

SUMMER READING LIST 2013
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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. The free-choice books should be chosen from the appropriate reading list. 6th graders must choose from “Recommended Books for Grades 6 and 7.” 7th graders may choose from “Recommended Books for Grades 6 and 7” and “Recommended Books for Grade 8,” and 8th graders may choose from “Recommended Books for Grades 6 and 7,” “Recommended Books for Grade 8,” and “Recommended Books for Grade 9.” You may also read other books by any author who appears on the list. We ask you to choose books of different styles so that you can broaden your reading experiences. Of course, we encourage you to read many more than just the required number of books!
3. Most of the books we have selected are readily available in paperback, and all are in print. 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.

GRADES 6 AND 7

Students Entering Sixth Grade

- Required: *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, Avi
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 6 and 7”

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.

Students Entering Seventh Grade

- Required: *The Pearl*, John Steinbeck
- Required: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, Mildred Taylor
- Two books from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 6 and 7” or “Recommended Books for Grade 8”

All rising seventh graders will receive a reading guide for the required book. This guide will include questions to answer as well as other activities to prepare students to do additional work on the required books when they 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 GRADES 6 AND 7**GIRL POWER**

Alanna, Tamora Pierce

All Alanna has ever wanted is to become a knight, but she is being sent to learn magic instead. So she switches places with her brother and joins the king's service—but will she be able to keep her identity secret? First in a series.

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.

Heist Society, Ally Carter

Kat's been a thief all her life. She wants to get out of this dangerous family business, but first she'll have to pull off the biggest heist of her career.

Into the Wild, Sarah Beth Durst

Julie is Rapunzel's daughter, but all she wants is to live a normal suburban life. All that changes when the Wild escapes from under her bed. It turns her town into a suburban nightmare, trapping her mother and all her friends inside, and it is up to Julie to save them!

Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City, Kirsten Miller

Remarkable, mysterious Kiki recruits a gang of renegade Girl Scouts to explore a forgotten city beneath Manhattan. Is she merely out for adventure, or does she have a bigger plan? First in a series.

Princess Academy, Shannon Hale

One of the girls in Miri's mountain village will be chosen to be the prince's bride. What will Miri do if the prince chooses her?

Uglies, Scott Westerfeld

Tally longs for her 16th birthday. She'll have an operation to make her a Pretty – perfectly beautiful, like all adults in her society. But when her friend Shay runs away to avoid the operation, the authorities give Tally a choice: find Shay or never turn Pretty at all. First in a series.

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...

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.

Elsewhere, Gabrielle Zevin

When Liz dies in a car crash, she wakes up in an afterlife where everyone ages backward and where she has to make a new “life” for herself.

A Monster Calls, Patrick Ness

Ever since Conor’s mother got sick, he’s been having nightmares. One night, a monster comes to his window. The monster will tell Conor three stories — and in return, it wants the terrible truth about his nightmares.

Ninth Ward, Jewell Parker Rhodes

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

Tuck Everlasting, Natalie Babbitt

An exciting, thought-provoking adventure of a young girl who stumbles upon the Tuck family’s home in the wilderness and learns their strange and awesome secret.

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.

Bloomability, Sharon Creech

At boarding school in Switzerland, Dinnie’s regular life seems very far away. “Can she adapt to a new country, a new home, and new friends? Or will it just be easier to close herself off...and never realize all the ‘bloomabilities’ that are possible?” (Publisher description)

Close to Famous, Joan Bauer

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

The Egypt Game, Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Several friends create their own Egyptian temple in a desolate yard, attracting the attention of a criminal.

The Lemonade War, Jacqueline Davies

Get ready for summer with this story of a sister, a brother, and their high-stakes lemonade stand competition.

Rules, Cynthia Lord

Catherine creates a set of rules for her autistic brother to help him fit in: “it’s ok to hug Mom but not the clerk in the video store,” “knock before you come into the bathroom.” But Catherine still worries about how people see her family, until she befriends another disabled boy.

Shug, Jenny Han

Annemarie wants her life to stay full of popsicles and bike rides, but everything’s changing: her classmates want boyfriends, her mother’s drinking is getting worse, and her older sister ignores her. Most of all, she thinks she’s falling in love with her best friend Mark. Why can’t things just stay the same?

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, Ann Brashares

Four best friends, four summer adventures, one pair of pants. First in a series.

The Skin I’m In, Sharon Flake

“Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they’re not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it’s about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher’s attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she’s in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?” (Publisher’s description)

The Teashop Girls, Lauren Schaefer

Annie, Genna, and Zoe have been best friends forever, but now they seem to be growing apart. When Anna’s grandmother’s beloved tea shop is in danger of closing, can the Teashop Girls band together again and save it?

OTHER WORLDS

The Amaranth Enchantment, Julie Berry

When Lucinda was small, her parents died in a terrible accident on their way to a royal ball. Now she lives a Cinderella existence in her grasping, abusive aunt’s jewelry shop—until an urchin thief named Peter and the mysterious Amaranth Witch change Lucinda’s life forever.

The City of Ember, Jeanne DuPrau

“The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an

ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever!" (Publisher's description) First in a series.

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.

The Mysterious Benedict Society, Trenton Lee Stewart

"Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" This ad draws four children to Mr. Benedict, who trains them to solve mysteries. Their first assignment? Defeat a criminal mastermind who plans to use children to take over the world. First in a series.

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.

The Roar, Emma Clayton

Mika has never gotten over the disappearance of his twin sister Ellie; everyone says she's dead, but he can't believe it. When the Northern Government introduces a contest — fly simulated pod fighters and win fabulous prizes! — Mika just knows winning is his ticket to finding Ellie.

The Thief Lord, Cornelia Funke

Two orphans escape from their awful aunt and flee to Venice, where they team up with a colorful group of thieves led by the mysterious Thief Lord.

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

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 the chance to play hits of the seventies in the Perfectone Perform-A-Rama ever compete with dreams of Carnegie Hall?

Finally, Wendy Mass

"When you're twelve," Rory's parents say, "you can pierce your ears." And get a cellphone, and go to the mall alone, and do everything else Rory has been waiting to do her whole life. Of course, when she finally turns twelve, nothing turns out the way she expected!

OTHER TIMES

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 classic adventures with green hair dye, red currant wine, and Gilbert, the dreadful (but cute) boy down the road. Set in 1908 Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Black Beauty, Anna Sewell

The beloved story of a horse in early 20th century London.

Bud, Not Buddy, Christopher Paul Curtis

During the Great Depression, Bud runs away from his foster home and has lots of adventures on his journey to find the man he thinks is his father, jazz legend Herman E. Calloway. Set in 1936.

