade, Virginia Euwer Wolff

A teenage single mom and her 14-year-old babysitter try to cope with life’s lemons in this tough, funny, and ultimately hopeful novel in verse.

Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty, Christine Heppermann

“Using fairy tale characters...,[these dark, clever poems] explore how girls are taught to think about themselves, their bodies, and their friends.” (Publisher description)

Relish: My Life in the Kitchen, Lucy Knisley

If you love food, or Raina Telgemeier’s *Smile*, or both, this graphic memoir is for you! Lucy tells the story of her life and family through delicious food (with recipes!).

FANTASTIC TALES

Book Thief, Markus Zusak

“Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living [in Nazi Germany], who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist – books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.” (Publisher description)

Golden Compass, Philip Pullman

The first novel in an epic fantasy trilogy of stolen children, Arctic witches, armored bears, mysterious prophecies, and a struggle for the soul of the world.

Nation, Terry Pratchett

Mau’s island village is destroyed by a great wave. The same wave shipwrecks British

traveler Daphne. “Separated by language and customs, the two are united by catastrophe. Slowly, they are joined by other refugees. And as they struggle to protect the small band, Mau and Daphne defy ancestral spirits, challenge death himself, and uncover a long-hidden secret that literally turns the world upside down.” (Publisher description)

Plain Kate, Erin Bow

When Kate’s village tries to burn her as a witch, a mysterious stranger offers her escape and her heart’s wish – in exchange for her shadow.

Seraphina, Rachel Hartman

In a court full of dragons who look human, reclusive court musician Seraphina must solve a royal murder alongside Prince Lucien – while keeping her own dangerous secret. A must-read for fantasy fans.

OTHER LIVES

Beekeeper’s Apprentice, Laurie R. King

The world’s most famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, meets his match in daring young Mary Russell.

Cleopatra’s Moon, Vicky Alvear Shecter

After witnessing her parents’ deaths, Cleopatra’s daughter Selene is brought as a royal captive to Rome. Can she keep herself and her brothers safe in the home of their enemy? Will she be able to reclaim Egypt?

Eleanor & Park, Rainbow Rowell

“Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits – smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.” (Publisher description)

Every Day, David Levithan

What if you woke up in a different body every day? What if you fell in love?

The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd

It is 1964 in South Carolina, the height of civil rights tensions. When Lily’s beloved nanny Rosaleen gets into trouble with the police for trying to assert her right to vote, Lily and Rosaleen flee their home and begin a life-transforming journey.

UPPER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

1. During the first two weeks in your English classes, you will be asked to discuss and to write about these books you read during the summer. Your first trimester grade will include work connected with your summer reading.
2. Most of the books we have selected are readily available in paperback, and some are also available in e-book format. Review the reading list early in the summer to make sure that you can obtain copies of your choices. Many of these books are also available at your local library; however, it would be best if you brought the books you read during the summer with you in September.

New 9th Grade International Students

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the Lowell Bair edition)
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

New 10th-12th Grade International Students

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the Lowell Bair edition)
- *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan
- One book from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 10” or “Recommended Books for Grades 11 &12”

Literature and Composition I

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the Lowell Bair edition)
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

Literature and Composition II

- *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

Literature and Composition III

- *Fences*, August Wilson
- *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

AP English Language

- *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014*, ed. Deborah Blum and Tim Folger
- *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*, Katherine Boo
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

Found Voices

- *Bird by Bird*, Anne Lamott
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

Women at the Edge and I, Too, Sing America: the Voices of Black Americans

- *The Street*, Ann Petry
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

AP English Literature

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston
- *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, Thomas Hardy
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

All new 9th grade international students will be mailed copies of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and all new 10th-12th grade international students will be mailed copies of *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Joy Luck Club* in early June.

I. *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas

This classic French novel tells the story of hero Edmond Dantes, who is unjustly accused and imprisoned for 14 years on an island fortress. Full of passion and suspense, this story tells of one man’s journey to survive, remake himself, and plot an elaborate revenge against his enemies. Author Alexandre Dumas sets this winding tale in exotic locations in France and Italy and depicts the characters with beauty and mystery. While you will not be required to turn in a writing assignment for this novel, you are encouraged to take notes in a journal or notebook and to underline significant passages in the book as you read.

1. Keep a timeline of events of this book in your notes, marking the major shifts in location and action. You will not have space to record every event, only those that represent a change in character, motivation, or action. We will use these visual representations of the book as we discuss the reading.
2. What have you learned about imprisonment from this novel? Make notes about how the limits of confinement change Dantes’s character.
3. Think about similarities and differences between pairs of characters, such as Valentine de Villefort and Eugenie Danglars, and Madame Danglars and Mercedes. How do these characters represent opposite characteristics? What themes become evident through this comparison?
4. Consider character change in this novel. Compare Edmond Dantes with the Count of Monte Cristo. Has Dantes become a completely new person by the end of this novel?
5. Bring in one discussion question of your own that will inspire your classmates to talk about the themes of the novel.

II. *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan

Amy Tan’s fictional account of three Chinese-American daughters and their Chinese immigrant mothers is a novel about immigration, mother-daughter relationships, and growing up.

Choose one mother-daughter pair and write two pages, typed and double-spaced, about why you find this character pair particularly interesting.

- Do you perhaps identify with either character?
- Are either of the characters so far outside your own world that you find her a puzzle?
- Are you inspired by or disgusted by this character?

Include in these two pages at least two quotations about this character that will help illustrate why you’ve reacted as you have. This is personal writing about your own response to a character; use “I” and treat this assignment as through you’re writing a letter to your teacher about your reactions. These “letters” will be turned in on the first day of class and will be the starting point for the class’s conversation about this novel.

