

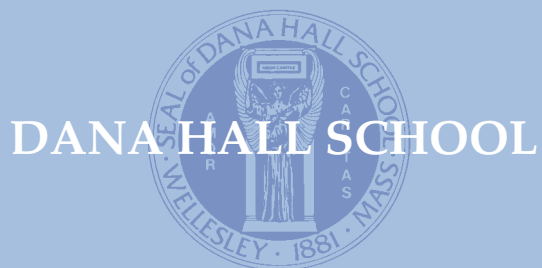
# Summer Reading List 2003



## SUMMER READING LIST 2003

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DANA HALL SCHOOL

Wellesley, MA  
[www.danahall.org](http://www.danahall.org)

INTRODUCTION

All students at Dana Hall are required to do 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 literature 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.

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 Kenko, *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

1. During the first few weeks in your English classes, you will be asked to discuss and to write about those 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 this reading list. We ask you to choose books from different categories 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. Any bookstore can order these books for you, but sometimes an order may take as long as six weeks to be filled. Also remember that many of these books are available at your local library; however, it would be best if you brought the books you read during the summer with you in September.

Students entering **Sixth Grade**

- Required: *Little Women* (Parts 1 and 2, Louisa May Alcott)

--Keep a reading journal in which you record your responses to the following:

- For each chapter of the book, write one thoughtful question which illuminates an important aspect of that chapter, and write your own answer to the question.
- What did you learn from this book that you did not know before you read it?
- Would you recommend this book to other students? If so, explain why; if not, explain why not.

- Two books from the reading list  
"Books for Grades 6, 7, and 8"

Students entering **Seventh Grade**

- Required: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith
- All rising seventh graders will receive a study guide for *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. This guide will include questions to answer as well as other activities to guide students' reading. This document will also be posted on the web at the following address:  
<http://mail.danahall.org/~library/summerlist.htm>

- Two books from the reading list  
"Books for Grades 6, 7, and 8"

Students entering **Eighth Grade**

- Required: *A Separate Peace*, John Knowles
- In *A Separate Peace*, you will learn about the unique friendship between Gene and Finny. Write an essay in which you answer the following question: which boy changes most significantly during the course of the novel, and what influence does the boys' friendship have on this transformation?

- Two books from the reading list  
"Books for Grades 6, 7, and 8"

## BOOKS FOR GRADES 6, 7, AND 8

### I. The Classics

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

Young Huck grows up as he travels down the Mississippi River with his companion Jim, a runaway slave.

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll

Alice falls into a rabbit hole and ends up in another world with peculiar laws of its own.

*All Creatures Great and Small*, James Herriot

Yorkshire's favorite veterinarian regales the reader with funny and heartwarming tales of balky calves and pampered Pekingese and their equally unique owners.

*The Black Stallion*, Walter Farley

This is the first in a wonderful series about a proud Arabian horse and the fillies and colts that he sires.

*The Call of the Wild*, Jack London

A striking and powerful tale of the savage lawlessness of man and beast.

*Emily of New Moon*, L.M. Montgomery

In the spirit of *Anne of Green Gables*, Montgomery writes of the adventures, trials and tribulations of an independent young woman.

*The Good Earth*, Pearl S. Buck

Life in China as revealed through the experiences of one peasant family.

*The Jungle Book*, Rudyard Kipling

Orphaned as a baby, Mowgli is raised by wolves and speaks the language of the wild. Now he must face down a dreaded new enemy--man.

*The Miracle Worker*, William Gibson

The story of Annie Sullivan, the courageous young teacher who persevered in teaching Helen Keller to speak and to read Braille.

*Old Yeller*, Fred Gipson

A tale for dog-lovers about 14-year-old Travis and his yellow dog Old Yeller who proves to be a match for thieving raccoons, fighting bulls, grizzly bears, and mad wolves.

*The Red Pony*, John Steinbeck

A warm, moving story of a boy's love of horses.

*The Swiss Family Robinson*, Johann Wyss

The many adventures of a family shipwrecked on an uninhabited island in the Pacific.

*Tales of Mystery and Imagination*, Edgar Allan Poe

The threat of evil is always present in Poe's stories.

*Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson

A timeless novel of pirates and buried treasure.

*The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame

Enter the Wild Wood with Mr. Toad and Mr. Badger and leave happier and wiser. This English fantasy appeals to all ages.

*The Yearling*, Marjorie Rawlings

A sensitive story of a boy, his pet deer, and their life in the Florida wilderness in the 1870s.

### II. Contemporary Fiction

*At Risk*, Alice Hoffman

When 11-year-old Amanda is diagnosed with AIDS, she and her family must face their own pain and the fears of those around them.

*Backwater*, Joan Bauer

Ivy Breedlove only wants to chronicle the family's genealogy, study history, and not be forced to become a lawyer like many of her relatives. In writing about her family's history, Ivy searches for her Aunt Josephine, who also wanted to lead her own life but had to escape to the Adirondack Mountains to realize her dreams.

*The Best Little Girl in the World*, Steven Levenkron

The history of an obsessed, self-destructive young woman diagnosed with anorexia nervosa.

*Bless Me, Ultima*, Rudolfo Anaya

Ultima, the curandera, introduces the magical secrets of the indigenous world to young Antonio Marez as he struggles to find his place in his New Mexican community.

*Bridge to Terabithia*, Katherine Paterson

A young girl makes a new friend and is confronted with love and loss in this realistic novel by a great contemporary author.

*The Chocolate War*, Robert Cormier

A powerful and suspenseful novel about high school politics, cruelty, and conformity.

*The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, Paul Zindel

How can Tillie concentrate on her science project while her family life is spinning out of control? A play by the author of *The Pigman*.

*The Goats*, Brock Cole

The victims of a vicious camp prank, two young teens learn personal and physical survival skills when deserted on an island.

*Habibi*, Naomi Shibab Nye

When 14-year-old Liyana Abboud, her younger brother, and parents move from familiar St. Louis to the Middle East near the West Bank village where her father was born, they make new friends, learn new languages, and work quietly for peace in the face of troubling tension between Jews and Palestinians.

*A Hand Full of Stars*, Rafik Schami

Although his father has forced him to leave school, a Syrian boy finds a way to become a journalist in spy-ridden Damascus where speaking the truth is a dangerous business.

*Homecoming*, Cynthia Voigt

The Tillerman kids' mother just left them one day in a car in a mall parking lot. Their father, too, had left them a long time ago. So, as usual, it was up to 13-year-old Dicey, the eldest of four, to take care of everything. The author of this book graduated from Dana Hall in 1959.

*I Heard the Owl Call My Name*, Margaret Craven

A young priest, assigned to live and work among the Kwakiutl Indians, learns enough about life to accept his impending death.

*It's Not the End of the World*, Judy Blume

Sure, people get divorced, but it's different when they are your own parents: a novel about love and real life.

*Jacob Have I Loved*, Katherine Paterson

Louise deals with sibling rivalry: her sister Caroline is like a Biblical Jacob who is favored and loved by everyone. Louise's struggle to find her own identity causes her to choose a very different path from that of her twin sister.

*Locked in Time*, Lois Duncan

Visiting her step-family for the first time, Nore at first ignores the hints that all might not be as it seems.

*Make Lemonade*, Virginia Euwer Wolff

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

*Motown and Didi*, Walter Dean Myers

Despite the difficulties of life in Harlem, Motown and Didi are drawn to each other and find hope for their futures.

*The Moves Make the Man*, Bruce Brooks

A moving, fast-paced novel about the perils and joys of teenage friendship and survival; much of the action takes place on the basketball court.

*The Noonday Friends*, Mary Stolz

Franny lives in New York City and dreams of being rich and becoming a ballerina. She must take care of her little brother while her mother works. She doesn't get to play after school. Will her noonday friends be all she ever has?

*On My Honor*, Marion Dane Bauer

When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell their parents.

*Rainbow Jordan*, Alice Childress

Neglected by her young mother and placed in an "interim home," Rainbow feels the world is a hostile and uncaring place.

*A Ring of Endless Light*, Madeleine L'Engle

Vicky Austin must come to terms with both her grandfather's death and the increasing complexity of her own life in the summer before her sixteenth birthday. A wonderful combination of L'Engle's poetic, inspirational, and realistic storytelling.

*The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Age 13 3/4*, Sue Townsend

Adrian Mole is a British teenager who adores his girlfriend Pandora, befriends a lonely eccentric in his 90s, reads hard books, and survives his parents' separation. Best of all, he has a great sense of humor. Everyone loves this book!

