

Grade 11 Summer Reading Requirements

The following summer reading selections represent authors and issues that are addressed in the eleventh grade curriculum. Teachers in both the English and Social Studies classes work cooperatively to help students make connections between history and the literature produced during the latter part of the 19th century to the present.

The summer readings will help prepare you for next year's studies and provide a springboard for discussions as the teachers cover various units in their courses. **It is STRONGLY advised that you take notes on your readings and be prepared for an assessment when the semester begins.**

The faculty and administration believe that it is very important for students to continue reading during the summer months, so please do not restrict yourselves to only the required readings. Several more selected works are listed on the back of this flyer, and your English and Social Studies teachers are always receptive to suggestions for next year's list.

ELEVENTH GRADE REQUIRED READINGS

All English and Social Studies Honors students must read a total of three books:

- **Khaled Hosseini *The Kite Runner***
This novel relates the demise of friendship and the precipitous decline of Afghanistan at the end of the 20th century. The story encompasses the tranquility of pre-Taliban Afghanistan of the 1960s during the last days of Afghanistan's monarchy and the turbulent rise and dramatic fall of Taliban control.
- **Louise Murphy *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel***
More hopeful yet darker than the tale it is based on, this novel is set in Poland during World War II. The Jewish Hansel and Gretel are hidden from Nazi occupiers by an unlikely collection of outcasts, making the story a complex examination of ethics.

- **Paul Rusesabagina *An Ordinary Man***
This autobiography covers the horrific genocide of the Tutsis at the hands of the Hutus in 1994, in which over 800,000 were killed in approximately 100 days. Rusesabagina relates not only the history of Rwanda that led up to the genocide, but also his efforts to save as many people as he could who came to the hotel he managed. The indifference of the international world and the mistakes Rwanda made in the aftermath of the genocide are also reflected in the book.
-

English and Social Studies CP students must read a total of two books.
They must read

- **Khaled Hosseini *The Kite Runner***

In addition, **all CP English and Social Studies students** must read *one* of the following two books:

- **Paul Rusesabagina *An Ordinary Man***
- **Louise Murphy *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel***

See the description of these books in the Honors section.

English and Social Studies Career/College Preparatory (CCP)
students must read *one* of the following two books:

- **Paul Rusesabagina *An Ordinary Man***
- **Louise Murphy *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel***

See the description of these books in the Honors section.

OTHER RECOMMENDED (OPTIONAL) READINGS OF INTEREST

Art Spiegelman *Maus I and Maus II* These autobiographical graphic novels deal not only with the horrors of the Holocaust, but also with the difficult relationship of a survivor and his son.

Marjane Satrapi *Persepolis*

Satrapi's autobiography is a timely and timeless story of a young girl's life under the Islamic Revolution.

Nadine Gordimer *July's People*

For fifteen years, July was the decently treated black servant in a South African household. Now, in "the deteriorating situation," the roles are reversed as he becomes host to his former master's family.

Barbara Kingsolver *Poisonwood Bible*

An American missionary and his family travel to the Congo in 1959, a time of tremendous political and social upheaval.

Bryce Courtenay *Power of One*

In this magical novel, a boy tells the story of his survival and coming of age against the background of South Africa during and just after World War II.

Gail Tsukiyama *Samurai's Garden*

On the eve of World War II, a young Chinese man is sent to his family's summer home in Japan to recover from tuberculosis.

Isabel Allende *Of Love and Shadows*

This novel deals with political intrigue in a Latin American country. Although dissent and the individual struggle for justice are subtle yet predominant aspects of the story, it also focuses on love and the shadows all of the characters must deal with – shadows of their pasts, present circumstances, and even their futures.

Ina Rilke Sijie Dai *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*

This is an enchanting tale of two hapless city boys exiled to a remote mountain village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution.

Geraldine Brooks *Nine Parts of Desire*

Brooks takes us through the women's back door entrance of the Middle East for an unusual and provocative view.

Alan Paton *Cry, the Beloved Country*

Set in pre-Apartheid South Africa, this novel explores the effects of imperialism and injustice through the interactions of a Zulu priest and his white neighbor.

John Updike *Gertrude and Claudius*

This novel leaves off where Shakespeare's *Hamlet* begins.

Khaled Hosseini *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Two women who know happiness and sorrow in some measure early in their lives find themselves first as adversaries and then as confidantes as they endure the miseries doled out by the ruthless husband they share. True-to-form, Hosseini brings his tale to a just, happy end.

11th Grade Summer Reading



Strath Haven High School

2010