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION I

REQUIRED READING

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the Lowell Bair edition)
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 9”

The Count of Monte Cristo, Alexandre Dumas

This classic French novel tells the story of hero Edmond Dantes, who is unjustly accused and imprisoned for 14 years on an island fortress. Full of passion and suspense, this story tells of one man’s journey to survive, remake himself, and plot an elaborate revenge against his enemies. Author Alexandre Dumas sets this winding tale in exotic locations in France and Italy and depicts the characters with beauty and mystery. While you will not be required to turn in a writing assignment for this novel, you are encouraged to take notes in a journal or notebook and to underline significant passages in the book as you read.

1. Keep a timeline of events of this book in your notes, marking the major shifts in location and action. You will not have space to record every event, only those that represent a change in character, motivation, or action. We will use these visual representations of the book as we discuss the reading.
2. What have you learned about imprisonment from this novel? Make notes about how the limits of confinement change Dantes’s character.
3. Think about similarities and differences between pairs of characters, such as Valentine de Villefort and Eugenie Danglars, and Madame Danglars and Mercedes. How do these characters represent opposite characteristics? What themes become evident through this comparison?

4. Consider character change in this novel. Compare Edmond Dantes with the Count of Monte Cristo. Has Dantes become a completely new person by the end of this novel?
5. Bring in one discussion question of your own that will inspire your classmates to talk about the themes of the novel.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 9

Choose two books from this annotated list to complete your summer reading requirement. We encourage you to read as many of these selections as you can.

Black Ice, Lorene Cary

An autobiographical account of the author's struggles as a young black girl who tries to maintain two separate lives while attending an independent school.

Boy Meets Boy, David Levithan

Paul has a close group of friends (including Infinite Darlene, the larger-than-life football star and homecoming/drag queen), a supportive family, and a budding romance with artistic Noah, the new boy at school.

The Bermudez Triangle, Maureen Johnson

Nina, Avery and Mel have been best friends forever. How dare Avery and Mel mess everything up by falling in love with each other?

Brat Farrar, Josephine Tey

Twelve-year-old Patrick Ashby, distraught over the death of his parents, apparently commits suicide, leaving behind a cryptic note. But then, eight years later, he reappears at the Ashby estate, just in time to inherit the family horse farm. What the readers know—but the other characters do not—is that “Patrick” is a fraud who bears a remarkable resemblance to the Ashby family. But then strange “accidents” start happening that endanger his life. This short novel by British crime novelist Josephine Tey is a captivating tale of suspense, false identity, forbidden romance, and passion for horses.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon

Autistic math genius Christopher Boone must solve the mystery of his neighbor's murdered poodle.

Daughter of Smoke and Bone, by Laini Taylor

Orphaned art student Karou has a curious adoptive family, and an even more curious job: collecting teeth for a secretive buyer. Her life derails when what appears to be a furious, angel-like being begins tracking and possibly attempting to murder her in this fantasy title.

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks, E. Lockhart

The same fall she discovers that she is beautiful enough to attract the attention of the most handsome senior at a coed private school, Frankie begins to ask big questions about the mysterious world of boys. Why are their relationships with friends so intense and yet so distant? What is their definition of loyalty? And can a girlfriend ever get as close to knowing a boy's heart as his best friend can? This alternately funny and vaguely disturbing book looks at male secret societies and leaves us wondering whether Frankie is a genius of social criticism or one seriously crazed stalker.

Dracula, Bram Stoker

You've read and seen dozens of stories about vampires, so why not go back to the source? Read about the heroes, villains, and victims whose adventures have become etched forever into our collective experience of fear.

Half Bad, Sally Green

Nathan is a teenage witch who lives in a magical modern-day England that is much darker and grittier than Harry Potter's. He is the illegal child of a dark witch and a white witch, and both sides want him to turn their way when his powers manifest. He has been persecuted his whole life, living chained in a cage by politically powerful white witches, being trained to kill dangerous dark witches. His only hope is to escape and find his father, Marcus, the very dark witch who he is training to kill, and who may want to kill him.

The Hobbit, J.R.R.Tolkien

Bilbo is visited by the wizard Gandalf and thirteen dwarves who seek a fourteenth member for their journey to steal treasure from the dragon Smaug. Though reluctant at first, Bilbo is convinced to join the unexpected party, and his epic adventure takes him face to face with trolls, goblins, a riddling creature named Gollum, elves, and, of course, the dragon. (adapted from blurbhack.com)

I Capture the Castle, Dodie Smith

Sixteen-year-old Cassandra lives with her older sister, younger brother, eccentric stepmother (who is not much older than Cassandra), and novelist father in a dilapidated British castle. The tone of the novel is humorous, the characters are lovable and well drawn, and the plot will keep you guessing. The novel takes the form of Cassandra's journal, so reading it is like sharing the intimate thoughts of a close friend.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

Powerful, lyrical autobiography of an African American writer growing up in the South.

Jellicoe Road, Melina Marchetta

Abandoned at a boarding school as a little girl, Taylor searches for clues to her past in a

Will Grayson, Will Grayson, John Green and David Levithan

Will Grayson has so far survived high school by adhering strictly to two rules: feel nothing and say nothing. He has one true friend, the spectacularly large and spectacularly gay Tiny Cooper, and a maybe girlfriend who is adorable; however, in order to win her he might have to admit that he has feelings for her. No can do. Fates conspire for him to meet “will grayson,” a depressed, closeted senior who goes to another high school. Though their meeting is brief, it sets off a series of remarkable changes in the Wills and the people in their lives. If you like hilarity, outrageous characters, and musings on the nature of love and the whole “fate or free will?” debate, you will love *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*, which, incidentally, is written by two writers!

The Wizard of Earthsea, Ursula K. LeGuin

The story of Ged, a boy with an unusual aptitude for wizardry; the first book of Le Guin’s famous Earthsea trilogy.

When I Was Puerto Rican, Esmeralda Santiago

A memoir of a girl’s journey from extreme poverty in Puerto Rico to life in New York—and her first year at Harvard University.

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION II

REQUIRED READING

- *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan’s fictional account of three Chinese-American daughters and their Chinese immigrant mothers, is a novel about immigration, mother-daughter relationships, and growing up.

