

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 8th grade

Mandatory: **Fahrenheit 451**, Ray Bradbury

Choose one from the following:

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Douglas Adams

Early in this very funny science fiction satire, aliens destroy the earth to make room for a space highway. (Don't Panic! I haven't given anything away!) A mild-mannered Englishman named Arthur Dent is rescued just moments before the disaster. Soon, Arthur finds himself on an amazing and perplexing adventure with his alien friend Ford Prefect, a two-headed galactic president named Zaphod Beeblebrox, Zaphod's human girlfriend Trillian, and a very depressed robot named Marvin. Oh, and the Guide itself is basically the best Google App ever. Beneath the humor, Adams offers some real social commentary about human flaws.

Stones for My Father, Trilby Kent

This gripping tale is set during South Africa's Boer War, over a hundred years ago. The British have attacked the homeland of 12-year-old Corlie Roux. When she and her family are forced to flee their home, Corlie must battle both the invaders and her own difficult mother as she struggles to survive. Corlie is a girl whose fierce love for her country and whose bravery under pressure make her a very compelling heroine.

A Monster Calls, Patrick Ness

This is a moving and beautifully told story. Conor O'Malley is a 13 year old boy who is haunted by the same nightmare every night at the same time. One night, he hears a voice outside his window. A monster seems to have come to life, and it wants to tell stories to Conor. Once it is done telling stories, Conor will have to finally tell his own. This novel deals with dark, serious issues in a remarkable way; the novel includes terrific pen-and-ink illustrations.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox, Mary E. Pearson

This is a fascinating novel about a 17-year-old girl, Jenna Fox, who's just woken up from a year-long coma. As Jenna tries to recall just what caused her accident, she can't shake the feeling that something's wrong with her memories. She also becomes suspicious that her parents and grandmother are keeping terrible secrets from her. As Jenna meets new friends and recalls old ones, she makes profound discoveries about herself and her world. This novel is not only a gripping read, but it asks great questions about the theme of personal identity.

Nation, Terry Pratchett

This is a great adventure story set in a parallel world to ours. The time is the mid-1800s. A boy named Mau, who lives on an island in the South Pacific, is in the middle of an initiation rite when a major tsunami hits. At the same time, a British girl named Ermintrude (who calls herself Daphne) is shipwrecked. Mau and Daphne find themselves alone on Mau's deserted island home...at first. Soon, Mau and Daphne make a discovery that could influence not only the future of the island, but the rest of human history. The story is told with humor, intelligence, and curiosity; it also delves into varied themes like social order, loneliness, science, race, and storytelling.