*The Star Fisher*, Laurence Yep

Joan Lee and her family are the first Chinese-Americans that the small community of Clarksburg, West Virginia, has ever seen. Prejudice and persecution make it difficult for the Lees to pursue the American Dream.

*Sort of Forever*, Sally Warner

Cady and Nana have been friends forever. But when Nana is diagnosed with terminal cancer, their friendship faces the biggest test of all. This story is a substantive and realistic look at a difficult situation.

*Stuck in Neutral*, Terry Trueman

Shawn McDaniel has cerebral palsy and is trapped in a body that does not work. His mind, however, is creative and active, and his inner life is full. From early on, Shawn is convinced that his father wants to kill him. Is this really true, or just another creation of his imagination?

*Toning the Sweep*, Angela Johnson

Get to know three generations of African-American women, each holding on to separate truths about life, death, and themselves.

*Waiting for the Rain*, Sheila Gordon

Can the childhood friendship between Frikkie and Tengo survive apartheid in South Africa?

*Walk Two Moons*, Sharon Creech

This Newbury Award winner follows the mysterious, funny, and touching adventures of a 13-year-old girl on a cross-country trip with her elderly grandparents.

*When She Was Good*, Norma Fox Mazer

Em is finally 15 and free from her alcoholic father, manic-depressive mother, and abusive older sister. But how do "normal" people act? How will Em manage now that she is on her own?

*Where the Lilies Bloom*, Vera and Bill Cleaver

Mary Call, a spunky and surprising 14-year-old, vows to keep her orphaned family together.

*A White Romance*, Virginia Hamilton

When her previously all-black school is integrated, Talley makes some new friends and embarks on a doomed romance.

*Words by Heart*, Ouida Sebestyen

An African-American girl's confrontation with fear and hatred.

### III. Historical Fiction

*Alan and Naomi*, Myron Levoy

Alan's ordinary life changes as he struggles to help Naomi recover from the horrors of the Holocaust. This novel is set in New York City in the 1940s.

*Bat 6*, Virginia Euwer Wolff

Set in post-World War II Oregon, two girls from very different backgrounds collide in the town's big softball game. Courage, responsibility and reconciliation are themes explored in this book about softball.

*Caddie Woodlawn*, Carol Brink

Caddie Woodlawn, knitting and cooking? Never! Exploring the Wisconsin frontier in the 1800s with her new Native American friends promises to be much more exciting.

*Davita's Harp*, Chaim Potok

Growing up in Brooklyn during the 1930s, the daughter of American Communists, Davita is confused by her parents' political activities, which isolate her from her friends but give her the strength to find her own way.

*Fever 1793*, Laurie Halse Anderson

Mattie Cook, 14, has to rally all of her courage as she faces the ravaging yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia and the loss of family and friends.

*The Fifth of March: A Story of the Boston Massacre*, Ann Rinaldi

In the years preceding the Revolutionary War, Rachel Marsh, a young servant in the Boston household of John and Abigail Adams, is torn between loyalties when she falls in love with a British soldier.

*A Gathering of Days*, Joan Blos

Catherine Hall begins her journal at the age of 13, in the year 1830. In it she records the daily rhythms of her small New Hampshire town, her feelings about her father's remarriage and the death of her best friend, and her opinions of the events shaping her life.

*Gentlehands*, M.E. Kerr

Could Buddy's beloved grandfather be a Nazi war criminal?

*In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*, Betty Bao Lord

A young Chinese girl finds that the world of baseball helps her adjust to her new home in America.

*Island on Bird Street*, Uri Orlev

Experience the terror of World War II through the eyes of Alex, a courageous Jewish child who takes refuge, alone, in an abandoned building.

*The Midwife's Apprentice*, Karen Cushman

One cold morning in medieval England, a homeless and nameless but determined girl finds her place in the world as the midwife's apprentice.

*My Name is Not Angelica*, Scott O'Dell

Here is a compelling account during the great slave rebellion of 1733 on the island of St. John's of one young woman's suffering but ultimate triumph of will.

*No Promises in the Wind*, Irene Hunt

This is the unforgettable story of Josh, who grows up during the turbulent years of America's Great Depression.

*Out of the Dust*, Karen Hesse

Hesse won a Newbery Medal in 1998 for this remarkable novel, written in free verse. The poems are written by Billy Jo Kelby, a 14-year-old girl who lives with her family in Oklahoma during the Great Depression. In contrast to the starkness of the family's life is Billy Jo's love of playing the piano and her belief that life can offer her something more than dust.

*The Return*, Sonia Levitin

Seen from the viewpoint of a teenage girl, this is the story of a group of African Jews who journey from Ethiopia to the Sudan to escape persecution.

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, Mildred Taylor

An inspiring story about the joys and the struggles of an African-American family living in the South in the 1930s.

*Sarah Bishop*, Scott O'Dell

Sarah Bishop, 15 years old, tries to ignore the American Revolution, but discovers that she is caught up in a conflict of loyalties.

*Shadows in Bronze*, Lindsey Davis

In this mystery set in ancient Rome, Citizen Falco is commissioned by the emperor to find those plotting to topple the regime, but his meager wages are not enough to afford the heart of high-born beauty Helena Justina.

*The Slave Dancer*, Paula Fox

A spellbinding tale of young Jessie forced to play his fife on board a slave ship bound for America.

*Summer of the Monkeys*, Wilson Rawls

During one of his treks through Oklahoma's Cherokee Ozarks, 14-year-old Jay Berry Lee spends the summer trying to recapture monkeys escaped from a traveling circus.

*Sweet Grass*, Jan Hudson

Can a 15-year-old member of the Blackfoot Tribe find the courage and the skill to save her people?

*To Be a Slave*, Julius Lester

Told by slaves themselves, this is the true story of slavery in North America, from its African origins in the 1600s to the time of the American Civil War.

*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, Avi

Leaving England on the brig *Seahawk* to join her family in America in 1832, Charlotte is a prim, dutiful young lady. What is it that changes her so radically in just a few weeks at sea?

*The Upstairs Room*, Johanna Reiss

Annie and Sini, two Jewish girls, hide in a room of a small farmhouse after the Germans invade Holland during World War II.

*Waiting for Odysseus: A Novel*, Clemence McLaren

A creative retelling of Homer's *Odyssey* from the point of view of four of the women in Odysseus' life - his wife Penelope, the sorceress Circe, his patron goddess Athena, and his doting nanny Eurycleia. This is a fine introduction and supplement to the great epic poem.

*Witch Child*, Celia Rees

At the beginning of this story we learn that we will be reading "the Mary Papers," a manuscript found in the layers of a quilt. The first words, "I am a witch," launch a fascinating story of the fear, suspicion and hatred that the Puritans brought with them from the old country to the new.

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, Elizabeth Speare

Kit moves from the Caribbean to a stern Puritan community in Connecticut where her unconventional ways bring an accusation of witchcraft.

#### IV. Fantasy and Science Fiction

*Aria of the Sea*, Dia Calhoun

Cerinte, who comes from the island of Normost in the kingdom of Windward, has wanted to be a dancer all of her life. On the death of her mother, her father brings her to audition at the Royal School of Dancing. Once she is chosen as a fledgling dancer, her troubles and joys begin.

*Beauty*, Robin McKinley

"Beauty and the Beast" retold in a full-length novel rich in character and emotion.

*The Book of Three*, Lloyd Alexander

The first in a series of gripping fantasies about the adventures of Taran in the imaginary kingdom of Wales.

*Dandelion Wine*, Ray Bradbury

A magical coming-of-age novel about the freedoms of summers past.

*The Dark Is Rising*, Susan Cooper

The seventh son of a seventh son becomes, on his eleventh birthday, an unknowing and unwilling participant in the eternal struggle between good and evil.

*Dragonflight*, Anne McCaffrey

First in a series of fantastic adventures about the dragonriders of Pern, human colonists who have long been out of contact with earth, and the mind-reading dragons who carry them "in between."

*Gathering Blue*, Lois Lowry

Kira was born with a deformed leg and should have been left to die in the Field of Leaving. Why has the Council chosen her to preserve their history?

*The Giver*, Lois Lowry

Jonas lives in a perfect society without pain or war. But when The Giver chooses him for "Special Instructions," his life is changed forever.

*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, J.K. Rowling

Harry discovers he's a wizard and is sent off to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, where he makes new friends, takes classes in Potions and Defense Against the Dark Arts, and embarks on a series of adventures that will keep you glued to the pages of this funny, clever, and completely enchanting fantasy.