Choose one mother-daughter pair and write two pages, typed and double-spaced, about why you find this character pair particularly interesting.

- Do you perhaps identify with either character?
- Are either of the characters so far outside your own world that you find her a puzzle?
- Are you inspired by or disgusted by this character?

Include in these two pages at least two quotations about this character, which will help illustrate why you’ve reacted as you have. This is personal writing about your own response to a character; use “I” and treat this assignment as though you’re writing a letter to your Lit Comp II teacher about your reactions. These “letters” will be turned in on the first day of class and will be the starting point for the class’s conversation about this novel.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 10

Choose two books from this annotated list to complete your summer reading requirement. We encourage you to read as many of these selections as you can.

All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque

This classic war novel tells the story of World War I through the eyes of a young man, full of idealism about war, who enlists in the German army. He quickly becomes convinced of the horror of war and vows to work against the forces of hate that compel an entire generation of young men to kill one another.

Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation, Jonathan Kozol

A documentary account of human triumph and struggle. Through the author, we see the dangers, injustice, and hopelessness of a South Bronx community in the throes of unthinkable poverty.

Angela's Ashes, Frank McCourt

In this humorous and deeply touching memoir, Frank McCourt takes us through his childhood in Limerick, Ireland. Coping with death, disease, extreme poverty, and alcoholism, McCourt magically leads us into the depths of love and loss that his family experiences.

Black Boy, Richard Wright

This classic and gripping memoir tells of Wright's childhood as a young black boy in the 1920s and 30s in the American South.

Born on a Blue Day, Daniel Tammet

This fascinating autobiography is the memoir of an autistic British man, one who is extraordinarily gifted (able to learn a language in a single week, for example) and who can only function within very strict routines.

Boy Toy, Barry Lyga

Josh Mendel has a secret. Unfortunately, everyone knows what it is. Five years ago, Josh's life changed. Drastically. And everyone in his school, his town—seems like the world—thinks they understand. But they don't—they can't. And now, about to graduate from high school, Josh is still trying to sort through the pieces. (*Goodreads*)

Boxers and Saints, Gene Luen Yang

"This two-volume graphic novel follows the intertwined lives of two young people on opposite sides of China's Boxer Rebellion. Little Bao, whose story is told in *Boxers*, grows up fascinated by the opera's colorful traditional tales and filled with reverence for the local deities. Appalled by the arrogant behavior of foreign soldiers, Christian missionaries and their

weaving together their lives, loves, and the ghosts that haunt them. (Recommended for **East Asian Studies** students.)

Inside the Halo and Beyond: The Anatomy of a Recovery, Maxine Kumin

From a celebrated poet and horsewoman comes this journal of recovery after a nearly fatal accident when Kumin's horse bolted. A heartwarming story of a fighter and a survivor.

Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer

Experience both the thrill and horror of mountain climbing as described by one of the survivors of a devastating attempt to scale Mt. Everest.

Iron and Silk, Mark Salzman

Salzman taught English in China following his graduation from Yale University. In this memoir, he presents touching vignettes of the people he met, including Pan, his martial arts teacher. (Recommended for **East Asian Studies** students.)

The Last Time I Saw Mother, Arlene J. Chai

A grown woman is summoned home to the Philippines by her mother, who feels compelled to reveal the secret she has kept hidden for years.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven, Sherman Alexie

This collection of short stories about contemporary Native Americans and their joys and struggles focuses on the Spokane Indian Reservation and is narrated by a quirky central character named Victor. Readers will appreciate Alexie's unique ability to partner troubling issues such as economic struggles and alcoholism with beautiful or amusing images.

Lonesome Dove, Larry McMurtry

Cowboys, adventure, love, danger, humor—the best of the American West—are all present in this intelligent and exciting novel that won the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Characters and events on the great trail drive will brand you with their unforgettable power.

Marcelo in the Real World, Francisco X. Stork

Marcelo, a young man with Asperger's Syndrome, has spent his whole life in a special school. For his last summer in high school, his dad gets Marcelo a job in the “real world”: the mailroom of his dad's law firm. The real world turns out to be full of new friends, moral ambiguity, and a lot more growing up than Marcelo or his dad had anticipated.

The Miseducation of Cameron Post, Emily M. Danforth

“When Cameron's parents die suddenly in a car crash, her shocking first thought is relief. Relief they'll never know that, hours earlier, she had been kissing a girl. That relief doesn't last, however, and Cam is soon forced to move in with her conservative aunt Ruth and

her well-intentioned but hopelessly old-fashioned grandmother. Survival in Cam’s small Montana town means blending in and leaving well enough alone (as her grandmother might say), and Cam becomes an expert at both. Then Coley Taylor moves to town...and Cam is brought face-to-face with the cost of denying her true self—even if she’s not exactly sure who that is.” (Publisher description)

The Moonstone, Wilkie Collins

Everyone is a suspect in the first detective story in the English language, set in Victorian England. Who stole the precious and cursed Moonstone from the country house by the sea? Will it ever be found? Will anyone be happy again? This classic is for readers who wish Sherlock Holmes paid a visit to *Downton Abbey*.

Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie

This absorbing 1934 mystery by the famous “Queen of Crime,” Agatha Christie, has become a beloved classic, and with good reason. Detective Hercule Poirot investigates the murder of an American tycoon on the swanky Orient Express train, which has been stopped in its tracks one night by a blizzard. The train’s doors are locked. Will Poirot find the killer, before he—or she— strikes again?

New Boy, Julian Houston

As the first African-American student at an exclusive boarding school in the 1950s, Rob Garrett is a witness to the civil rights struggle as it plays out on small and large stages.

Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens’ second novel traces the story of Oliver Twist, a young orphan in Victorian London whose journey takes him from a workhouse to an undertaker to a gang of child pickpockets. Dickens criticizes the miserable treatment of orphans, both by the misguided social programs designed to help them and by the outright criminals who take advantage of them.

