

Grade 12 Summer Reading Requirements

The following summer reading selections represent authors and issues that are addressed in the twelfth grade curriculum. This list is offered to help prepare you for next year's studies. The faculty and administration believe that it is very important for students to continue reading during the summer months. In September, teachers in Language Arts and/or Social Studies classes will provide opportunities for students to discuss their summer reading, and will use the required material as a springboard to assignments for their course. *To this end, your teachers will test you on your knowledge and understanding of the required readings. It is strongly recommended that you take detailed notes about plot, characters, your questions, and your reactions as you read, and that you review your notes carefully before the first day of class.*



LANGUAGE ARTS REQUIRED READING

AP Literature and Composition students must read 4 books & 1 non-fiction article:

- **Tim O'Brien** *The Things They Carried** (See note)
In these candid fictionalized stories, based on O'Brien's wartime experiences, pictures, heartaches, dreams and terror are among the things soldiers carry in Vietnam.
- **Ralph Ellison** *Invisible Man*
The story of a mid 20th century African American male's journey from the promise of upward mobility and bourgeois integration to alienation and disillusion.
- **Emily Bronte** *Wuthering Heights* or **Jane Austen** *Pride & Prejudice*
Take your pick and read one of these two epic romantic classics.
- **Cormac McCarthy** *No Country for Old Men* or *The Road*
Read one of the two most recent novels by an author many critics consider to be our greatest living writer.
- "A Reader's Manifesto" -available free on-line
Enjoy B. R. Myers rant about the difficulty of being a fan of literary prose in the current age. Consider the extent to which you agree with him.

Honors Language Arts students must read 2 books:

- **Tim O'Brien** *The Things They Carried** (See AP Literature for description and see note below.)
- **Victor Frankl** *Man's Search for Meaning*

A primer on Viktor Frankl's groundbreaking answer to Freudian psychoanalysis, otherwise known as logotherapy. Frankl uses examples from his time in Auschwitz death camp to illustrate that human beings always possess the power to choose their attitude, even in the midst of the worst suffering.

CP/CCP Language Arts students must read 2 books:

- **Tim O'Brien** *The Things They Carried** (See AP Literature for description and see note below.)
- **Victor Frankl** *Man's Search for Meaning* (See description under Honors subheading.)

*NOTE: This selection contains strong language or plot situations that may be offensive to some readers. The faculty has judged the literary merit of the selection to far outweigh any caution we might feel in assigning the book. Any student, parent, or guardian who objects to the content and/or language of this selection may exercise the option to select Graham Greene's *The Quiet American*, listed in recommended readings.



SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIRED READING

College Social Science Seminar students must read the following 4 books:

- **Thomas de Zengotita** *Mediated: How the Media Shapes Your World and the Way You Live in It*
This book argues that every experience of the individual in today's world is mediated by technologies to the degree that all of our thoughts and actions have become reflexive and inauthentic.
- **Jonathan Kozol** *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*
The author maintains that the educational status of inner-city schools has worsened since the dismantling of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.
- **Eric Schlosser** *Fast Food Nation*
This book examines the evolution of fast food chains and shows why Americans should be deeply concerned about eating fast food and about those who work in such establishments.
- **Tim O'Brien** *The Things They Carried** (See AP Literature section for description. Also see Note below Language Arts requirements.)

Honors / CP Government & Political Philosophy students must read the following 2 books:

- **Barbara Ehrenreich** *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*
The author describes her own “undercover” experiment, exploring the situations of Americans who are expected to survive on “the wages of the unskilled.”
- **Tim O’Brien** *The Things They Carried** (See AP Literature for description. Also see Note below Language Arts requirements.)

Career/College Preparatory Government students must read the following book:

- **Tim O’Brien** *The Things They Carried** (See AP Literature section for description. Also see Note below Language Arts requirements.)

OTHER RECOMMENDED (OPTIONAL) READINGS OF INTEREST

- **Graham Greene** *The Quiet American*
- **Alexander Dumas** *The Count of Monte Cristo*
- **Saul Bellow** *The Adventures of Augie March*
- **Orson Scott Card** *Ender’s Game*
- **Azar Nifisi** *Reading Lolita in Tehran*
- **James Weldon Johnson** *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*

12th Grade Summer Reading



Strath Haven High School 2010