*The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien

Tolkien creates a fantasy world called Middle Earth populated by small creatures known as Hobbits; prequel to the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

*Indian in the Cupboard*, Lynne Reid Banks

Omri's adventure begins when the plastic Indian he is given for his birthday comes alive.

*The Last Book in the Universe*, Rodman Philbrick

A devastating earthquake has left the world in ruins. Buildings have crumbled and not been rebuilt. Most scientific, medical and technological advances of the 20th and early 21st centuries are forgotten. Survivors steal from one another. Neighborhoods are run by warring gangs and illiterate orphans. Can an epileptic "Spaz Boy" and a frail old man save humankind from itself?

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

An extraordinary excursion into magical lands and enchanted happenings.

*The Lost Years of Merlin*, T.A. Barron

Young Emrys sets off on a quest to find his true name and heritage. His journey leads him to the isle of Fincayra, where he joins forces with the forest girl Rhia and the heroic little giant Shim to battle the evil Rhita Gawr. This magical tale, filled with ancient Celtic and Druidic lore, is the first in a series about Merlin's youth.

*Redwall*, Brian Jacques

This is a tale of fantasy, adventure and romance in which the heroes are the gentle mice of Mossflower Wood and the villains are Cluny the Scourge and his battle-seasoned army of rats.

*The Sword in the Stone*, T.H. White

A brilliant storyteller recounts the early years and adventures of King Arthur.

*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.

*Watership Down*, Richard Adams

A group of enterprising rabbits sets out to find a new home.

*Witches*, Roald Dahl

Another humorous fantasy adventure by this popular English author.

*A Wizard of Earthsea*, Ursula Le Guin

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

*Z for Zachariah*, Robert C. O'Brien

Safe in her radiation-free valley after World War III, Ann Burden thinks she is the last person in the world until the arrival of a stranger.

## V. Mystery

*The Egypt Game*, Zilpha Keatly Snyder

Several friends create their own Egyptian temple in a desolate yard, attracting a murderer's attention.

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

Claudia and her brother run away from home and take up residence in New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, where they must solve a puzzling mystery of the art world.

*The House of Dies Drear*, Virginia Hamilton

The haunting story of 13-year-old Thomas Small and his family who move into a mansion that was once the home of Dies Drear, a murdered abolitionist, and subsequently a station on the underground railroad.

*Killing Mr. Griffin*, Lois Duncan

He gives the lowest grades. He demands the most work. He refuses to turn his classes into a place where students have fun. Are these grounds for murder?

*The Silver Kiss*, Annette Klaus

Zoe's loneliness and confusion over her mother's death are mysteriously eased by a gentle vampire in this story that is at once a mystery, a romance, and an exploration of the meaning of death.

*Tell Me Everything*, Carolyn Coman

Roz's mother dies trying to rescue Nate. Now Roz must find Nate and find out what he knows before he disappears forever, like her mother.

*The Westing Game*, Ellen Raskin

Can you discover who took Sam Westing's life? If you can beat the other sixteen players in this play-along story, you could win \$200 million.

## VI. Adventure and Survival

*After the First Death*, Robert Cormier

A bus load of schoolchildren become the victims of a terrorist plot.

*Alive*, Piers Paul Read

A spellbinding and inspirational account of the survivors of a 1972 plane crash, who must go to extremes to survive in the snowbound Andes.

*Banner in the Sky*, James Ramsey Ullman

Rudi wants to climb to the top of the Citadel. . . even though his father died trying. Will Rudy make it and fly his red banner from the mountain top?

*The Cay*, Theodore Taylor

A blind boy and an old black sailor are shipwrecked on a coral island.

*Dry Tears*, Nechama Tec

Forced to pass as Christians during the Holocaust, a desperate family of Polish Jews finds both the best and the worst in the people around them.

*The Haymeadow*, Gary Paulsen

Using his wits and determination, 14-year-old John Barron survives rattlesnakes, coyote and bear attacks, and a flash flood during the three months that he is responsible for tending his family's six thousand sheep.

*Holes*, Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats and his family have never had anything but bad luck, so it's really not a surprise to him when he is falsely accused and convicted of theft. This is a terrific, action-packed story, full of great characters with strong voices, exciting, funny scenes, and enough twists and turns to keep you reading non-stop.

*Incident at Hawk's Hill*, Allan W. Eckert

A moving story of a boy's life in the wild; young Ben MacDonald is adopted by a badger when he wanders from his family's farm.

*The Incredible Journey*, Sheila Burnford

A cat and two dogs find their way home through the Canadian wilderness to the family they love.

*Julie of the Wolves*, Jean Craighead George

A young Inuit girl runs away from home and becomes lost in the Arctic where she learns to survive by observing a pack of wolves.

*Never Cry Wolf*, Farley Mowat

The true story of a young scientist's incredible adventures with a family of wolves in the Canadian wilderness.

*The Night Journey*, Kathryn Lasky

Rachel listens to her great-grandmother's tale of her family's escape from Russia.

*A Night to Remember*, Walter Lord

You have seen the film *Titanic* (how many times?). Now here's an opportunity to read an historical account of this memorable disaster.

*The Storyteller's Beads*, Jane Kurtz

Two Ethiopian girls, one Christian and the other Jewish and blind, must overcome their prejudices about each other as they make a dangerous escape from war-torn and famine-wracked 1980s Ethiopia.

*Walkabout*, James Vance Marshall

A young girl and her brother learn to communicate with an Aborigine youth in an effort to survive the wilderness of the Australian Outback.

*The Wanderer*, Sharon Creech,

Thirteen-year-old Sophie, who is passionate about sailing, talks her way onto her uncle's sailboat as he, his two brothers, and a couple of nephews prepare to sail across the Atlantic to visit family in England.. Creech takes the crew past dolphins and deadly weather, exciting discoveries and hard tests of courage.

*When the Legends Die*, Hal Borland

Extraordinary novel about a young Native American boy left alone in the wilderness after his parents' death, who resolves never to return to the white man's world that had condemned his father.

*Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls

Billy and his two dogs, Old Dan and Little Ann, are a loving threesome. They roam the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country as Billy trains his canine companions to be great coon dogs.

## VII. Autobiography and Biography

*Alicia: My Story*, Alicia Appleman-Jurman

After losing her entire family to the Nazis at age 13, Alicia Appleman-Jurman went on to save the lives of thousands of Jews, offering them her own courage and hope in a time of upheaval and tragedy.

*Boy*, Roald Dahl

Funny and painful memories of growing up by the author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *James and the Giant Peach*.

*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Anne Moody

The author describes her experiences growing up as an African-American in rural Mississippi in the 1940s and 50s.

*The Endless Steppe: Growing Up in Siberia*, Esther Hautzig

A gripping account of a young girl and her family exiled to Siberia in 1941.

*Eric*, Doris Lund

A true story of a 17-year old boy who, afflicted with a terminal illness, lives life to the fullest.

*From Where I Sit: Making My Way with Cerebral Palsy*, Shelley Nixon

The inspiring autobiography of a spirited young woman who lives an active life despite being confined by cerebral palsy to a wheelchair.

*Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railroad*, Ann Petry

After escaping slavery, Harriet Tubman returned to danger again and again as she led men and women north to freedom.

*Homesick: My Own Story*, Jean Fritz

Twelve-year-old Jean Guttery has lived her entire life in China, but is homesick for America, a place she has never seen. When the time comes for her family to make the long and perilous return journey to the United States, Jean begins to wonder if she will ever belong anywhere.

*The Invisible Thread*, Yoshiko Uchida

In a moving autobiography, Uchida describes growing up in Berkeley, California, as a second-generation Japanese American, her family's internment in a Utah concentration camp during World War II, and her pride in her heritage.

*Little by Little: A Writer's Education*, Jean Little

Nearly blind from birth, Jean Little has led an extraordinary life. Subjected to ridicule, rejection, and bullying, she had to discover her own sources of strength.

*My Dog Skip*, Willie Morris

Willie Morris' boyhood reads like the further adventures of Tom Sawyer as Willie and Skip spend their days chasing squirrels and their nights taking little kids into graveyards and scaring them.

## GRADES 9 ~ 12 REQUIREMENTS

1. During the first two weeks in your English classes, you will be asked to discuss and to write about those 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. Any bookstore can order these books for you, but sometimes an order may take as long as six weeks to be filled. 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.