Paper Towns, John Green

Quentin has been in love with Margot, the girl next door, since forever. Now that they are seniors in high school, they move in different circles and rarely talk outside of pleasantries. After she crawls into his bedroom unexpectedly one night and takes him on an adventure, he’s not sure what to think anymore. When he wakes up the next day to discover she has disappeared, he is convinced that she has left clues for him to find her.

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake, Aimee Bender

Right before her birthday, Rose discovers that she has a form of ESP: she can sense what her mother is feeling, not by reading her mind but by eating the food she cooks. Rose’s dependable but strange father and her even stranger, but brilliant, younger brother, add flavor to our observant and witty protagonist’s daily life.

The Passion of Alice, Stephanie Grant

This eloquent novel, set in Boston, explores the complex mind of an intelligent young woman who is hospitalized for anorexia. What sets this novel apart from other books about eating disorders is the fullness of the character development, the refusal of the author to turn her characters into victims, and its suggestion that popular contemporary explanations of why young women develop eating disorders may not tell the whole story.

Plain Truth, Jodi Picoult

One of Jodi Picoult's less well-known novels, *Plain Truth* is perhaps one of her most exciting in its examination of an Amish community in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The novel details the shocking and devastating story of Katie Fisher, an 18-year old, unmarried Amish woman who is accused of killing her own child.

A Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry

Set in Chicago's south side in the 1950s, between World War II and the Civil Rights Movement, *A Raisin in the Sun* is the story of the Younger family. Through the realistic and frank portrayal of this African-American family, Hansberry's play explores issues of gender, morality, identity, and justice. *A Raisin in the Sun* is a classic of American literature in which the American dream is repeatedly deferred.

Red: Teenage Girls in America Write on What Fires Up Their Lives Today, ed. Amy Goldwasser

In this book of essays, 58 American teenage girls—from a diverse range of geographic, socioeconomic, racial and religious backgrounds—write about body image, family, politics, and pop culture. These well-written essays document the authors' thoughts and reactions to such topics as post-Katrina New Orleans, Johnny Depp, and the pain of losing a friend.

Rocket Boys, Homer Hickam

Against overwhelming odds and with little knowledge of rocket science, Hickam and his high school buddies win the National Science Award for rocketry. The author went on to become a NASA engineer.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend, by Laura Hillenbrand

With his smallish stature, knobby knees, and slightly crooked forelegs, Seabiscuit looked more like a cow pony than a thoroughbred. But looks aren't everything; his quality, an admirer once wrote, "was mostly in his heart." Laura Hillenbrand tells the story of the unlikely racehorse who became a cultural icon in *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*. (Adapted from the Amazon.com review).

Selected Poems, Edna St. Vincent Millay

Millay was famous for her wild love life, including her many affairs with both men and women, but she also wrote some of the best sonnets of the twentieth century. This collection

includes her most famous poems—poems that are both sentimental and cynical about love.

Shadow of the Wind, Carlos Ruiz-Zafon

As a child growing up in Franco's Spain, Daniel finds a rare and possibly cursed book titled *The Shadow of the Wind*, written by the mysterious Julian Carax. He learns that a man is seeking and burning all copies of the book, and becomes almost obsessed with discovering the truth behind it.

She's Not There, Jennifer Boylan

A bittersweet account of being transgendered before, during, and after gender reassignment surgery. After reading this, you will want to read Boylan's *I'm Looking Through You: Growing up Haunted*, her account of growing up among ghosts—in her childhood house in Pennsylvania, in her community, and in her heart.

The Songlines, Bruce Chatwin

The Songlines pays homage to the nomadic spirit that prompted Chatwin's own peripatetic existence with an exploration of the "labyrinth of invisible pathways which meander all over Australia," the "dreaming-tracks" or "songlines" of the Aborigines. Chatwin weaves memoir, history, science, and philosophy into an Australian Outback travel tale of brilliance and beauty.

A Spy in the House, Y.S. Lee

In Victorian England, women had few rights and fewer options. What better setting for a top-secret women's detective agency? In this first novel in a series, the agency rescues orphan Mary Quinn from the gallows and trains her to become a detective; her first case places her as a spy in the household of a suspected smuggler and threatens not only the scandalous secret that she has kept for years but also her very life.

Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel

What do a Hollywood star, the medic who tries to save him, a traveling group of actors and musicians, and the collapse of civilization have in common? This novel roams back and forth over the fifteen years after and before a pandemic virus eliminates most of civilization as we know it in this post-apocalyptic novel about life, art, love, and the way we're all connected.

Still Life with Rice, Helie Lee

In this memoir of her Korean grandmother's life, Lee interprets the complex nature of family relations, the impact of social upheaval on an individual, and the rapidly changing lives of women in the 20th century. (Recommended for **East Asian Studies** students.)

Stolen, Lucy Christopher

Imagine this scenario: you are abducted from the airport by a handsome stranger, only to wake up in the Australian Outback, the only two people for hundreds of miles. Then you discover that he has been following you and planning this for years. Could you ever stop being afraid and try to escape? Could you ever forgive him?

Strength in What Remains, Tracy Kidder

Deogratias (“Thanks be to God” in Latin) moves to the United States from Burundi in 1994, after a civil war tears his country apart. Kidder tells Deo’s story in chapters that alternate between Deo’s life in New York, as he teaches himself English and discovers his calling as a doctor; accounts of the losses he experienced in Burundi; and his return home to establish a much-needed clinic.

The Syringa Tree, Pamela Gien

Set in South Africa in 1963 at the height of the Apartheid movement, this story is seen through the eyes of Lizzie, a young white girl caught up in racial and political upheaval when the family of her black nurse is torn apart by law and the violence of brutal police raids. The story builds to its conclusion at the 1976 Soweto uprising, which was led by children.

This Boy’s Life, Tobias Wolff

In his memoir, both hilariously funny and heart-breakingly sad, Wolff recounts his struggles to survive adolescence while on the road with his single mother in the 1950s. Toby’s penchant for trouble forces him to invent a new life for himself. Think Holden Caulfield in Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye*—but Toby’s story is true.