Chains, Laurie Halse Anderson

Isabel, a slave in New York in 1776, becomes a Revolutionary War spy in the fight for her own freedom.

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) Set in 1958 Arkansas.

Number the Stars, Lois Lowry

When the Nazis come for the Danish Jews in 1943, Annemarie's family hides her Jewish best friend.

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.

Weedflower, Cynthia Kadohata

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Sumiko and her family, along with other Japanese people in the United States, are imprisoned in internment camps. Sumiko's camp is on a Native American reservation, where she meets a boy who might become her first real friend.

SURVIVAL AND ADVENTURE

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!

Hatchet, Gary Paulsen

Brian, the only survivor of a plane crash, must survive alone in the Canadian wilderness with only a hatchet.

Hoot, Carl Hiaasen

"A hilarious Floridian adventure... involv[ing] new kids, bullies, alligators, eco-warriors, pancakes, and pint-sized owls." (Publisher description)

The House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer

Matt is a clone of Matteo Alacran, one of the feared drug lords who rule futuristic Mexico with an iron fist. Other clones have their intelligence removed at birth, but Matt is raised smart and educated... and only he has the power to bring freedom to his country.

Island of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell

When her Native Californian tribe flees their island to escape invaders, Karana and her little brother are accidentally left behind and must try to survive alone in the wilderness.

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.

Tangerine, Edward Bloor

"Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight." (Library of Congress)

War Horse, Michael Morpurgo

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

GRADE 8

Eighth grade is a bridge between the Middle School and the Upper School—you are more mature, so the books that appeal to you might have more mature themes. To acknowledge this, the eighth grade recommended reading list is separate from the one for grades 6 and 7. When choosing your summer reading, you may choose from your own list, as well as from “Recommended Books for Grades 6 and 7” and “Recommended Books for Grade 9.” We encourage you to take this opportunity to explore more challenging reading material!

Students Entering Eighth Grade

- Required: *Pigs in Heaven*, Barbara Kingsolver
- Two books from the reading lists “Recommended Books for Grade 8,” “Recommended Books for Grade 7 and 8,” or “Recommended Books for Grade 9.”

Please write an outline as instructed in Question 1, and write a substantial, thoughtful paragraph in response to questions 2-4 about *Pigs in Heaven*:

1. This novel is divided into sections that mirror the seasons of the year. Make an outline of the major events that happen in each season.
2. Taylor and Turtle travel throughout much of the novel, all the while trying to find a sense of home and family. Other characters are challenged to think about their homes and families in a new way. Describe the conclusions reached by each of the following characters: Taylor, Annawake, Alice, and Cash. Compare or contrast each character’s conclusion with your own ideas about family and home.
3. Jax and Annawake discuss the myth of the Six Pigs in Heaven. What is the moral of this fable, according to Annawake? Does Jax agree? Do you agree?
4. In *Pigs in Heaven*, there are references to ancient places and customs (like the stomp dance) and modern cultural forces (like Barbie and TV). Make a list of these references. Why do you suppose this contrast of new and old is included?

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 8**GIRL POWER**

Beneath My Mother’s Feet, Amjed Qamar

An absorbing story of a brave girl growing up in modern Pakistan who has to leave school to help her mother earn money to support the family.

Bloody Jack, L. A. Meyer

Irrepressible orphan Jacky Faber disguises herself and is hired as ship's boy on a 19th-century merchant ship, where she learns to sail, fights pirates, and all the while must keep her identity secret from her crewmates. Jacky's adventures continue in an ongoing series.

Climbing the Stairs, Padma Venkatraman

Vidya's family is part of Gandhi's movement, and she has more freedom than most girls in 1940s India. When her father is seriously injured in a non-violent protest, Vidya is forced to move in with her father's family, who lives a much more traditional life.

Five Flavors of Dumb, Antony John

Who would expect a deaf girl to manage a rock band? Good thing Piper's up to the challenge!

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.

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.

Saving Francesca, Melina Marchetta

Between the infuriating boys at her new “co-ed” school (where boys outnumber girls 25 to 1) and her mother's sudden depression, Francesca has a lot to handle in high school.

The Summer I Turned Pretty, Jenny Han

Belly loves summers with her lifelong friends — until the summer that changes everything.

Teenie, Christopher Grant

Ninth-grader Teenie has always been straight-laced and studious, but when a few new clothes get her the attention of hot, dangerous senior Greg, she is instantly head-over-heels...and in serious trouble.

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.

What Happened to Goodbye, Sarah Dessen

McLean has moved around a lot with her dad since her parents' divorce. In every new town she tries a new personality. Now McLean wants to stay put and learn who she really is — with some help from Dave, the boy next door.

OTHER WORLDS

Feed, M. T. Anderson

In the 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.

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.

Howl's Moving Castle, Diana Wynne Jones

All is not as it appears in the castle of the fearsome wizard Howl, as practical young hat shop apprentice Sophie discovers.

Incarceron, Catherine Fisher

Finn is a prisoner of the evil, intelligent prison called Incarceron. Claudia is the Warden's daughter, destined to become Queen. When Claudia accidentally finds a forbidden way to communicate with Finn, it will change both of their worlds forever. First in a series.

Matched, Ally Condie

In Cassie's world, the government controls everything, even the person you'll marry. But what if they make the wrong choice? First in a trilogy.

DIARIES, POEMS, AND PICTURES

The Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank

First published in 1947, the insightful journal chronicles Anne's 25 months in a crowded Amsterdam attic as she and her family hide from the Nazis during World War II.

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 told in poems.

Plain Janes, Cecil Castellucci

Jane and her friends liven up their boring town with secret attacks of public art.

Sold, Patricia McCormick

Sold into prostitution by her stepfather at the age of 13, Lakshmi is beaten, starved, and drugged into submission. Her heartbreaking story, told in poems, is an unflinching look at sexual slavery as it exists today.

SURVIVAL AND ADVENTURE

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. First published in 1903, this masterpiece of adventure and survival continues to enthrall readers a century later.

The Knife of Never Letting Go, Patrick Ness

Todd is the only boy in Prentisstown, where there are no women and all the men can hear each other's thoughts. Before he turns 13 and becomes a man, he and his dog are forced to run into the swamp beyond their town...where he learns that everything he thought he knew about his home may be a lie. First in a trilogy.

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story, Linda Sue Park

The intersecting stories of two children, one in 1985 and one in 2008, surviving and building new lives in war-torn Sudan.

The Outsiders, S. E. Hinton

Ponyboy is a "greaser," a tough kid with a dead-end life. He and his friends hate the "socs" (short for "socials") because they're wealthy and can get away with anything. Ponyboy is proud of being a greaser—until one of his friends accidentally kills a soc and everything changes.