### 3. Students enrolled in *Literary Journeys*

- Required: *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexander Dumas (translated and abridged by Lowell Bair)
- Two books from the reading list "Recommended Books for Grade 9"

### Students enrolled in *Literary Analysis*

- Required: *In the Time of the Butterflies*, Julia Alvarez
- Two books from the reading list "Recommended Books for Grade 10"

### Students enrolled in *Literature of the United States*

- Required: *A Farewell To Arms*, Ernest Hemingway (Scribner)
- Two books from the reading list "Recommended Books for Grades 11-12"

### Students enrolled in *World Literature and the Inner Life*

- Required: Dual Selection  
*Siddhartha*, Hermann Hesse (Bantam edition)  
*The Alchemist*, Paulo Coelho (Harper Perennial edition)
- Two books from the reading list "Recommended Books for Grades 11-12"

### Students enrolled in *Found Voices: The Adaptation of the Self through Literature*

- Required: *Bird by Bird*, Anne Lamott
- Two books from the reading list "Recommended Books for Grades 11-12"

### Students enrolled in *Advanced Placement English*

- Required: *1984*, George Orwell (Signet Classic edition)
- Those students who did not take *World Literature* should also read:  
*The Stranger*, Albert Camus, and  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde

## REQUIRED FOR GRADE 9

I. Required: *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexander Dumas (translated and abridged by Lowell Bair)

This classic French novel tells the story of hero Edmond Dantes who is unjustly accused and imprisoned for fourteen 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 Alexander Dumas sets this winding tale in exotic locations in France and Italy and depicts the characters with beauty and mystery.

Study Guide: 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 he become a completely new person at the end of this novel?

Bring in one discussion question of your own that will inspire your classmates to talk about the themes of this novel.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 9

II. 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.

*Annie John*, Jamaica Kincaid

This is 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 even greater struggle Annie faces in 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.

*Charms for the Easy Life*, Kaye Gibbons

Set in the backwoods of North Carolina during wartime, this compelling yet simply written novel takes the reader into the lives of a grandmother, mother and granddaughter as they forge their way in a world unused to such outspoken women.

*Cider House Rules*, John Irving

Wilbur Larch is a physician, philosopher, obstetrician, and abortionist at St. Cloud's Orphanage in Maine who struggles through his relationship with his apprentice and surrogate son, Homer Wells. The quirky characters in this book break all the rules, and yet they remain noble and kind.

*Coffee Will Make You Black*, April Sinclair

Narrator Stevie is a spirited black girl growing up on the south side of Chicago in the segregated 1960s. She struggles with family and school pressures and begins to find her own voice.

*Cold Sassy Tree*, Olive Ann Burns

Love, marriage, humor--the three major ingredients of a heartwarming story set in a small Southern town at the turn of the 20th century.

*David Copperfield*, Charles Dickens

What a gallery of characters stroll through these pages of a young boy's growing up, setting the standard for so many autobiographical novels that came after it.

*Deliver Us from Evie*, M.E. Kerr

Parr Burrman is used to hearing jokes about his masculine, strong, older sister, Evie. What he's not used to is his growing awareness that she may be a lesbian. Evie falls in love with the daughter of the wealthiest, most influential family in the small Midwestern town, and the two build a strong, caring relationship. Writes Hazel Rochman of Booklist, "It's a story that challenges stereotypes, not only about love, but also about farmers and families and religion and responsibility -- about all our definitions of 'normal'."

*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

This is the first volume of Tolkien's epic classic *The Lord of the Rings*. Hobbits Bilbo and Frodo and their elvish friends get swept up into a mighty conflict with the dragon Smaug, the dark lord Sauron, the monstrous Gollum, the Cracks of Doom, and the awful power of the magical Ring.

*Good Omens*, Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett

"We hear the world will end on a Saturday. Next Saturday, in fact. Just before dinner. . . ." This irreverent science fiction novel takes a creative and lighthearted look at the end of the world.

*Haveli*, Suzanne Fisher Staples

This novel introduces readers to life in Pakistan during the 20th century. It is the story of Shabanu, a young woman coming of age, who experiences the difficulties of adjusting to an arranged marriage.

*Helen Keller: The Story of My Life*, Helen Keller

Helen Keller tells her own story of a journey from isolation in silence and darkness to communication with the world.

*I Capture the Castle*, Dodie Smith

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

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou

Powerful and lyrical autobiography of a black writer growing up in the South.

*Iron and Silk*, Mark Salzman

Mark Salzman taught in China following his graduation from Yale. In his memoir, he presents touching vignettes of the people he met, including Pan, his martial arts teacher.

*An Island Like You*, Judith Ortiz Cofer

In this rich and poignant collection of coming-of-age stories, Puerto Rican American teenagers in a New Jersey barrio experience the difficulties and rewards of growing up between two cultures.

*Life is So Good*, George Dawson and Richard Glaubman

In this remarkable book, 103-year old George Dawson, a slave's grandson who learned to read at age 98, reflects on his life and offers valuable lessons in living as well as a fresh, first-hand view of America during the 20th century. George Dawson's description and assessment of the last century inspires readers with the message that has sustained him: "Life is so good. I do believe it's getting better."

*Lord of the Flies*, William Golding

When a group of boys survives a plane crash on a deserted island, violence and danger follow. The boys experience disturbing emotions and encounter both evil and death in their midst.

*Mona in the Promised Land*, Gish Jen

A delightfully funny novel that, in the words of Amy Tan, "skewer what we think we mean by assimilation, cultural diversity and the uniquely American right to forge a new identity and then patent it. Not only that, now I finally know why Chinese mothers are like Jewish mothers."

*Montana 1948*, Larry Watson

David Hayden is 12 years old when his small-town Montana world is turned upside down. A mystery unfolds that involves the suspicious death of his family's Native American housekeeper. How will David's father, the town sheriff, cope with the difficult decisions he confronts as he discovers the source of a string of crimes?

*One More River*, Lynne Reid Banks

The riveting story of a spoiled Canadian girl who grows into a self-reliant young woman after her family emigrates to a kibbutz in Israel.

*A Painted House*, John Grisham

Seen through the eyes of seven-year-old Luke Chandler, son of Arkansas sharecroppers in 1952, the novel outlines his adventures which range from harmless pranks to bearing witness to murder.

*Peace Like a River*, Leif Enger

Fans of *To Kill a Mockingbird* will undoubtedly enjoy this adventure of an 11-year-old boy who travels across the country with his father and sister in search of his brother, who is escaping the law. Enger's prose style beautifully captures the spirit of hope and renewal.

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky

Charlie, a high school freshman, encounters the same struggles that most teenagers face -- making friends, the intensity of a crush, family tension, a first relationship, exploring sexuality, experimenting with drugs -- but he must also deal with his best friend's recent suicide.

*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, Muriel Spark

Was there ever another teacher like Miss Brodie - beautiful, intelligent, passionate -- or her special girls, the *crème de la crème*, at the staid and sophisticated Marcia Blaine School for Girls in Edinburgh, Scotland? Set in the 1930s under the gathering storm clouds of World War II, this novel explores love, trust, and ultimately, betrayal.

*She's Come Undone*, Wally Lamb

Dolores Price is the only child of a weak, vulnerable mother and a philandering, irresponsible father. After her father deserts her, Dolores almost succumbs to grief, guilt and obesity. Her ride towards adulthood is humorous, painful, and ultimately inspirational.

*Soldier: A Poet's Childhood*, June Jordan

This new autobiography provides an important look at a black activist and poet. This exploration of her childhood is written in a lyrical prose and yet is as beautiful as her best poetry.

*The Sound of Waves*, Yukio Mishima

Set in a Japanese fishing village, this is the story of Hatsue and Shinji, who are in love but separated for a long period of time.

*Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson

Incoming ninth-grader Melinda Sordino secures outcast status for herself when she calls the cops at a rowdy end-of-the-summer party. Made nearly mute by her experience that night and in the ensuing year, you'll cheer as Melinda regains her ability to *Speak*.

*Stand Before Your God*, Paul Watkins

In this memoir about an American boy coming of age in British boarding schools, Watkins vividly recreates the joy and pain of growing up. Watkins' parents dropped him off at the age of six; he left at 19, a changed person.

*Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*, Chris Crutcher

Eric, a self-described fat kid, and Sarah, a girl with disfiguring burn scars, are drawn together by the insensitivity both face at the hands of their classmates. What happens to their friendship when Eric loses weight and begins to explore the abuse behind Sarah's burns?