Thunderstruck, Erik Larson

This intriguing history reads like a suspense novel. A London doctor murders his wife and then flees across the Atlantic, followed by a Scotland Yard detective; meanwhile, the rest of the world follows the exciting chase via the newly developed wireless telegraph.

Tomorrow They Will Kiss, Eduardo Santiago

“Imagine!” says Caridad, one of three smart Cuban girlfriends living in a small town during the early days of Castro’s regime. This fast-paced, funny novel includes their daring escapes from Cuba, searches for love, and their work in a New Jersey doll factory.

Travels with Charley, John Steinbeck

In 1960, author Steinbeck decided to rediscover America, so he set out in a camper for a three-month journey with Charley, his standard poodle. This is the delightful record of their travels together.

Year of Wonders, Geraldine Brooks

Set in England during the 17th century plague, *Year of Wonders* is the heroic tale of the people in a small northern village, who—being led by an ascetic and devout minister—quarantine themselves to prevent the spread of the plague. Despite its disturbing subject, *Year of Wonders* is a fast-paced read which is sure to hold your attention.

GRADES 11 AND 12

REQUIRED READING

I. Literature and Composition III

- *Fences*, August Wilson
- *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 11 & 12”

Keep notes as you read the plays, and write a one-page response to one question for each play (two typed, double-spaced pages altogether). We will collect your responses during the first week of class and grade them with special attention to the depth of your thinking and the quality of your writing. We will also spend time discussing the plays during the first two weeks of class; please bring them with you on the first day, along with this written assignment.

Questions about *Fences* (choose one):

1. *Fences* is part of a series of plays, set in various time periods, by August Wilson, whose goal was to write plays to help sensitize Americans to the struggles of African Americans. August Wilson sets *Fences* in 1957. An important physical symbol in the play is the fence Troy is building. As you read the play, make note of the many metaphorical or symbolic fences in the play. Write about two of these fences. In your writing, think about the following: How are fences used in the play? Are these fences a result of the time period? Are they used, as Bono says, “to keep people out...” or “to keep people in”? (II. 1)

2. Wilson’s main character is Troy Maxson, a reformed criminal who is making bold choices in a changing society. He is an unusual and flawed hero. Write a response to Lloyd Richard, the original director of the play, who asks, “Is [Troy’s] life to be discarded or honored?” Support your opinion with specific references to the play.

Questions about *The Crucible* (choose one):

1. Miller adopts an oracular language for the play, meant to suggest the language of the late seventeenth century. However accurate it may or not be as a reproduction of the actual speech of the time, readers and viewers of the play often particularly enjoy the play’s language. Consider one of the following speeches carefully, and discuss both its meaning and its quality as language—whatever aspect of the language appeals to you and seems to have particular power.

a. Mrs. Putnam (Act One): “There are wheels within wheels in this village, and fires within fires!”

b. Hale (Act One): “Now let me instruct you. We cannot look to superstition in this. The Devil is precise; the marks of his presence are definite as stone, and I must tell you all that I shall not proceed unless you are prepared to believe me if I should find no bruise of hell upon her.”

c. Danforth (Act Three): “This is a sharp time, now, a precise time—we live no longer in the dusky afternoon when evil mixed itself with good and befuddled the world. Now, by God’s grace, the shining sun is up, and them that fear not light will surely praise it.”

d. Parris (Act Four): “I would to God it were not so, Excellency, but these people have great weight yet in the town. Let Rebecca stand upon the gibbet and send up some righteous prayer, and I fear she’ll wake a vengeance on you.”

e. Proctor (Act Four): “Would you give them such a lie? Say it. Would you ever give them this?” She cannot answer. “You would not; if tongs of fire were singeing you you would not! Good, then—it is evil, and I do it!”

2. In his discussions of the events of the Salem witch trials and their resonance in his own time, Miller discusses “theocracy” and suggests that its division of the world into absolute good and evil, truth and falsehood, led to the injustice of the executions in Salem. Whether in terms of religion or of politics, one might argue that a similar absolutism affects life today, on both the national and the world stages. Make a brief comparison between the events of the play and some aspect of contemporary life.

II. AP English Language

You will read all or part of two nonfiction books this summer. In addition, you will read one book (fiction or nonfiction) from the “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12” reading list. Your written assignment for *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014* is due on the first day of classes in the fall.

1. *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014*, Deborah Blum & Tim Folger, editors
 What happens when animals mourn? What are the real costs of the anti-vaccination movement? Does the brain prefer paper? Are extinct animals forms coming back to life? These and many other interesting questions are explored in this well-written, thought-provoking collection of essays. Your summer assignment is to read at least ten of the collection’s twenty-six essays. For each of the ten essays of your choice, answer the following questions briefly but thoughtfully:

- Is this essay primarily expository (that is, explaining or describing something) or argumentative (that is, proving a thesis)? Since these are all essays about science or nature that are written for a general audience, they are all going to be expository to some extent; the question is whether the author is also trying to make an argument. Explain your answer briefly.

- Did you learn something worthwhile in this essay, and did you enjoy reading it? Why? There is no right or wrong answer here.
- Type out a sentence that you like particularly or consider especially well-crafted from this essay. Include a parenthetical citation with page number.

2. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*, Katherine Boo
 Katherine Boo spent three years among the residents of Annawadi, a makeshift settlement of shacks and huts in the shadow of Mumbai’s International Airport and the glitzy new hotels surrounding it. Exploring economic and social injustice with sharp intelligence and quiet humanity, Boo tells the stories of some of the people living in this slum—stories of astonishing optimism and breathtaking resilience as well as disheartening corruption and cutthroat survival of the fittest. Boo won the National Book Award in 2012 for this unforgettable glimpse into an overlooked world. As you read, make notes in the margins. Mark up the passages you find most interesting, thought-provoking, confusing, and/or touching; write questions and connections in the margins. Also, please think about the following questions and be prepared to discuss them during the first week of class.