SELF-DISCOVERY

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?

If I Stay, Gayle Forman

The last thing Mia remembers is the car accident that killed her family. Now she's caught in a coma between life and death. Which will she choose?

A Mango-Shaped Space, Wendy Mass

Mia has an unusual condition called synesthesia—she sees colors in numbers and letters, making school sometimes hopelessly confusing. Between this, a fight with her best friend, and a sick cat, Mia has a lot to deal with in 8th grade.

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 all are in print. 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 International Students

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the edition translated and abridged by Lowell Bair)
- *Persepolis, Vols. I and II*, Marjane Satrapi

Literature and Composition I

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

Literature and Composition II

- *Persepolis, Vols. I and II*, Marjane Satrapi
- 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”

Advanced Placement English Language

- *Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know*, Timothy Beal
- *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2011*, ed. Mary Roach
- One nonfiction book of your choice
- One book from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

The Short Story: Read It and Write It

The Tradition of the Novel

- *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde
- Two books 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”

Advanced Placement English Literature

- *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving
- *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, Thomas Hardy
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

All new international students will be mailed copies of *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *Persepolis*, Vols. I and II 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 submit your written responses, 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’ 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. *Persepolis, Vols. I and II*, Marjane Satrapi

This “complete” book includes both volumes of Satrapi’s graphic memoir about growing up in Iran during the Revolution; make sure that you read both volumes. After you have read the collection, choose ONE panel (that is, an individual “cartoon box” within a page) that you find interesting both in its content and its images. For your summer writing assignment, write a one-page (double-spaced) close reading of the panel; that is, write about the interesting details of the panel and their significance. Look closely at the specific language in the panel, the structure of the panel, and the details of the images, including colors and shapes; think about what this panel does for characterization, theme, setting, or other elements of the work as a whole. You will turn this assignment in on the first day of classes.

There is also a fascinating film version of this memoir that you might want to watch; however, Satrapi altered details, combined stories, and made other changes between the print and film versions, so you will need to read the entire book to get the full story. The recent film *Argo* also provides some helpful background information about the 1979 Iranian Revolution, although it does include some historical inaccuracies.

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION I

REQUIRED READING

- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas (only the edition translated and abridged by Lowell Bair)
- 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.

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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.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie

“Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.” (Library of Congress)

American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang

Three seemingly unrelated storylines—Jin Wang trying, and failing, to fit in at his school, the Monkey King’s quest to become a god, and Danny, whose life is being ruined by his cousin Chin-Kee—come together in a surprising way in this graphic novel.

Annie John, Jamaica Kincaid

The story of a young girl who grows up on the beautiful and magical island of Antigua. But Annie John’s story goes beyond a typical adolescence; it is about the terrible struggle between Annie and her mother and the greater struggle Annie faces trying to discover who she really is.

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 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?

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.

Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters, Mark Dunn

On a small island nation that reveres the English language, tragedy strikes when a sign with the country motto "A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog," begins to lose its letters. With each fallen letter banned from being spoken or written under the fear of banishment or death, the islanders are in a race to find a new motto that includes every letter in the English language – before they are silenced altogether!

Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury

Books are for burning in a society not too distant from the present, and a few people decide to challenge the ways of the world. A frightening myth of our time.

The Fellowship of the Ring, J. R.R. Tolkien

The first volume of Tolkien's epic classic, *The Lord of the Rings*. Hobbit Frodo and his friends get swept up into a mighty conflict with the dark lord Sauron, the monstrous Gollum, the Cracks of Doom, and the awful power of the magical Ring.

Fire, Kristin Cashore

In Fire's world, "monsters" are beautiful, dangerous creatures with the ability to control people's thoughts. Fire's father was a monster who used his power to control the king. Can Fire overcome her father's evil legacy and use her monster abilities to heal her kingdom?

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, Carson McCullers

Experience life in a dark era of the American South from the eyes of a deaf mute and a young girl whose greatest love is music.

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 Kill Giants, Joe Kelly

Barbara Thorson is a giant killer, or so she says. Friendless and picked on at school, no one believes her. Is Barbara really a killer of giants or is there a giant in her life she's trying to overcome? A graphic novel.

My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park, Steve Kluger
Best friends T.C. and Augie have treated each other like brothers since they were little. When T.C. falls for feisty and brilliant Alé and Augie falls for a boy, it's the beginning of the most excellent year of their lives.

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, Alexander McCall Smith

Precious Ramotswe, a “traditionally-sized” African woman, opens the only detective agency in Botswana run by a woman. The cases she cleverly investigates are exciting, such as her search for an 11-year-old boy who may have been snatched by witch doctors. But Mama Ramotswe’s philosophy of living and her understanding of people make this book more than just a detective novel. Caution: after this first book, you may have strong urges to read the whole series.

O Pioneers!, Willa Cather

A determined sister struggles to hold her family together on what appears to be a doomed farm in a forgotten land. Can a woman succeed in a man’s world? And if she does, is it possible for her to find love, too?

The Prince and the Pauper, Mark Twain

Tom Canty is an impoverished child of the cruel streets of London, and Prince Edward is the son of Edward VII, King of England. As fate would have it, the two meet, discover they look more alike than twins, switch clothes, and have a good romp tricking their friends. However, when a freak accident occurs, the boys are separated, with the likely outcome that the beggar will become king of England and the royal son will be murdered by a thieving, abusive father. If you subscribe to Atticus Finch’s belief that “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it,” you will enjoy this exciting tale of mistaken identity.

Revolution, Jennifer Donnelly

Since the death of Andi’s younger brother, her family has fallen apart. Andi, in danger of failing her senior year of high school, is dragged by her father to Paris for winter break so he can watch her write her senior thesis. There Andi discovers the diary of a girl who lived over two centuries ago, and she distracts herself with the discovery of things that happened long ago. Can a diary from the past and a French rapper named Virgil help Andi find her way back to her own life?

her past, and a father who hasn't looked at her for three years. *Story of a Girl* offers readers believable realism and a hint at how, even after the greatest mistakes, life can go on.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith

Francie Nolan is a girl growing up in Brooklyn in the early 1900s. Although life is hard—her family is poor, her father dies while she is young, and she does not easily make friends—Francie closely observes what happens around her and tries to make the best of things. In the process, she becomes a strong young woman with powerful memories of her childhood and an eagerness to learn what her future may hold.