*The Thread That Runs So True*, Jesse Stuart

First-time teacher Jesse Stuart encounters difficulties when he tries to earn his students' respect. Though his first years as a teacher are trying ones, he is determined to succeed in improving the lives of his students. This book provides a comprehensive and lucid look at turn-of-the-century South from the perspective of a man who decides that children are useful for more than harvesting tobacco.

## REQUIRED FOR GRADE 10

I. Required: *In the Time of the Butterflies*, Julia Alvarez

In your first-trimester English course at Dana, we will spend much of our time reading about strong, independent women, both in fiction and in the real world. We think that Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies* is an appropriate place to begin our study of such women. This novel presents a favorite literary structure of the 1990s: interweaving the lives of women, in this case, of sisters. This book stands out because of Alvarez's passionate plea for human rights, expressed through the heart-breaking story of the Mirabal sisters of the Dominican Republic. As Alvarez explains in her postscript, she has reconstructed some of the facts of the real story and has created the personalities of the sisters.

A good film to rent in connection with this book is *The Official Story*, winner of the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film (Argentina) of 1985.

Please think about these questions as you read.

1. Try to take separate notes on the sisters. What are their goals? interests? strong points? flaws?
2. How do the sisters give each other strength? What are their moments of joy?
3. What are the educational attainments and jobs of the various sisters? the nieces?
4. Note that Alvarez likes to use the device of lists: in Chapters Six, Seven, Eleven and, the most poignant one, in the Epilogue.
5. How does the church take part in the cause for human rights?
6. Note the second, or shadow, family of sisters. At what point does the second family help the Butterflies?
7. Read carefully the Epilogue, detailing the events of the fateful trip on the mountain road and the events which followed.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADE 10

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

*All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque

This is one of the greatest novels ever written about the effects of war on the young men who are made to fight in it.

*Am I Blue? Coming Out from the Silence*, Marion Dane Bauer, ed.

Short stories about homosexuality by a cross-section of popular writers such as M.E. Kerr, William Sleator, and Jane Yolen.

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

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

*The Bean Trees*, Barbara Kingsolver

Taylor Greer grew up poor in Kentucky in the 1960s and 1970s, managed to avoid pregnancy through high school, and earned enough money to buy a Volkswagen that would take her west to Arizona. Once she arrives, she discovers surprising resources in apparently empty places.

*The Bell Jar*, Sylvia Plath

An autobiographical novel about a young woman's nervous breakdown, attempted suicide, hospitalization, and subsequent recovery. Contains both humorous and emotionally disturbing parts.

*The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison

Eleven-year-old Pecola yearns to have blue eyes like the little white girls she sees. With blue eyes, she thinks, everything in her life would be different. The horror at the heart of her yearning, however, is exceeded only by the evil of its fulfillment. A haunting and beautifully crafted novel.

*Briar Rose*, Jane Yolen

Becca's grandmother repeatedly told this classic fairy tale 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 what it had to do with Briar Rose.

*Caucasia*, Danzy Senna

This startling narrative about biracial girlhood among black militants and white suburbanites explores the complicated legacies of race.

*Cold Comfort Farm*, Stella Gibbons

This novel, set in the 1920s, humorously explores what happens when a sophisticated, fashionable, and educated young woman goes to live with her country bumpkin relatives in rural England. She cannot resist meddling in the lives of everyone she

encounters, and the results are entertaining. The author uses mild satire to poke fun at Gothic British novels such as *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*.

*Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*, Anne Tyler

Ezra creates the Homesick Restaurant in order to serve comfort food to lonely people. This intriguing novel is about Ezra and his unforgettable Baltimore family, including his sister Jenny, a pediatrician who keeps getting married.

*Evelina: On 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.

*Fires in the Mirror*, Anna Deavere Smith

A play taken from the words of the actual 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 Flagg

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.

*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.

*Having Our Say*, Sarah Louise and Annie Elizabeth Delany

What a ride through the 20th century you'll be provided when you hear the voices of the Delany sisters (both over 100 years old) as they look back with joy at their astonishing lives "from their childhood in Raleigh's most prominent black family" to their involvement in the Harlem Renaissance. A life-affirming autobiography of two endearing companions.

*House Made of Dawn*, N. Scott Momaday

Abel, a native American, comes home after fighting in a war and struggles to find himself, torn between his ancestral ties to the land and the seasons, and the mainstream culture which leads him towards alcoholism and despair. This mesmerizing Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is ultimately about hope, healing and wonder.

*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.

*Illumination Night*, Alice Hoffman

A rebellious teenager is forced to move to Martha's Vineyard to care for her dying grandmother. During the year, with the help of dysfunctional neighbors and a magical giant, she finds herself.

*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. Bryson 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.

*Jitterbug Perfume*, Tom Robbins

The search for the best perfume, the dance which produces immortality, colorful settings and mysterious characters all combine to produce this unforgettable novel.

*Jubilee*, Margaret Walker

The story of Vyry, who escapes slavery and overcomes extraordinary obstacles. Walker parallels Vyry's life with that of her white half-sister.

*Lake Wobegon Summer 1956*, Garrison Keillor

Keillor returns to Lake Wobegon in this story of a boy and the older cousin he admires. Details of Nehi, Schwinn bikes, playground bullies, and homegrown tomatoes will bring smiles to the reader.

*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.

*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.

*Marjorie Morningstar*, Herman Wouk

The coming-of-age of a middle-class Jewish girl in 1950s America.

*Nine Stories*, J.D. Salinger

If you loved *Catcher in the Rye* and you enjoy short stories, here's the book for you. This collection includes tales of quirky characters who like to think critically about the world.

*Ordinary People*, Judith Guest

Here is a novel about an ordinary family -- mother, father, and two sons -- which begins to unravel after the death of one son. This novel deserves to be read with your family.

*The Passion of Alice*, Stephanie Grant

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

*Pobby and Dingan*, Ben Rice

An enchanting novella, narrated by an older brother, of a young girl's loss of two imaginary friends in a gritty Australian opal-mining town and how her loss unites the whole town in an effort to cure her subsequent illness. A delightful story of the power of familial love and of believing in the unseen and sometimes unbelievable.

*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.

*Sassafras, Cypress and Indigo*, Ntozake Shange

Charming novel about three talented and loving sisters and their beloved mother. Book includes recipes!

*The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Emmuscka Orczy

The swashbuckling adventures of the Scarlet Pimpernel, a romantic figure who heroically saves the lives of French aristocrats during the French Revolution.

*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.

*Space*, Jesse Lee Kercheval

Here is a brilliant rendering of an era -- the 1960s -- which tells the story of a nation's love affair with its space program and one girl's search for herself.

*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.

*A Stranger in the Kingdom*, Howard Frank Mosher

A gripping story about racism in rural Vermont. The story is narrated by a 13-year-old boy.

*This Boy's Life*, Tobias Wolff

A sharp, funny, poignant memoir of the author's boyhood in the 1950s, complete with travels across the country with a mother with whom he has an almost telepathically close relationship. The young Wolff battles with an emotionally abusive stepfather, plays with rifles, forges checks, steals cars, and reinvents himself.

*Tuesdays with Morrie*, Mitch Albom

When a beloved Brandeis professor is facing death, he meets informally on Tuesdays with a former student, sharing his wisdom about life, love, mortality and courage.

*What Girls Learn*, Karin Cook

Two sisters, struggling to adapt to a new school and their mother's boyfriend, learn that their mother has cancer and is facing death.

## REQUIRED FOR GRADES 11 AND 12

### I. Literature of the United States

Required: *A Farewell To Arms*, Ernest Hemingway (Scribner edition)

Lieutenant Henry, an American ambulance driver, and Catherine Barkley, an English nurse, meet at the Italian front during World War I. A love story set amid the turmoil of war, *A Farewell to Arms* is one of Ernest Hemingway's most moving works.

Through the intense romance and the experiences of the battle-weary characters, Hemingway explores the tragedy of war, the nature of heroism, and the power of love.

As you read, take note of Hemingway's unique writing style: he uses words sparingly; he focuses on characters' actions and only describes their physical world; and he avoids any discussion of emotion or philosophy. As one of the most influential 20th Century American writers, Hemingway has helped shaped both the style and themes of modern American literature.

Please think about these questions as you read.

