

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

The English Department is pleased to present its summer reading program for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Each Middle School student (6-8) **must read ONE mandatory summer reading book and one selected summer reading book** before the school year begins.

Each Upper School student (9-12) **must read ONE mandatory summer reading book and one selected summer reading book** before the school year begins.

Students should annotate their selected books as they read. Students should be prepared to write about their selections once they return in the fall; they will also be asked to discuss these books in class.

So that students might have a clearer sense of each choice, teachers have included short descriptions of the books for their respective classes.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

ENGLISH 10th grade

Mandatory: **Jane Eyre**, Charlotte Bronte

Lord of the Flies, William Golding

Choose one from the following:

Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen

This beloved novel takes place in a world where a female's livelihood is dependant on the man she marries. Strict social rules are in effect, but our heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, doesn't want to settle for a marriage of convenience. She lives with her sisters, her overbearing mother, and her kind but weak-willed father. When a new family moves to the area, Elizabeth meets Mr. Darcy, a wealthy, handsome, but seemingly arrogant landowner. It's dislike at first sight for Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy, but when their friends and family members threaten to elope or otherwise fall into scandal, something slowly begins to spark between them.

The Ocean at the End of the Lane, Neil Gaiman

In this acclaimed fantasy novel, a middle-aged narrator returns to the English village where he grew up. There, he relives a time in his youth when a strange, supernatural woman invades his life and threatens his world. The only hope for the boy's survival--and, perhaps, for his adult self--resides with a mysterious farm girl

named Lettie, who may have magic powers of her own. This wonderful story examines themes of friendship, love, aging, family, regret, and the possibility that other worlds exist just beyond this one.

1984, George Orwell

This science fiction classic imagines a totalitarian London where every citizen is watched on TV screens by “Big Brother,” the government’s unseen leader, at all times. The hero, Winston Smith, is a low-level bureaucrat in the Ministry of Truth who hates what his country has become. His life is upended when he falls in love with Julia, a beautiful and mysterious young woman who inspires him to rebel. 1984 follows Winston’s quest to break free of a society where any word, any action, or even any thought against the government is a crime.

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

Should you choose this novel, the first thing you’ll have to do is forget what you think you know from the movies. Mary Shelley’s Creature is not an unthinking, clanking hulk, but rather an intelligent, pained monster locked in a fateful spiral with his creator, the young Dr. Victor Frankenstein. The book is a wonderfully chilling story, written when its author was just 19. At its undead heart, the novel questions the power of science to control nature, and of man’s ability to control the results. In our current technological age, the issues this book raises have never felt more relevant.

The Once and Future King, T.H. White

While it did inspire Camelot, this four-books-in-one novel is a classic in its own right. Based on the medieval tales gathered by Sir Thomas Malory, The Once and Future King tells the story of King Arthur from childhood to death. It’s filled with humor (the first of the four books was adapted by Disney as The Sword in the Stone); it’s also filled with pageantry, adventure, doomed romance, meditations on aging, and a celebration of this most cherished of British legends. It’s a big, dense, old-fashioned read filled with lively prose, memorable characters, and a decidedly modern sensibility. Highly recommended. ***