Velva Jean Learns to Drive, Jennifer Niven

Velva Jean promises her dying mother to heal people with her singing and to “live out there in the great wide world.” After falling in love with Harley Bright, however, she faces some difficult choices as she attempts to build a home life and honor both her promise to her mother and her own independent spirit.

The Wednesday Wars, Gary D. Schmidt

Holling Hoodhood has a problem: he's the only Presbyterian in his class, so he has to stay after school every Wednesday afternoon while everyone else goes off to Jewish or Catholic class. He's stuck all alone with his teacher, who decides that they will read Shakespeare together. Life is so unfair! Actually, life is unfair in all kinds of ways in 1967. You'll come to love Holling as he shares his many adventures in this funny and poignant novel.

Whale Talk, Chris Crutcher

Multiethnic TJ gives a bunch of nonconformists the chance to be a swim team. Who says they need a pool?

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

- *Persepolis, Vols. I & II*, Marjane Satrapi
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 10”

Persepolis, Vols. I & II, Marjane Satrapi

This “complete” book includes both volumes of Satrapi’s graphic memoir about growing up in Iran during the Revolution; make sure that you read both volumes. After you have read the collection, choose ONE panel (that is, an individual “cartoon box” within a page) that you find interesting both in its content and its images. For your summer writing assignment, write a one-page (double-spaced) close reading of the panel; that is, write about the interesting details of the panel and their significance. Look closely at the specific language in the panel, the structure of the panel, and the details of the images, including colors and shapes; think about what this panel does for characterization, theme, setting, or other elements of the work as a whole. You will turn this assignment in on the first day of classes.

There is also a fascinating film version of this memoir that you might want to watch; however, Satrapi altered details, combined stories, and made other changes between the print and film versions, so you will need to read the entire book to get the full story. The recent film *Argo* also provides some helpful background information about the 1979 Iranian Revolution, although it does include some historical inaccuracies.

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.

An Abundance of Katherines, John Green

Weeping face down into a pillow is no way to spend the summer after graduating high school. But what if you can’t move on? Collin Singleton, serially heartbroken, determines to create an equation to predict relationship meltdown and avoid losing in love. His best friend suggests a remedy: a road trip. Before the summer ends, Collin will complete his formula, almost shoot a wild pig, find employment in a plant that manufactures a feminine hygiene product, and get over himself just enough to fall in love. Warning: math appears throughout, but is more than made up for by lots of belly laughs.

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*)

Briar Rose, Jane Yolen

Becca's grandmother repeatedly told the classic fairy tale of Briar Rose to her grandchildren when they were young. After her grandmother's death, Becca travels back to Poland to solve the mystery of her grandmother's past during the Holocaust and explore what it had to do with Briar Rose.

The Camel Bookmobile, Masha Hamilton

A librarian travels from New York to a village in Kenya, where she joins with local villagers to run the bookmobile. This interesting novel explores potential clashes between book cultures and oral history cultures.

The Color of Earth, Dong Hwa Kim

The story of Ehwa, a girl growing up in Korea from the time she is a child to her wedding night. Over the years, Ehwa slowly learns about the confusing world of love. First in a graphic novel trilogy.

The Color Purple, Alice Walker

Walker's Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel chronicles the life of Celie, who, after being torn away from her sister, is forced into a life of domestic abuse, oppression, and self-loathing. Finally, through the unlikely friendship of her husband's lover, Celie learns the most important lesson of all: self-respect.

The Complete Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle

When faced with mysteries that confound everyone else, Holmes, the famous fictional detective, uses his brilliant deductive reasoning and his encyclopedic knowledge of everything from chemistry (especially poisons) to law to declare to his friend Watson that the solution is "elementary"!

Dreams from My Father, Barack Obama

President Obama's first book, originally published in 1994, is a memoir of growing up as the son of a white American mother and a black Kenyan father. It explores race from the point of view of someone who has seen and been a part of several cultures.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog, Muriel Barbery

They are unlikely friends: a rich Japanese gentleman named Kakuro Ozu; Renée, the middle-aged concierge of an exclusive Parisian apartment building; and Paloma, a 12-year-old girl who lives there with her wealthy, intellectual family. The three are drawn together in this intricate and compelling novel as Paloma, a sort of French Holden Caulfield, struggles to find a reason not to commit suicide on her 13th birthday.

Emma, Jane Austen

If you knew an idle girl, admired, beautiful and of good family, a young lady who has never encountered any obstacle to her wishes, a meddler in the affairs of others, a manipulative and patient maker of love-matches, wouldn't you just love to be her? Or, would you prefer to see her get her comeuppance? If you answered "Yes!" to either question, Emma is for you.

Evelina: Or, The History of a Young Lady's Entrance into the World, Fanny Burney

As you read the adventures of this 18th century pure-as-the-driven-snow heroine, you will be reminded of the ingredients in today's soap operas: boorish relatives, glittering society parties, conniving cads, and rescues of the virtuous and beautiful.

The Fault in Our Stars, John Green

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at a cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life. "Green shows his readers what it is like to live with cancer, sometimes no more than a breath or a heartbeat away from death. But it is life that Green spiritedly celebrates here, even while acknowledging its pain." (*Booklist*)

Fires in the Mirror, Anna Deavere Smith

A play taken from the words of the people involved in an explosion of ethnic tensions in 1991 Crown Heights, Brooklyn, when a car driven by a Hasidic Jew struck and killed a young African-American child.

Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe, Fannie Flag

In this delightful narrative set in the American South, two women run a restaurant, challenge injustice, and form a strong center in a close-knit community.

Girl with a Pearl Earring, Tracy Chevalier

After studying Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer's famous portrait, "Girl with a Pearl Earring," Tracy Chevalier charts the life of Griet, a servant girl in the Vermeer household, who, in spite of her social status, Vermeer's jealous wife, and his domineering mother-in-law, becomes Vermeer's model for the painting.

A Great and Terrible Beauty, Libba Bray

This suspenseful novel, the first of the Gemma Doyle trilogy, features a 16-year-old protagonist who is sent from India to a girls' boarding school in England after she begins having terrible visions, the first of which accurately foretells her mother's violent death. As she learns to control her visions, they lead her into magical realms where all things are possible...but also dangerous.

The Great Santini, Pat Conroy

An autobiographical novel that describes a Southern family ruled by a dogmatic retired Marine. The book brilliantly depicts the emotional tension in the relationship between Bull Meacham and his 18-year-old son, Ben.

The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood, Helene Cooper

What happens to a rich, protected girl when the country she lives in erupts in war and chaos? That's the situation of Helene Cooper, who is now a respected American journalist but in 1980 was a high school student living in Liberia when that country was torn apart by a series of armed rebellions. This is a gripping, engaging memoir—sometimes funny, sometimes sad, always enlightening—about Cooper's childhood in Liberia, her experience of the military coups, her adolescence and adulthood in America, where the family fled after the fighting began, and finally her return to Liberia in 2003 to reunite with the adopted sister who had stayed in Liberia when the rest of the family left.