- 1) Why does Frederic Henry enlist? How does his attitude towards war and the army change over the course of the novel?
- 2) Think about the role of religion in the novel.
- 3) Find passages in the book that address the meaning of life. How does the protagonist find meaning in life? Is there any meaning in courage and love?
- 4) What risks does Catherine take?
- 5) Notice the symbols in the book and discover their meaning: the ants, the trap, and the rain are three of the symbols.
- 6) Hemingway has certain notions about what constitutes a hero. Based on your re-reading of the last paragraph of the book, try to construct Hemingway's definition of "heroism."

### II. World Literature and the Inner Life

Required: Dual Selection \*

*Siddhartha*, Hermann Hesse (Bantam edition)

*The Alchemist*, Paulo Coelho (Harper Perennial edition)

\*These two short novels count as one selection. Students in this course are expected to choose two more books from the Reading List for Grades 11-12.

Study Guide Questions:

1. Be sure that you understand these two literary terms: quest novel and fable. Can you connect these terms with one or both of these novels? Explain.
2. In each of these novels, find at least three lines that you find memorable, copy them in your notebook, and explain why they are important to you.

3. Both of these novels have always been appealing to high school and college students. Suggest those reasons that give these books their popularity, especially to youth.

4. Read the course description for *World Literature* in the Academic Handbook after you have finished these two novels and prepare a defense for their inclusion in the course.

### III. Found Voices: The Adaptation of the Self through Literature

Required: *Bird by Bird*, Anne Lamott

An accurate description of this book 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 that "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*.

### IV. Advanced Placement English

Required: *1984*, George Orwell (Signet Classic edition)

2003 marks the hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Orwell (1903-1949). In the fall Dana Hall will be celebrating George Orwell's contributions to twentieth-century thought. The AP English class will sponsor this event.

Prepare your thoughts, responses, and reactions to the topics listed below, and record them in your own *1984* Journal. Design your own cover for your journal. Please type these responses. **NB: your journal must be completed for our first meeting in September so that it may be used for class discussions and writing assignments during the first week of classes. The journal will be evaluated and will count as one-fifth of the first trimester grade.**

1. RESEARCH: write a substantive paragraph on the meaning of the literary term, dystopia. Include what is meant by a dystopic novel.
2. STYLE: "Good prose is like a window pane," maintained Orwell. Explain the meaning of this simile and then decide if it fits Orwell's style of writing in this novel.
3. VOCABULARY: Orwell in *1984* introduced some new words into the English language; make a list of those words with their definitions.
4. IMAGES & SYMBOLS: What are the most memorable images and symbols that remain in your mind after finishing this novel? What accounts for their importance to you? Give page numbers for references in class discussion. (Make sure you are using the Signet edition.)

5. CHARACTERS: List the major characters in this novel and determine whether each one is believable and human, or are they too easily labeled as stock figures to represent Orwell's position?

6. TAKE A STAND: The relevance of 1984 cannot be underestimated even though almost twenty years has passed since that date. Agree or disagree. (This is the major essay.)

7. NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST: Include in your journal other materials that you have found of interest in reading this novel.

On Tuesday, September 9, 2003, please plan to attend a meeting of the Dana Hall Reading Group in Little Beveridge from 7-8:30 p.m. We will have the opportunity to compare our opinions about this novel with others who have also read it.

Further suggestions for reading this summer: *The Stranger* by Albert Camus and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADES 11 AND 12

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

*All the Pretty Horses*, Cormac McCarthy

Vast Western landscapes are the backdrop to this story of a boy trying to find himself in a world that's changing.

*The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, Michael Chabon

Two young artists--one New Yorker, one Jewish immigrant--create comic books out of their fears and dreams as Hitler's power grows in Europe. Recent Pulitzer Prize winner.

*Amigas: Letters of Friendship and Exile*, Marjorie Agosin and Emma Sepulveda

A book of letters between two Chilean friends, starting with their separation in 1958, covering topics as diverse as love, loneliness, beauty pageants, and political exile. Both women are now writers, professors, and human rights activists living in the United States.

*Amrita*, Banana Yoshimoto

Follow Sakumi's thoughts as her lost memory returns, her younger brother develops special powers, and her movie star sister's death is remembered.

*Angela's Ashes*, Frank McCourt

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

*Angels in America*, Tony Kushner

Called "the broadest, deepest, most searching American play of our time," *Angels in America* is a moving exploration of national themes and human nature woven seamlessly with a compassionate account of the AIDS crisis.

*Anna Karenina*, Leo Tolstoy

The focus is on the Russian aristocracy, but Tolstoy also provides his readers with a portrait of the peasants. The reader becomes involved in a heart-wrenching love story as well as a battle between the dictates of society and the dictates of the heart.

*As I Lay Dying*, William Faulkner

Faulkner's novel uses multiple points of view and the inner voices of its characters to create complex mental scenery. In its depiction of the Bundren family's quest to bury their dead matriarch, Addie, among her people and against the threats of flood and fire, the novel explores the nature of grieving, community, and family.

*As You Like It*, William Shakespeare

Come read about forbidden romance, disguises, a flight to the forest of Arden, a magical world of friendly outlaws, and wise fools.

*Autobiography of a Yogi*, Paramahansa Yogananda

This autobiography of a great Hindu yogi recounts his search for truth in India and his life in the United States -- an inspiring window to mystical experiences and universal truths.

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Malcolm X and Alex Haley

A controversial political and social activist of the 1960s, whose influence continues to grow, tells his life story. Spike Lee's recent movie has restored this classic to its best seller status (required for *AP U.S. History* students).

*Bastard out of Carolina*, Dorothy Allison

A portrait of a remarkable young woman named Bone growing up amidst the violence and sensuality of a Southern family.

*The Beach*, Alex Garland

A young American backpacker traveling through Thailand mysteriously receives a map to the Beach. His quest includes dreams, athletic feats, group psychology and life or death moments.

*Blanche on the Lam*, Barbara Neely

Witty, intelligent, African-American, and a feminist, Blanche White, on the run from the law, works as a domestic in a remote, wealthy household. She must solve a murder before the finger of blame is pointed at her.

*The Bone People*, Keri Hulme

A woman artist of New Zealand wins the lottery and a shipwrecked boy and a Maori man come into her life. The mysteries of love, relationships, Maori tradition, cancer, and lost pasts engross the reader as she accompanies the three protagonists on their personal journeys (recommended for *AP English* students).

*Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture*, Ross King

Anyone who has an interest in architecture will want to read about Brunelleschi, who designed the dome of the cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, one of the most towering achievements of Renaissance architecture.

*A Canticle for Liebowitz*, Walter M. Miller

In the tradition of *Brave New World* and *1984*, this acclaimed science fiction classic follows a cloister of monks in their Utah abbey over some 700 years as they offer hope for humankind as it teeters on the edge of the abyss.

*Cat's Eye*, Margaret Atwood

By focusing on the relationships among four adolescent girls, Atwood delineates the training of females in North American culture. We see our childhood once again.

*Cold Mountain*, Charles Frazier

In the final weeks of the Civil War, Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier, decides to return home to Ada, the woman he loves. There are parallels here to *The Odyssey* as Inman has his share of hostile encounters with strangers intent on disrupting his journey.

*The Commitments*, Roddy Doyle

A great comic novel featuring a ragtag group of young men and women from a working class neighborhood in Dublin who try to start a band.

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

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

*Crooked Little Heart*, Anne Lamott

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

*Days of Grace*, Arthur Ashe and Arnold Rampersad

The memoir of a tennis player, a social activist, and a man with AIDS, Ashe evaluates himself and his world with intelligence and honor. His courage and grace are present on each page.

*Father, Soldier, Son: Memoir of a Platoon Leader in Vietnam*, Nathaniel Tripp

A book about the trauma of Vietnam, about being a father and a son, and about the quest for gentle manhood.

*Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley

Written in forceful prose and full of grotesque and surreal imagery, Mary Shelley's masterpiece is rich in multilayered themes. These themes come together to create a subversive story that warns against dehumanization and the corrupting influences of science.

*Freedom in Exile: The Autobiography of the Dalai Lama*, Tenzin Gyatso

Proclaimed the Dalai Lama at the age of five, Tenzin Gyatso watched as Tibet was occupied by China and one sixth of the population died. In his lively autobiography, he recounts his escape to India, leadership of Tibetan Buddhists in exile, and peaceful negotiations with China (recommended for *World Literature* students).

*Ghost Dance*, Carole Maso

In her poetic and innovative style of writing, Carole Maso takes readers on an enchanting journey through the tale of a unique relationship between an eccentric poet and her daughter.