- Whose story had the strongest effect on you, and why?
- In exploring the question of why the residents did not bond together in their common interests and against common enemies, Boo writes: “Instead, powerless individuals blamed other powerless individuals for what they lacked. Sometimes they tried to destroy one another” (237). Why, in your view, did these “powerless individuals” blame “other powerless individuals”? Why would they try to destroy one another?
- “In India, a land of few safe assumptions, chronic uncertainty was said to have helped produce a nation of quick-witted, creative problem solvers. Among the poor, it was no surprise that instability fostered ingenuity, but over time the lack of a link between effort and result could become debilitating” (219). Explain what Boo means by “lack of a link between effort and result.” For whom—or for what—could this be debilitating? Do you agree?
- In her Author’s Note, Boo writes: “It is easy, from a safe distance, to overlook the fact that in under-cities governed by corruption, where exhausted people vie on scant terrain for very little, it is blisteringly hard to be good. The astonishment is that some people are good, and that many people try to be...” (254). Did you find this astonishing? Give an example.
- Do you feel you would maintain your sense of optimism in a similar set of circumstances? What about your sense of morality? Your goodness?
- What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses in how Boo presents the realities of everyday life in Annawadi? What does she allow you to see and understand more fully? What does she miss or overlook or distort?

3. Your selection from “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

As you read, make notes in the margins. Mark up the passages you find most interesting, thought-provoking, confusing, and/or touching; write questions and connections in the

margins. Be prepared to write a review of your book during the first two weeks of class.

III. Found Voices

- *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*, Anne Lamott
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

An accurate description of *Bird by Bird* is found in its subtitle, *Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Lamott says in the Introduction, “Writing has so much to give, so much to teach, so many surprises. That thing you had to force yourself to do—the actual act of writing—turns out to be the best part. It’s like discovering that while you thought you needed the tea ceremony for the caffeine, what you really needed was the tea ceremony. The act of writing turns out to be its own reward.” As you read this book, star the passages you find particularly and personally relevant and note why in the margins. Further, seriously consider Lamott’s statement: “The act of writing turns out to be its own reward.” Be ready to discuss and write about that idea as well as your own responses to *Bird by Bird*.

In two chapters early on (16-27), Lamott gives writers two helpful pieces of advice that you will want to consider as you write your college essay, which is due on the first day of class. Also consider Lamott’s warning against perfectionism (28-32)! This essay should respond to one of the Common Application prompts, and the maximum length for the final version is 650 words. Your college essay will undoubtedly start as a very rough first draft; however, by the time you give it to your senior English teacher for his or her feedback, it should be a thoughtful essay that you think will tell colleges something that will help them to know who you are.

IV. Women at the Edge and I, Too, Sing America: Voices of Black Americans

- *The Street*, Ann Petry
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

Written by black author Ann Petry in 1946, *The Street* tells the story of Lutie Johnson, a young black mother struggling to raise her son in 1940s Harlem. The novel follows Lutie’s attempts to navigate the poverty, sexism, violence, and racism of America, forcing readers to confront key questions about personal choices and societal responsibility.

In a 500-750 word response, look at Lutie and examine the definition of womanhood as presented through the novel. In what ways does Lutie fit the 1940s American society’s expectations for a woman? A black woman? A wife? A mother? A sexual being? An employee?

What commentary do you think Petry is making about womanhood and its challenges? Plan to hand in your response on the first day of class. Your work will be graded on the depth of your ideas and the quality of your writing.

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk, Ben Fountain

Nineteen- year-old Billy Lynn has a choice: jail or army. Simple. He joins up to fight in Iraq, where after a very fierce firefight with Iraqi insurgents, he and his buddies in the Bravo Company become heroes. Back home, they, along with Beyoncé are the stars of the Dallas Cowboys halftime show. You won't know if you want to laugh or cry as you read about Billy's life, and neither does he.

Bossypants, Tina Fey

Witty, absorbing, and purely hilarious, Tina Fey's *Bossypants* is one story not to be missed. Journeying through her uncomfortable early years, Fey worked her way into stardom and the hearts of many through her comedy. The line between being "nobody" and "somebody" is thin, and as she pushes this boundary we discover what the true meaning of "bossy" really is.

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Daniel Brown and Daniel James Brown

The title tells everything you need to know about this book except that you will fall in love with these young men and learn quite a bit about the Nazi Olympics--and that even if you can't tell a scull from a seal, you're at risk to fall in love with rowing.

Brief Encounters with Che Guevara, Ben Fountain

This short story collection will take you to the rain forests of Columbia, refugee camps in Sierra Leone, and, among other bizarre spots, a trailer park in Texas. The stories are thrilling, sometimes funny, and filled with vivid images about love and Voodoo and finding what really matters in life.

The Cider House Rules, John Irving

Homer Wells is raised as an orphan in St. Cloud, Maine. Under the tutelage of Dr. Larch, he learns the tricks and the trade of obstetrics, a set of skills which shapes his career but which he refuses to let define his morality. In a world fraught with injustice and heartache, Homer learns to embrace honesty and love.

Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families, J. Anthony Lukas

This is a fascinating account of the court-ordered desegregation of Boston public schools in the 1970s. Told from the perspective of three diverse families, this story is a history of race and class conflict in Boston.

Crooked Little Heart, Anne Lamott

Lamott tells the story of a precocious 12-year-old tennis champ, her loving but dysfunctional family, and her struggle to be confident and capable despite all odds.

The Left Hand of Darkness, Ursula K. LeGuin

This fantasy novel was a groundbreaker in 1969 and has since become a classic in the genre. The story takes place in a lost land where gender is irrelevant; on the planet Winter, the inhabitants have both genders and/or neither. An envoy from a human planet, Genly Ai, has been sent to Winter to help the people move back toward a gendered world.