The Hundred Secret Senses, Amy Tan

In the spirit of *The Joy Luck Club*, Tan writes about three generations of Chinese women, weaving together their lives, loves, and the ghosts that haunt them. (Recommended for **East Asian Studies** students.)

In a Sunburned Country, Bill Bryson

Here is a laugh-out-loud travelogue, filled with adventures in Australia. Bryson draws the humanity and humor out of the most surprisingly trivial moments. He mingles history, encounters with people and animals, and cultural commentary in an informative and fascinating way. After reading this you will want to hop on the next plane to the Outback!

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.

The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini

Amir, a boy growing up in Afghanistan, commits a terrible betrayal against a dear friend, which shapes the rest of both of their lives. Years later, he has a chance to return to Afghanistan and set things right, but the risks he faces are grave indeed. This powerful and gripping coming-of-age novel is also a good introduction to modern Afghanistan.

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 are 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.

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?

My Brilliant Career, Miles Franklin

Franklin wrote this autobiographical novel as a 16-year-old girl, but her tale of the Australian outback was so scandalous that she insisted it not be republished until 10 years after her death.

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.

The Red Tent, Anita Diamant

Diamant creates a vivid picture of the sisterhood of women in biblical times. By fleshing out the scant details of the story of Dinah, the only daughter of the patriarch Jacob, Diamant reveals the strength of women living together in community and allows their voices to sing.

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.

The Road from Coorain, Jill Ker Conway

A masterpiece of autobiography tells of a journey from girlhood on a sheep farm in Australia to Conway's departure for America—"one of the few heroic stories of girlhood."

The Rope Walk, Carrie Brown

A 10-year-old girl and her neighbor befriend a man dying of AIDS and visit him every afternoon to read him the journals of explorers Lewis and Clark; all three characters find companionship on their individual exploratory journeys.

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.

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 Aboriginals. 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.

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.)

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 is 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 three nonfiction books this summer and will write briefly about two of them. In addition, you need to read one book from the “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12” reading list. Your written assignment for *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2011* is due on the first day of classes in the fall.

1. *Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know*, Timothy Beal

This summer, you will gain some of the biblical literacy that used to be assumed for all educated Americans but that most people no longer have. Read the brief introductions to the book and to Part 1, The Hebrew Bible, and read the selections from Genesis (that is, pages xiii-xx and 1-43). You may also find useful Part 3, which includes a glossary and a list of biblical phrases and images. Please note that my assignment of this book is not religious proselytizing! Rather, it is an encouragement to help you become an educated and culturally literate reader of texts from a variety of historical periods, as will be required for the Advanced Placement examination. If this material is entirely new to you, you may need to read the Genesis sections a couple of different times over the summer so that the stories sink in to your memory.

2. *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2011*, ed. Mary Roach

People who can't remember faces. The BP oil spill. Lesbian albatrosses. Fracking. The power of jellyfish. The science of falling out of an airplane. Killer whales. These and many other topics are explored in this fascinating collection of engaging, well-written essays. Your summer assignment is to read at least ten of the collection's 25 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 you consider worthwhile in this essay, and did you enjoy reading this essay? Why? (There's no right or wrong answer here – you're allowed to have an opinion, after all!)
- Type out a sentence that you particularly like or think is well-crafted from this essay; include a parenthetical citation with page number.

3. Another nonfiction book of your choice

There are some suggestions below, but you may also want to go spend a delightful hour browsing in your local library or bookstore for a book that intrigues you. Anything's fair game; just run your selection past Dr. Keely via email (so that she can read it too if it sounds fun!). You will write a review of this book in the first week of classes.

- You might be interested in biography or memoir, in which case consider Frank

4. Oscar Wilde’s use of language in this novel is worth special consideration. He uses imagery and figures of speech as well as epigrams to tell his story with great flair and drama. Find two examples of Wilde’s imagery and figures of speech and be ready to describe the texture they bring to his story.

5. Choose at least one epigram that intrigues you and be ready to explain its charm. Does your particular epigram offer good advice, or does it just sound like good advice? Please explain.

IV. Found Voices

- *Bird by Bird*, Anne Lamott
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grade 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*.

V. AP English Literature

- *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving
- *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, Thomas Hardy
- Two books from the reading list “Recommended Books for Grades 11 & 12”

For the two books of your choice, do not double up: that is, do not count a book you read for another class as one of your two choices. Please bring *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* and *A Prayer for Owen Meany* to our second day of class, along with your notes. We will discuss these texts during the first two weeks of class.

In *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, the narrator, John, and his friend, Owen, talk about *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*. John can’t get through this late 19th-century English novel; “I can’t read about milking cows!” he screams to his friend. Owen replies that Hardy is easy to understand because he has the world figured out: “Tess is doomed. Fate has it in for her. She’s a victim; if you’re a victim, the world will use you. Why should someone who’s got such a worked-out way of seeing the world bore you? Why shouldn’t you be interested in someone who’s worked out a way to see the world?”

Write one reading journal entry of about two typed, double-spaced pages for each of the four novels you read. For the entry on *Tess*, reflect upon Owen’s ideas about Hardy’s vision of *Tess* and the world. Do you agree? Disagree? Why? What else do you think about

Disgrace, J. M. Coetzee

Disgrace takes place in South Africa after Apartheid. It is a novel about racial violence, revenge, rape, love, and justice. Winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Literature, it is both brutal and brilliant.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Jonathan Safran Foer

The search for meaning in the wake of September 11 is shaped by the perspective of Oskar Schell, a precocious nine year old who lost his father in the attack on the World Trade Center. Oskar's story is a quest to make sense of the world he has inherited. His search is balanced by the narrative of his grandfather, who survived the bombing of Dresden during World War II. The novel's strength is in Foer's ability to filter horror, humor, joy, and wonder through a child's perspective.

The Fault in Our Stars, John Green

This novel follows the life of 16-year-old Hazel Grace Lancaster after she meets the gorgeous Augustus Waters at a cancer support group. Hilariously funny and profoundly heartbreaking, Green uses realistic, unique, and multi-dimensional characters to make this story relatable without undermining the tragedy of the plot. This book is powerful and you will not regret reading it. (Annie Killelea '13)

Franny and Zooey, J.D. Salinger

A moving and sometimes funny pair of interrelated stories about a brother and sister. Franny seeks spiritual purification through increasingly obsessive prayer and has a nervous breakdown, while her older brother, Zooey, tries to calm her down.