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*, James Baldwin

The spiritual and moral awakening of 14-year-old John Grimes, a member of a tormented black family in Harlem during the Depression.

*Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift

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

*Half the House*, Richard Hoffman

A boy grows up in blue-collar America; his brothers sicken with muscular dystrophy; his coach abuses him; his family struggles. As an adult, he writes this memoir, a testament to the healing power of truth telling, and a story of love, reconciliation and triumph.

*A Handful of Dust*, Evelyn Waugh

This story of infidelity in 1940s England blends both tragedy and comedy. Tony and Brenda Last seem to have an idyllic marriage until Brenda begins an affair with a young fortune hunter. Their aristocratic life begins to crumble, and Tony flees England, falling into the clutches of a madman in South America.

*Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad

This extraordinary and disturbing novel recounts the physical and psychological journey of the young narrator through the Belgian Congo in search of a legendary and mysterious trader. The novel is set at the turn of the 19th century and explores the degradation and brutality of European colonialism as well as the real fabric of civilization.

*House of Spirits*, Isabel Allende

Set in remote Chile, this novel explores the lives of the magical, deeply human members of the Trueba family as they survive rebellion, love, hate, and revolution for three generations. Allende's luminous prose and compassionate storytelling weave a tale which is unforgettable and historically enlightening.

*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, Julia Alvarez

A story of sisterhood, friendship, and the personal ramifications of political strife by an award-winning novelist and poet.

*Interpreter of Maladies*, Jhumpa Lahiri

A collection of short stories about modern-day Indian culture both in India and in America. Pulitzer Prize winner (recommended for **World Literature**).

*Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison

One of the great novels of our century. A sequence of events beginning in a Southern town and moving to Harlem convinces the protagonist that he is visible as an African-American man but invisible as a man (recommended for **AP English** students).

*Jurgen: A Comedy of Justice*, James Branch Cabell

Cabell, the father of science fiction and fantasy, wrote this book in Richmond, Virginia, in the 1920s, while his esteemed Old South was collapsing and the New South was being pieced together. Though Cabell felt strongly about the Reconstruction, he was unable to write about it as it was happening around him; instead, he "spirited himself away to Poictesme," a land of his own creation, where he dealt with his reality in brilliant satire.

*The Last Hurrah*, Edwin O'Connor

This wonderfully comic novel of Boston Irish political life recounts the last campaign of Frank Skeffington, a character loosely based on Mayor James Curley. For lovers of American politics and comic turns of events.

*The Leopard*, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa

*The Leopard* is the poignant and satirical story of Don

Fabrizio, the last Sicilian prince. Through his description of Don Fabrizio's eclectic intellectual interests, his romantic patriotism, his compulsive womanizing, and his tremendous appetite, Lampedusa creates a character who is simultaneously charming and despicable. Lampedusa's language is beautiful, his characters are fascinating, and the book will stay with you long after you finish reading the last page.

*Life and Death in Shanghai*, Nien Cheng

Inspiring biography of a Chinese woman of intellect and privilege who survived imprisonment during the Cultural Revolution.

*Life of Pi*, Yann Martel

A magical journey, including adventure, survival, and faith. A young man finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean with a 450-pound Bengal tiger. (Especially recommended for **World Literature** students.)

*Little Big Man*, Thomas Berger

One-hundred-and-eleven-year-old Jack Crabb, a white boy adopted by Cheyenne people after his father's slaughter, tells his dramatic story of switching back and forth in war-torn America, caught up in battles with and against General Armstrong Custer, searching for identity and finally finding his place.

*The Lovely Bones*, Alice Sebold

As she looks down from heaven, 14-year-old Susie Salmon tells us in her spirited voice a tale that is "both haunting and full of hope." The reader will be enriched by this novel about love, memory, joy, heaven, and healing.

*Mama Day*, Gloria Naylor

A provocative novel that delineates the importance of family and community relationships as well as one's heritage. This story emphasizes the enduring values of love, loyalty, faith, and sacrifice.

*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.

*Memoirs of a Geisha*, Arthur Golden

Sold to a geisha house at the age of nine, Chiyo resists her oppression, yet studies the arts of the geisha, reaching for success in the only subculture in prewar Japan in which women rule and gain great strength.

*Meridian*, Alice Walker

"As the old rules of Southern society collapse (the 1960s), Meridian fights a lonely battle to reaffirm her own humanity -- and that of all her people."

*The Mistress of Spices*, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

In this poetic, spellbinding tale Tilo, a young ordained spice

mistress, inhabits an old body in a San Francisco shop, working spice magic to help her customers. A chance meeting with a romantic man challenges her to question her choices in life.

*Moll Flanders*, Daniel Defoe

A sophisticated chronicle, set in 17th-century England, of a determined young girl's courageous rise from poverty-stricken beginnings to a position of prosperous respectability. The novel addresses issues of social and economic class as well as personal growth.

*My First Cousin Once Removed*, Sarah Payne Stuart

The subtitle of Stuart's memoir says it all: "Money, Madness, and the Family of Robert Lowell." Recurrent settings are McLean Hospital, Harvard College, and Beacon Hill.

*Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, Barbara Ehrenreich

In this nonfiction book, a respected journalist with a Ph.D. goes undercover as a low-wage worker to see if she can actually earn a living doing minimum wage jobs. Leaving her comfortable house, her fulfilling career, and all her friends, she tries working as a waitress, a maid, and a Wal-Mart clerk. The results of this courageous experiment are heartbreaking, sometimes funny, and truly eye-opening. This book has the power to change the way you think about American society.

*The Night of the Hunter*, Davis Grubb

One of the most frightening tales ever to be spun: a fanatic preacher goes in search of two young children who are carrying with them a treasure that he is determined to have even if it means murdering those who stand in his way. To be read only in daylight.

*Of Human Bondage*, W. Somerset Maugham

A great storyteller relates the adventures of a handicapped boy and his life and loves as an artist.

*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 - the Huckleberry Finn for our times (recommended for *Literature of the United States* students).

*The Perfect Storm*, Sebastian Junger

Here's a true story of men against the sea which took place off the coast of Massachusetts in 1991. You will feel the enormous strength of hurricane winds and towering waves as six sword fishermen fight for their lives.

*A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving

Owen Meany, seen through the eyes of his best friend, consistently challenges the traditional New England community in which he grows up, creating hilarious adventures and heartwarming moments.

*The Promise*, Chaim Potok

Potok provides a sequel to *The Chosen* as he relates the further relations of Danny and Reuven on their journey towards adulthood.

*Reading in the Dark*, Seamus Deane

The hero of this novel is a young man whose life turns upside down when a police officer frames him. Hovering over this mystery is the violence, poverty and despair of 1940s Ireland.

*The Reivers*, William Faulkner

A wonderfully comic novel and an on-the-road adventure by one of the United States' great novelists.

*Reviving Ophelia*, Mary Pipher

This nonfiction book explores the realities faced by adolescent girls in the 1990s: eating disorders, self-mutilation, depression, body-piercing, and contentious parent/daughter relationships. Pipher takes us into the lives of several of the young women with whom she worked so that we can truly appreciate the struggles they face.

*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."

*Roots*, Alex Haley

This family narrative spans seven generations of African-Americans from the 1700s to the mid-20th century.

*Rubyfruit Jungle*, Rita Mae Brown

This is a novel of growing up lesbian in America, a triumphant story of Molly Bolt blossoming into an adulthood of her own creation.

*The Shipping News*, E. Annie Proulx

After the death of his two-timing wife, Quoyale, 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.

*The Small Rain*, Madeleine L'Engle

L'Engle's first novel, written in the 1940s, tells the story of a young woman struggling to make it as a pianist in New York City. This is a dramatic, compelling, and surprisingly contemporary book.

*Snow Falling on Cedars*, David Guterson

Part love story, part murder mystery, and part portrait of a painful time in American history, *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.

*Solar Storms*, Linda Hogan

Seeking her real family, fostered, scarred Angel arrives at a remote, water-bound Minnesota island to find her grandmother Agnes, great grandmother Dora-Rouge, and mysterious Bush. The four women travel north by canoe to protect their land and people from hydroelectric dam devastation.

*So Long a Letter*, Mariama Ba

A Senegalese woman of Muslim faith writes to her best friend as she struggles to cope with the loss of her husband. Although he abandoned her and their family for a second marriage, this educated working woman whose marriage for love was long and rich writes with strength and grace of her struggle, revealing a double standard which is devastating to women.

