

2019-2020 Summer Reading List

Grade 11 Honors/C.P.:

One title is required, and choose one other from the list below. ***Novels contain mature content.** Complete the questions on the following page for **both** books.

Then, complete **one** of the following assignments for **one** of the novels:

- ❖ Select 10 songs that fit the novel listed and explain your selections.
- ❖ Write a letter to the writer of the novel. Include your reaction to the book—did you like it? Why? What questions would you ask the author? Your letter should be about one page in length.
- ❖ Illustrate a pivotal scene from any of the novels. Write a brief explanation in regards to your choice.
- ❖ Create a social media page for your favorite character. You may choose to create a FaceBook page, a Twitter feed, or an Instagram feed. Include the character's profile information as well as a series of photographs or written exchanges the character might have with other characters in the novel. You should include at least 8 posts for whichever format you choose

- ***The Help*, Kathryn Sockett (required)**

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure.

Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town...

- ****How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez**

The Garcia sisters--Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofia--and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father's role in an attempt to overthrow brutal dictator Rafael Trujillo is discovered. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean.

- ****Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan**

Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club.

- ***Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger**

Holden Caulfield, about to be kicked out of yet another boarding school for flunking most of his courses, decides not to wait until the end of term and takes off for his hometown, Manhattan, a few days early. He figures he'll hole up in a cheap hotel, look up a few friends, then arrive home on time. But Holden is deeply troubled by the death of his beloved younger brother from leukemia, as well as a classmate's suicide. Alone in an uncaring city, his already fragile psyche begins to unravel.

- ****Beloved*, Toni Morrison**

Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.

- ***A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway**

The unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse.

11th Grade Summer Reading Response

Students create a response sheet for each of the books that they read this summer. Neatly written or typed work is expected.

1. Identify the book's title, author's name, and copyright date. Underline or italicize the title.
2. A brief summary of the plot
3. Explain the significance of the title. Authors rarely choose a title randomly. The title may be symbolic or it may be representative of some specific incident in the book. In any case, consider carefully the significance of the title and explain your thinking.
4. Cite (that is, quote word for word using quotation marks) and note the page number of a special passage from the book that you think is important or worth rereading. You should explain why you selected this passage.
5. To highlight the significance of this book, write a 3-5 sentences response to each of the following:
 - a. What life lessons have you learned (or have been reinforced) from reading this book?
 - b. What did you enjoy the most about this book? Explain using details and examples from the selection.
 - b. What did you dislike the most about this book? Explain using details and examples from the selection.
6. Okay, now to the *really* important question. How is your book a reflection of American culture? What historical moments influenced your novel? You will need to use specific examples as evidence, and this may require a little bit of research. Remember, novels are time capsules, and by learning a bit about the history,, you learn more about the importance of the work.