Freakonomics, Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner

An economics book for beach reading? Really? Though written by economists, this book reads nothing like an economics textbook. Levitt and Dubner collected mounds of data as they examined social trends, and they reach surprising conclusions about the way society functions and the impact present actions can have on the future. Written in lively prose and full of fascinating stories, *Freakonomics* will engage and entertain you, and it may change the way you see the world.

A Free Life, Ha Jin

In the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, Nan Wu, a Chinese graduate student at Brandeis, decides not to return to his native country and instead leaves his studies to pursue a "free life" in America as a poet. With his wife Pingping, and their son, Taotao, he eventually buys a Chinese restaurant in suburban Atlanta. Nan struggles to balance the demands of business and poetry as he also confronts the memory of his first love—a memory that keeps him from fully loving his wife and son.

Fun Home, Alison Bechdel

An engrossing memoir in graphic novel format, *Fun Home* documents Bechdel's childhood experiences and coming of age as a woman and lesbian. At its center lies her painful relationship with her distant father.

A Game of Thrones, George R.R. Martin

Fans of epic fantasy have to be patient (in order to wait for the next volume in the series), strong (these books are heavy) and mentally agile (in order to follow multiple characters and plots). If you fit this description, you will savor this masterpiece of the genre. The Stark and Lannister families struggle for control of the Iron Throne, all the while threatened by barbarians, ice vampires and direwolves. Plus there's a dragon princess waiting to save the day. Start reading today and this series might consume your entire summer.

The Gardens of Kyoto, Kate Walbert

Walbert's novel is a mesmerizing narrative of loss, memory and the power of books. The story flows through allusions to mysterious places and times from the Underground Railroad to a Japanese garden, from an innocent America before World War II to the decision to drop the atomic bomb.

The Given Day, Dennis Lehane

An absorbing historical novel set in Boston right after WWI, in which the action unfolds through the lives of two men, one white and one black. The 1918 influenza epidemic arrives with the returning soldiers, and revolutionaries and anarchists want to build a new world even if it means destroying everything first.

The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls

A chronicle of a childhood in the hands of eccentric, nomadic parents, told with love and remarkable gratitude considering the emotional and physical neglect which the author and her siblings endured.

The Good Thief, Hannah Tinti

Abandoned at a monastery as an infant, Ren has no idea where he came from or how he lost one of his hands. He is adopted by a man claiming to be his long-lost older brother, but all is not as it seems, and this stranger seems to be more grave robber than savior. Now leading a life with which he's not entirely comfortable, Ren begins to unravel the mystery of who he is and where he came from. This work of historical fiction is one part Charles Dickens, one part Tim Burton, and completely mesmerizing.

Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift

Go on a journey with Lemuel Gulliver, surgeon and sea captain, as he meets the Lilliputians, the Brobdingnagians, the Yahoos, and other strange creatures. This is satire at its best!

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 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 which 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 Lost Symbol, Dan Brown

Back from his adventures in *The Da Vinci Code*, Robert Langdon faces off against a psychopath who needs the symbologist to unlock the final step to becoming an all-powerful demon. He leads Langdon on a treasure hunt through a Washington D.C. full of danger, suspense, secrets, and intriguing connections between religion, history, and America's founding fathers. It all builds up to a shocking twist and new awakenings for Langdon, and kept me turning pages until the very end. (Shelby Daniels-Young '13)

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.

The Mayor of Casterbridge, Thomas Hardy

The Mayor of Casterbridge claims a unique place among Thomas Hardy's finest and most powerful novels. Rooted in an actual case of wife-selling in early-19th-century England, this drama of guilt and revenge introduces readers to one of the greatest tragic heroes in fiction.

Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro

In a futuristic world where all illnesses have been cured, a young woman named Kathy seeks to discover her identity and solve the secrets of her past. She reflects on her childhood at Hailsham, a “special” boarding school with an unusual emphasis on creativity and health. The students are never permitted to leave the school grounds. Now adults, she and her two friends, Tommy and Ruth, struggle to find their places in the world and in each other’s lives. (Kristina Ohl ’13)

The Night Circus, Erin Morgenstern

Le Cirque des Reves, the Circus of Dreams, is no ordinary circus. A truly magical experience awaits all who enter. It is the arena for two magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood in two very different magical traditions. Now they must compete against each other, neither player aware that in order for someone to win, the other must die.

On the Road, Jack Kerouac

In this novel of Dean Moriarty and Sal Paradise’s exuberant search to find meaning and excitement on the open roads of postwar America, Kerouac gave style and voice to the Beat Generation of the 1950s; it is the *Huckleberry Finn* of the 20th century. (Recommended for **Literature and Composition III** students.)

People of the Book, Geraldine Brooks

In this fast-paced novel of rich and vivid detail, Geraldine Brooks transcends time and place by tracing the journey of an ancient and mystifying Hebrew manuscript. Through her analysis of artifacts found in the Sarajevo Haggadah’s ancient binding, Anna, the protagonist, unveils the complicated and troubling history of the diverse people and cultures who have possessed it.

The Piano Lesson, August Wilson

Wilson’s Pulitzer-Prize winning play, set in the 1930s, tells the story of an African-American family’s struggle to hold itself together, break free of the past, and make peace with the ghosts of slavery. Both united by and in conflict over ownership of a piano that holds the story of their family’s past, Boy Willie and Berniece clash over the value of the family heirloom. As they confront the ghosts of the past, these characters experience a powerful lesson in forgiveness and redemption.

Run, Ann Patchett

Since their mother's death, Tip and Teddy Doyle have been raised by their loving, possessive, and ambitious father. As the former mayor of Boston, Bernard Doyle wants to see his sons in politics, a dream the boys have never shared. But when an argument in a blinding New England snowstorm inadvertently causes an accident that involves a stranger and her child, all Bernard Doyle cares about is his ability to keep his children—all his children—safe. Patchett shows us how worlds of privilege and poverty can coexist only blocks apart from each other, and how family can include people you've never even met. (HarperCollins)

Runaway, Alice Munro

This collection of short stories cannot—and should not—be read quickly. Each one is about a woman who faces a moment when she must stay or go. Alice Munro's masterful writing illuminates the why and how of these decisions and the many different faces of love and betrayal that spur them.

The Secrets of Mary Bowser, Lois Leveen

What on earth would make an 1850s black woman leave the free North and travel to the enslaved South, knowing that such a decision could mean the end of her freedom or even her life? How about the opportunity to spy on Confederate President Jefferson Davis? In this exciting novel, based on the life of an actual Union spy, freed slave Mary Bowser returns to Virginia and passes herself off as a slave, sending military secrets to the North and finding love in the midst of danger.

