

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 7th grade

Mandatory: **The Secret Life of Bees**, Sue Monk Kidd

Choose one from the following:

Witness, Karen Hesse

This novel, told entirely in verse from the perspective of twelve different people, recounts events in a small Vermont village in 1924 as the Ku Klux Klan begins to organize townspeople. At first, many not only underestimate the Klan's danger but also misunderstand the sense of perverted 'community' the organization offers. Eventually, all are forced to confront their prejudices, large and small, and take a stand.

Farewell to Manzanar, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

Within months of the bombing of the Pearl Harbor naval base in December, 1941, the government of the United States undertook the forced relocation of all Japanese citizens living on the West Coast because they were seen as a threat to American security. It did not matter that most of those forced to give up their homes, education, and jobs were full-fledged American citizens. Upon arrival at Manzanar, one of several hastily constructed internment camps, Jeanne begins a new life, one filled with bewildering contradictions and deprivation. In this memoir, Ms. Houston revisits the site and shares her thoughts as she tries to understand the experience she and her

family were forced to endure.

Shackleton's Stowaway, Victoria McKernan

Ernest Shackleton's doomed 1914 Antarctic expedition includes an unwanted and uninvited guest: eighteen year old stowaway, Perce Blackborow. When given the opportunity to return home, Blackborow convinces the explorer to hire him as a ship's steward. Shackleton's voyage captivated the world's imagination, and this fictional account of the experience gives life to the exploits endured by the crew of the Endurance in their brave, and disastrous, attempt to reach the South Pole.

Lyddie, Katherine Paterson

Set in the early days of America's Industrial Revolution, eleven year old Lyddie is forced by circumstances to work in a New England textile factory, where conditions are not only inhumane but actually life threatening to those operating the machines. Lyddie's is but one of several stories of the hard-working young women who seek a better life through one of the very few opportunities life in 19th century New England provides.