Life After Life, Kate Atkinson

What if you could live again and again, until you got it right? On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born, the third child of a wealthy English banker and his wife. She dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least, unusual. (Adapted from publisher.)

Life of Pi, Yann Martel

A 16-year-old Indian boy's passage to a new life in Canada leads him into an unusual situation. He survives a shipwreck that leaves him alone on a raft with a zebra, hyena, orangutan, and tiger. He struggles to survive as he discovers his religious identity and develops unexpected friendships with some of the animals. He remains on the raft for 227 devastating, marvelous, desperate, miserable, and magical days. I was hooked from the first page. (Stephanie Dareshori '13)

Light in August, William Faulkner

Touted as one of Faulkner's most approachable texts, *Light in August* threads together the stories of some of Faulkner's most memorable characters, including Joe Christmas and Lena Grove, as they weed through their pasts in search of their ever-elusive identities. (Recommended for **AP English Literature** students).

The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love, Oscar Hijuelos

Brothers Cesar and Nestor Castillo, as different as fire and water, leave their home in Cuba behind to pursue their dream of becoming mambo stars. They do find success—and leave a few broken hearts along the way. Winner of the 1990 Pulitzer Prize.

Measuring Time, Helon Habila

The message of this book is that the lives of ordinary people are the raw material of history. Habila chronicles Nigeria's recent history as witnessed by twin brothers whose paths in life diverge and then reunite in adulthood. Tradition and modernity—"the evils of both but also the rich possibilities that come with their complex interaction" (*Booklist*)—come face to face in this engrossing story.

Memoirs of a Geisha, Arthur Golden

Sold to a geisha house at the age of nine, Chiyo resists her oppression, yet studies the arts of

The Zookeeper's Wife, Diane Ackerman

If you're intrigued by the desperate connections human beings make with each other and with animals during horrific times, you will marvel at this true story of a husband and wife, the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo, who rescued hundreds of Poles from death at the hands of the Nazis.

SOCIAL STUDIES BOOKS

The following titles are suggestions for summer reading from the Social Studies Department. While the required books are part of the assignments for AP European History and AP United States History courses, the other titles reflect readings that will provide enrichment. Each book was selected because it is well written and provides thoughtful excursions to other times, places and ideas. Enjoy!

AFRICAN STUDIES

July's People, Nadine Gordimer

"For years, it had been what is called a 'deteriorating situation.' Now all over South Africa the cities are battlegrounds. The members of the Smales family—liberal whites—are rescued from the terror by their servant, July, who leads them to refuge in his village. What happens to the Smaleses and to July—the shifts in character and relationships—gives us an unforgettable look into the terrifying, tacit understandings and misunderstandings between blacks and whites." (Amazon.com) Gordimer won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1991.

Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer and Sex Changed a Nation at War, Leymah Gbowee

Nobel Peace Prize winner Gbowee recounts how "an army of women helped lead her nation [of Liberia] to peace—in the process emerging as an international leader who changed history. *Mighty Be Our Powers* is a gripping chronicle of a journey from hopelessness to empowerment that will touch all who dream of a better world." (Amazon.com)

AMERICAN IDENTITIES

Jasmine, Bharati Mukherjee

This is a story of migration, both physical and personal. Jyoti, an Indian woman, travels to America to escape the confines of village life. She transforms herself again and again: as a laborer in Florida, a nanny in Manhattan, and finally a housewife in Iowa. With each transformation, she offers the reader a unique view into America, where the common becomes exotic and new.

American Pastoral, Philip Roth

This novel follows a father's struggle to maintain normalcy through the increasingly turbulent 1950s and 1960s, in the face of protest and the Vietnam War, challenges to traditional family ideals and values, and an increasingly rebellious daughter.

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang

Using the graphic novel format, the author presents his own experiences growing up as a person of Chinese descent in America. Yang also retells the classic Chinese folk story “The Monkey King” as a metaphor for his own search for identity. This book is a great introduction to issues faced by Asian Americans today and to one of the most popular and influential stories in East Asian culture.

China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know, Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom

China has a long, complex history that can be daunting to a beginning learner, and Professor Wasserstrom’s book does an admirable job of covering the breadth of Chinese history and culture in an accessible manner. Reading this book is an excellent introduction to many of the topics -- both ancient and modern -- that will be discussed throughout the year in East Asian Studies.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, Lisa See

This is a fictional account of a woman’s life in rural Hunan province in China during the late 19th century. It follows her story from youth to adulthood as she experiences foot binding; learns a secret form of women’s writing called *nu shu*; and faces marriage, childrearing, friendship, and the collapse of her traditional world in the face of modernity.

The Tao of Pooh, Benjamin Hoff

Hoff uses the classic story of Winnie the Pooh to explain the deeper meaning of the beliefs of Taoism, one of the oldest and most important Chinese philosophies and a worldview that informs much of East Asian art and culture. Hoff reveals that the Pooh that we know is actually a Taoist in disguise, as are many of the other inhabitants of the wood.

Understanding China Through Comics, Jing Liu

This short introduction to the earliest history of China and its culture uses the graphic novel format to explain many of the ideas and events that are the foundations of Chinese civilization.

MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America, Firoozeh Dumas

Dumas came to America for the first time in the early 1970s, when many Americans were unfamiliar with Iran. She has a unique perspective on American culture, and she balances the comedy of her family’s misadventures with the more serious prejudices they face.

How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less, Sarah Glidden

A secular Jew with strong opinions, Glidden sets off on her first visit to Israel and learns that there are no easy answers to her questions. She details her discoveries in this beautifully-drawn graphic novel.

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Harriet Jacobs

The autobiographical account of a young girl's life as a slave and her escape to freedom. Jacobs recounts the horrors of her experience as a slave in North Carolina, her heroic escape and the years she spend in hiding, and her ultimate freedom. Written in a gripping and readable way, this narrative is a classic of slave literature.