Shakespeare, Bill Bryson

"Willm Shaksp," "William Shakspe," "Wm Shakspe:" the great Shakespeare never even signed his name the same way twice. So what can we really know about him? That is the question Bryson asks and answers in this fast-paced and amusing book about our most renowned and mysterious playwright and poet.

The Shipping News, E. Annie Proulx

After the death of his two-timing wife, Quoyile, a third-rate newspaperman, retreats with his two daughters to the wild and starkly beautiful shores of Newfoundland in order to confront his heritage and reclaim his life. This novel won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Slave Moth, Thylia Moss

This neo-slave narrative, written in verse, follows Varl, a young slave girl who finds beautiful and creative ways to rebel against her master's determination to "collect" her. She attempts to maintain her humanity and her individuality in the face of the many-tiered assaults of slavery, while also bringing something new and worthwhile into the world.

Small Island, Andrea Levy

“Hortense Joseph arrives in London from Jamaica in 1948 with her life in her suitcase, her heart broken, her resolve intact. Her husband, Gilbert Joseph, returns from the war expecting to be received as a hero, but finds his status as a black man in Britain to be second class. His white landlady, Queenie, raised as a farmer’s daughter, befriends Gilbert, and later Hortense, with innocence and courage, until the unexpected arrival of her husband, Bernard, who returns from combat with issues of his own to resolve.” (Macmillan) Told in the vivid voices of these four characters, *Small Island* is a story of racism, immigration, post-war trauma and, ultimately, female empowerment.

Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson

Part love story, part murder mystery, part portrait of a painful time in American history, the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII, *Snow Falling on Cedars* has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Pen/Faulkner Award.

So Far from God, Ana Castillo

This wacky, wild, funny novel, set in New Mexico, engages the reader in the lives of a Chicano mother and her four daughters, their loves and struggles, their gossip, recipes, miracles, and community activism.

Song of the Lark, Willa Cather

A novel about a young woman’s development into a world-famous opera singer. Cather, one of the 20th century’s great writers, portrays the emotional, physical, and financial challenges as well as the rewards of devoting a life to art.

The Sorrow of War: A Novel of North Vietnam, Bao Ninh

The ugliness of war is the backdrop of this novel, and the Vietnamese War, as seen from the point of view of a North Vietnamese Communist soldier, is the focus. Bao Ninh’s brutal honesty is sometimes hard to stomach, and his writing style incorporates the chaos of the soldier’s life. Nonetheless, *The Sorrow of War* is well worth the work, especially for those of us lucky enough never to have faced war first-hand.

Soul on Ice, Eldridge Cleaver

A spiritual and intellectual biography written by one of the most articulate and prophetic young voices of the African-American community in the atmosphere of turbulence that characterized the early 1960s. A great companion volume to *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. (Recommended for U.S. History students.)

The Sparrow, Mary Doria Russell

Here is a science fiction novel whose narrative shifts back and forth between the years 2016 and 2060 as it recounts a scientific mission to a newly discovered extraterrestrial culture. Exciting ideas and disturbing moral issues await.

Speak, Memory, Vladimir Nabokov

Most well known as the author of *Lolita*, Nabokov was one of the 20th century's most innovative novelists. Upon publication of this autobiography, *The New York Review of Books* said, "When he is writing about someone or something he loves, he is irresistible; when he is writing about someone or something he despises, he can manage to enlist one's sympathies, if only momentarily, for the object of his contempt."

Stones from the River, Ursula Hegi

Trudi Montag, a dwarf living in Germany during the World Wars, explores the secrets and actions that shape her townspeople's fates.

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, David Wroblewski

What if you could read the story of Hamlet in modern day English, set on a farm in Wisconsin, with a young hero, Edgar, who can't speak or hear but who can communicate with his dogs, especially his special dog, who knows and understands all the joy and anguish that Edgar experiences, including a ghost? Well, you can. It's called *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*.

The Street, Ann Petry

When this novel was published in 1949, it shocked its readers with "its grim portrayal of life in Harlem." A good companion to Richard Wright's *Native Son*. (Recommended for **Literature and Composition III** students.)

Suite Française, Irene Nemirovsky

This brilliant, compelling novel shows France "at its darkest hour:" the Parisian exodus from the City of Light as the Nazis move in to occupy it. Nemirovsky became part of that exodus, herself caught up in the horrors of World War II.

The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness, Simon Wiesenthal

Wiesenthal, imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, was asked for forgiveness by a dying soldier. Fifty-three distinguished commentators respond to the questions his story raises about justice, compassion, forgiveness, and human responsibility.

The Uncommon Reader, Alan Bennett

When the Queen, in pursuit of her wandering corgis, stumbles upon a mobile library, she feels duty bound to borrow a book. Aided by Norman, a young man from the palace kitchen who frequents the library, Bennett describes the Queen's transformation as she discovers the liberating pleasures of the written word. (Goodreads)

Vanity Fair, William Thackeray

The epic adventure of Becky Sharp, a witty, clever, and accomplished young woman who is determined to break into society at any cost.

A Very Long Engagement, Sebastien Japrisot

You will find here a mixture of ingredients that make a great story: romance, history, mystery, quest. Set in France during World War I, the novel is dominated by a marvelous heroine, Mathilde Donnoy. (Recommended for **AP English Literature** and **AP European History** students.)

A Visit from the Goon Squad, Jennifer Egan

In this brilliant novel, winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, Jennifer Egan explores the interlocking stories of a group of people with links to each other and/or the music business, starting in contemporary New York and moving forward and backward in time and across relationships. Speaking through the clear, distinctive voices of her various characters (one of whom speaks only through PowerPoint charts), Egan explores the effects of the "goon squad," time, on each one. All of the characters are flawed, and most of them are unlikeable; still, you will grow to care about the fates of Bennie, an insecure music producer, Sasha, his kleptomaniac assistant, and their spouses, friends, children, and even high school buddies.

Wait Till Next Year, Doris Kearns Goodwin

A warm, humorous memoir about a young girl growing up in the suburbs of New York during the 1950s. Doris, her father, and her neighborhood are united by a love of baseball, through which she is also exposed to the fears of polio, the paranoia of McCarthyism, and the ugly face of racial prejudice. (Recommended for **Literature and Composition III** students.)

A Walk in the Woods, Bill Bryson

Hiking will never be the same for readers who discover Bryson's biting humor and scathing observations while trekking along the fabled Appalachian Trail.

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.