*The Sparrow*, Mary Doria Russell

Here is a strange 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 readers of *The Sparrow*.

*The Street*, Ann Petry

When this novel was published forty-six years ago, it shocked its readers with "its grim portrayal of life in Harlem." A good companion to Richard Wright's *Native Son* (recommended for **Literature of the United States** students).

*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. An excellent companion volume to *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

*Stones from the River*, Ursula Hegi

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

*Summer*, Edith Wharton

Aspects of sexuality are explored in this novel about a young girl, her guardian, and a visiting artist. Will you agree with the protagonist's final choice?

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

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 (recommended for **World Literature** students).

*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.

*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 Mc-Carthyism, and the ugly face of racial prejudice (recommended for **Literature of the United States** 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.

*Washington Square*, Henry James

A dashing but penniless bachelor begins courting a plain, socially awkward New York heiress. Be prepared for a surprise ending!

*We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese*, Elizabeth M. Norman

Women in war: the true, untold account of the first American nurses to prove their mettle under captivity at the hands of the Japanese during World War II.

*The Woman in White*, Wilkie Collins

This Victorian best-seller has all the ingredients of a suspenseful mystery: a fragile heroine, an insane asylum, and Count Fosco, the villain you love to hate.

*A Very Long Engagement*, Sebastian Japrisot

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

*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, Robert Pirsig

Wonderful descriptions of nature are presented along with the difficulties of living in a technological society - as well as everything you need to know about motorcycles (recommended for **World Literature** students).

## SOCIAL STUDIES BOOKS

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

### 8th Grade Social Studies

*All But My Life*, Gerda Weissmann Klein

This is the memoir of a Holocaust survivor (who spoke at Dana Hall a few years ago.) Her experiences as a slave laborer for the Nazis and her liberation make this story an unforgettable one.

### 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.

### African Studies

*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.

*Nervous Conditions*, Tsitsi Dangarembga

As an African girl chafes under the patriarchal structure of her traditional culture, she watches her cousin fail in the attempt to blend two worlds, African and British. Through subtle depictions of landscape and relationship, the painful ambiguities of post-colonial African womanhood ring clear.

### East Asian Studies

*Tottochan: The Little Girl at the Window*, Tetsuko Kuroyanagi

This is a story of growing up in pre-war and wartime Japan told by one of Japan's most beloved television personalities. It is a story that illustrates changing Japanese values related to education and acceptance of differences.

*Wild Swans*, Jung Chang

The true story of three generations of Chinese women in the twentieth century: the author, her mother, and her grandmother. Their family story gives a moving view of the changes that have swept through China.

From the reading list "Recommended Books for Grade 9"

*Iron and Silk*, Mark Salzman

*The Sound of Waves*, Yukio Mishima

From the reading list "Recommended Books for Grade 10"

*The Hundred Secret Senses*, Amy Tan

*Still Life with Rice*, Helie Lee

From the reading list "Recommended Books for Grades 11-12"

*Freedom in Exile: The Autobiography of the Dalai Lama*,

Tenzin Gyatso

*Life and Death in Shanghai*, Nien Cheng

*Memoirs of a Geisha*, Arthur Golden

### Latin American Studies

*I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*, Rigoberta Menchu

On the surface this is the autobiography of a Guatemalan Indian woman, or more specifically, it is her oral testimony captured by anthropologist Elisabeth Burgos-Debray in 1982. Menchu's story reveals the brutality of the civil war in Guatemala, the horrendous treatment of the indigenous population, and the revolutionary response to that terror. That said, it is important to note that this book is highly controversial. Conservative scholars have called this book a hoax, intellectually dishonest and politically motivated. More liberal scholars have dubbed Menchu's story a Guatemalan national epic, one that combines biography with borrowed and even fictionalized material. An exciting read, the value of Menchu's story lies not only in its gripping narrative, but also in the way Latin Americans read it today.

### Middle Eastern Studies

*Border Passage*, Leila Ahmed

This is a memoir of a woman who grows up in a wealthy Egyptian family in the 1950s and moves to the United States as an adult. Today Ahmed is a professor at the Harvard Divinity School. An engaging and thoughtful look at gender and politics in two societies.

*The Children of the Roojme*, Elmaz Abinder

This engrossing story of a Lebanese family traces their experiences from the beginning of the 20th century through the late 1930s. It is an excellent description of Lebanese village life under the Turks during World War I, of the suffering during the Spanish Influenza epidemic, and of one American immigrant experience.

*Distant View of a Minaret*, Alifa Rifaat

A collection of stories that reflects a view of the world of women in contemporary Egypt. Some of the settings are rural, some urban, and as a group they describe women's relationships with each other. It is particularly rewarding to read about women working to support each other within the context of their society.

*Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*,

Fatima Mernissi

A perennial favorite for Middle Eastern Studies students, this memoir describes the childhood of Ms. Mernissi in Fez, Morocco, during World War II. Despite our preconceptions of what life in a harem would be like, we learn of the love, companionship and support that the women of one extended family offer each other.

*Mr. Mani*, A.B. Yehoshua

This is a book that demands much from the reader, but in return offers a wonderful experience. Written as a set of one-sided conversations, the reader supplies the responses as reader and author journey with the Sephardic Mani family back through generations.

### **Russian Studies**

*Darkness at Noon*, Arthur Koestler

A political/historical novel set in the Soviet Union during the 1930s, *Darkness at Noon* traces the arrest, interrogation and trial of a fictional character, Rubashov, who is a leader of the Communist revolution and a victim of Stalin's paranoia.

*Russian Fairy Tales*, Aleksandr N. Afanasyev

These traditional Russian folk and fairy tales include colorful stories of witches, vampires and giant turnips.

### **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 seventeen essays, readers meet figures such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frederic Remington, Teddy Roosevelt, Louis Agassiz, and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

*Slaves in the Family*, Edward Ball

Edward Ball recalls his father once saying, "There are five things we don't talk about in the Ball family . . . Religion, sex, death, money, and the Negroes." The Balls were prominent plantation owners in South Carolina in the 18th and 19th centuries, and they owned hundreds of slaves. Edward decided to break the family silence of shame and research the Ball family slaves, reconstructing their lives and meeting their descendants. This is an enlightening look into one of the most sinister aspects of America's past and its impact on race relations today.

### **American Identities**

*Jasmine*, Bharati Mukherjee

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

### **Women in the Classical World**

*The Venus Throw*, Steven Saylor

*The Venus Throw* is an intriguing mystery based in Ancient Rome during the late Republic. Stephen Saylor's detective, Gordianus the Finder, investigates the actions of Clodia, a sexually promiscuous and powerful woman of the Roman aristocracy. Based on the speeches of Cicero and the poems of Catullus, this novel gives a glimpse into a very specific time previously known only through classical literature.

### **Advanced Placement 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.

*The Bridge on the Drina*, Ivo Andric

Serbian writer Andric won the Nobel Prize for Literature for this story of ethnicity in what was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The different people who had lived a common history are ultimately driven apart by nationalism, and the bridge that connected them for centuries is destroyed.

*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.

*Invitation to a Funeral*, Molly Brown

London, 1697: Spy-turned-playwright Aphra Behn is having more than her share of troubles. Her last play was a flop, her financial situation is getting desperate, and she's stuck with the worst actress in the world as the lead in her new comedy. But when she offers to organize the funeral of a murdered man, it seems her troubles are only beginning.

*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.

### **Advanced Placement United States History**

Required: *An American Childhood*, Annie Dillard

In this piece, Annie Dillard shares not only poignant remembrances of her childhood, but also valuable insights into the values and social expectations of suburban Pittsburgh. Dillard's writing is complex, varied, and accessible.

Required: *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Malcolm X and Alex Haley

A controversial political and social activist of the 1960s, whose influence continues to grow, tells his life story. Spike Lee's 1992 film has restored this classic to its bestseller status.

Required: *The Killer Angels*, Michael Shaara

This engaging novel takes place during the three most important days of the United States Civil War. Shaara's gripping characterizations of complex historical figures provide a rich context for an exploration of the pivotal events that took place in Gettysburg during the summer of 1863.

## NOTES

This summer reading list was compiled by  
Alison Piper, Interim Library Director  
and members of the English Department:

John Cameron, Department Head

Amanda Amato

Dorthe Elías

Liz Fenstermaker

Kevin Groppe

Jenny Heath

Cassandra Hiland

Michelle Li

Alice Holstein

Liz Marshall

Judith Solar

Rachel Wood

and members of the Social Studies Department:

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