WESTERN CIVILIZATION

The Bull from the Sea, Mary Renault

This novel, a marvelous choice for those who like mythology, tells the story of Theseus who meets the challenge of the Minotaur in the Labyrinth of Crete. Like all good historical fiction, this is not only an engaging story, full of complex characters and outstanding descriptions, but also a window into another time and place. After reading *The Bull from the Sea*, you will have a rich understanding of the ancient Aegean world.

The Eagle of the Ninth, Rosemary Sutcliff

Ms. Sutcliff has a great store of information about the Roman world and writes engaging, well-written and historically accurate stories. This particular tale is of a young soldier who must travel to Britain to defend his father's honor.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

Required: *The Prince*, Niccolo Machiavelli

This is the first book of Western political science. Machiavelli gives advice to a prince on how best to run his kingdom. The assumptions about human behavior caused the book to be burned and the author's name to become an adjective for evil political scheming.

Bury the Chains, Adam Hochschild

This is a powerful story of the British anti-slavery movement, which traced its origins from a small focused group to a mass movement that ended first the slave trade and ultimately slavery in the British Empire. Most Americans are taught about the abolitionist movements in the United States but are not aware of the earlier, powerful generation that inspired them.

The Daughter of Time, Josephine Tey

Did Richard III kill those little princes in the tower? This is a classic of historical fiction that attempts to solve the mystery that led to the end of Plantagenet rule in medieval England.

Hard Times, Charles Dickens

A classic novel that takes us into the world of 19th-century people struggling to make ends meet. With Dickens' marvelous characters, strong plot and a pleasing conclusion, the reader finishes *Hard Times* completely satisfied. As an artifact and as a polemic, this novel lets us know that Victorian England could be a grim place.

WORLD LANGUAGE BOOKS

The following titles are suggestions and in some cases requirements for summer reading from the Language Department. The required books help our Advanced Placement courses run more smoothly and often prove to be helpful throughout the year. The recommended titles include both books in the language of the courses we offer at Dana—French, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish—and also books that enhance the study of the cultures associated with each language. We encourage you to use the summer as a great opportunity to enjoy reading in another language not only for enjoyment but also to help keep the language in your ears and in your minds. Some of you might enjoy reading a book on the culture because you are especially interested in that culture and there isn't time for that during the school year.

FRENCH

Required for IV AP: *La Grammaire est une chanson douce*, Erik Orsenna

A girl and her brother are shipwrecked on a mysterious island. With their musical guide, they discover a magical place where words live and work together to form the basis of the French language. (Recommended for **levels III-V.**)

Le Chien jaune, Georges Simenon

One of the famous Inspecteur Maigret mysteries set in Brittany. The inspector traces a series of mysterious crimes and tries to find the connections between them. (Recommended for **levels III-V.**)

Je voudrais que quelqu'un m'attende quelque part, Anna Gavalda

Twelve short stories of the daily lives of contemporary everyday people. Some are tragic, some are joyous, and some are just accounts of common human experiences. (Recommended for **levels III-V.**)

Un Long dimanche de fiancailles, Sebastien Japrisot

During World War I, a French bride searches for clues to find her lost fiancé, a soldier who has mysteriously disappeared from the battlefield. (Recommended for **levels III-V.**)

A Moveable Feast, Ernest Hemingway

A memoir of Hemingway's early years when he lived in Paris "poor and happy" during the 1920s with his first wife and many other well-known expatriates such as F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound, James Joyce and Gertrude Stein. Anyone who has visited (and loves) Paris will truly enjoy this book, as it transports you to many magical Parisian places that still exist today.

Paris to the Moon, Adam Gopnik

A series of essays written by a New Yorker journalist who lived in Paris with his wife and

young son from 1995 to 2000. Gopnik captures much of the essence of Paris, the French way of life, and the Franco-American relationship. As an American expatriate, he also offers many insights into American culture.

Le Petit prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The classic story of a stranded pilot and a little boy searching the universe for friendship. Voted the greatest French work of literature of the 20th century by the French people. (Recommended for levels III-V.)

Le Racisme expliqué à ma fille, Tahar Ben Jelloun

A Moroccan writer explains the origins of and his struggles with racism to his daughter so that future generations will not have to suffer from it. (Recommended for levels III-V.)

LATIN

Required for IV/V AP: *Aeneid*, Vergil (only the unabridged Stanley Lombardo translation)

The Latin AP curriculum has changed to include both Vergil and Caesar, and there is no longer time during the school year to read the entire *Aeneid* in translation. However, the complete book in translation remains on the AP syllabus. This translation by a classicist known also for his translations of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* will provide you with the uninterrupted story using the original order of the books and including an appended glossary of names. Discussion questions to help guide your reading will be provided.

Required for Latin IV/V AP: *Always I Am Caesar*, W. Jeffrey Tatum

By examining his military and political career, home life and relationships with women, *Always I Am Caesar* provides a vivid portrait of Caesar's life and of ancient Rome during its transition from republic to empire.

Augustus, John Edward Williams

This novel borrows from the history of Rome in the beginning of her Empire, describing in compelling detail the life of Augustus from his youth to his days as emperor of Rome.

Black Ships, Jo Graham

By focusing on the feminine experience in the *Aeneid*, Jo Graham transforms the passionate character of Dido into an Egyptian queen and places the entire novel in a new setting.

Carpe Diem: Put a Little Latin in Your Life, Harry Mount

Mount uses humor, pop culture, and examples from his own British education to make Latin come alive. For those who know a little Latin, this book will make you smile and want to continue learning, and for those who have never learned Latin, this book will make you want to do just that.

This summer reading list was compiled by

Stephanie Donohue, Library Director
Sam Musher, Middle School Librarian

Julia Bucci, Department Head, and
members of the English Department

Jacqui Bloomberg, Department Head, and
members of the Language Department

Eric Goodson, Department Head, and
members of the Social Studies Department

with selected annotations from the
Greater Boston Cooperative Library Association's
2007 7th and 8th Grade Reading List,
publishers, review journals and websites.

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