Lavinia, Ursula LeGuin

LeGuin takes a relatively invisible character from Vergil's *Aeneid* and weaves an entire story around her. Lavinia plays a crucial role in the eventual founding of Rome, and in this novel she is given a voice, one that adds new meaning to the *Aeneid*.

A Word a Day: A Romp through Some of the Most Unusual and Intriguing Words in English, Anu and Stuti Garg

Do you love words and wish we could study etymology all year long? Latin class will help your understanding of words, but reading this book will also inspire word lovers to dig even more deeply into roots, prefixes, and suffixes.

Fairy Tales in Latin: Fabulae Mirabiles, Victor Barocas

For those of you entering Latin III or IV, this book gives you an opportunity to read Latin without the need for notes or an extensive vocabulary. A glossary is provided, however, for the unusual words.

MANDARIN

Required for IV AP: *The Lady in the Painting*, Fred Fang-yu Wang

The only full-length story re-written for low to intermediate level learners of Mandarin, *The Lady in the Painting* tells the tale of a lonely young man who receives a painting of a beautiful woman as a gift. This great story is told using only 300 characters and is suitable for students at all levels.

Monkey: Folk Novel of China, Wu Ch'eng-en

A thrilling Chinese folk novel centered on a monkey and his interactions with a variety of spirits, gods, demigods, and other immortal beings (in English; suitable for all levels).

Taipei People, Pai Hsien-yung

Taipei People is a brilliant collection of beautifully translated, contemporary Chinese fiction. For advanced level Mandarin students, try your hand at reading the stories in Chinese; you can check your comprehension with the English translations. For beginning students, journey into the culture and lives of Chinese people by reading the English translations of the stories.

SPANISH

Required for V AP: *Yerma*, Federico García Lorca

One of Lorca's final plays from his famous trilogy, this is a powerful and poetic work on the yearning for motherhood.

Required for IV AP: *Devolver al remitente*, Julia Alvarez

A contemporary immigration story told through the alternating viewpoints of Tyler, son of an injured dairy farmer, and Mari, daughter of illegal migrant Mexican workers.

La Casa en Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros

In small vignettes, Esperanza Cordero tells the tales of the people she has met and experiences she has lived on Mango Street. (Recommended for levels IV and V.)

tragedy that could have been avoided. (Amazon)

The Flame Trees of Thika, Elspeth Huxley

Early 20th-century Kenya comes alive through the excitement and insight of a child who watches with eyes wide open as vastly different peoples—Kikuyu, Masai, Boer, and British—live and work side by side but rarely come together.

Zenzele: A Letter For My Daughter, J. Nozipo Maraire

In this novel written in the form of a letter, Maraire attempts to shed light on what life is like for a contemporary African woman living in the western world. Maraire weaves a tale of sadness and hope as she chronicles her life as a young Rhodesian girl to her eventual emigration to America to study at Harvard. She takes a compelling look at the problems of the African diaspora—the loss of traditional African culture—and what the future will hold for her own daughter as she struggles to find her identity.

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.

beautifully-drawn graphic novel.

In the Country of Men, Hisham Matar

In this novel of pre-Arab-Spring Libya, a young boy lives under the oppression of a dictator. His life is defined by his mother's resentment of the denial of her own emotional identity, her fear for her husband who is involved in revolutionary activity, and her passion for her son. The novel, which is written from the boy's perspective, gives a sense of how fear can twist the behavior of people living in a dictatorial regime and of how lonely it can be to live in such a society. Can a culture whose children have been so abandoned ever recover?

My Name is Red, Orhan Pamuk

In Istanbul, in the 1590s, the Sultan secretly commissions a great book, but any work of art—an affront to Islam—is considered dangerous. This murder mystery set during the time of the Ottoman Empire uses colors as characters that help decipher the killer's identity.

A Map of Love, Ahdaf Soueif

At either end of the 20th century, two women fall in love with men outside their familiar worlds. In 1901, Anna Winterbourne finds herself enraptured with Egypt and with Sharif Pasha al-Baroudi. Nearly 100 years later, Isabel Parkman, Anna and Sharif's descendant, falls in love with a gifted and difficult Egyptian-American conductor with his own passionate politics.

Someone to Run With, David Grossman

When awkward and painfully shy 16-year-old Assaf is asked to find the owner of a stray yellow lab, he begins a quest that will bring him into contact with street kids, criminals and a talented young singer, Tamar, who is on her own mission: to rescue a teenage drug addict.

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS

Wag the Dog, Larry Beinhart

In this brilliant political satire, a mean, dying GOP chairman devises a clever scheme to assure that his man will retain the office of President of the United States of America. And the only person who can pull off his elaborate plan is a celebrated Hollywood director. An intelligent and well-written book.

Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions, Gloria Steinem

In this collection of engaging essays, the feminist movement's most eloquent spokesperson writes about subjects as varied as infiltrating the Playboy Club, women and work, and major political figures of the 1960s and 70s.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Brave Companions, David McCullough

Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough presents profiles of exceptional men and women who have contributed to the history of the United States. In this rich collection of 17 essays, readers meet figures such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frederic Remington, Teddy Roosevelt, Louis Agassiz, and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

The Feminine Mystique, Betty Friedan

After graduating from Smith College, Friedan interviewed her classmates about their lives following college. What she found were countless women living in silent desperation, forced by social expectations into marriage and homemaking with little opportunity for personal expression. In many ways, this book launched the modern feminist movement.

Founding Brothers, Joseph Ellis

Ellis recounts several pivotal moments in the nation's creation: from the private debates and dealings over where to locate the capital, to the deadly duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, to arguments between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams over the meaning of the nation. These anecdotes speak to the central values and the fundamental conflicts of the nation, then and now.

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.

WOMEN IN THE CLASSICAL WORLD*Lavinia*, Ursula LeGuin

LeGuin takes a relatively invisible character from Vergil's *Aeneid* and weaves an entire story around her. Lavinia plays a crucial role in the eventual founding of Rome, and in this novel she is given a voice, one that adds new meaning to the *Aeneid*.

Heroides, Ovid

This collection of fictional letters from women of classical mythology to their heroic counterparts combines elements of ancient Greek mythology with a male Roman perspective from the Augustan Age. A humorous, touching, and at times infuriating peek into a man's view of women's minds.

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.

The Name of the Rose, Umberto Eco

In 1397, finding his sensitive mission at an Italian abbey further complicated by seven bizarre deaths, Brother William of Baskerville turns detective, penetrating the cunning labyrinth of the abbey and deciphering coded manuscripts for clues. This mystery conveys a marvelous sense of time and place.

NOTES

This summer reading list was compiled by

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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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