



The Study

April 30, 2017

Summer Reading Lists 2017 Students Entering Grade Ten

Dear Parents of Grade Ten Students,

It is our pleasure to supply you with the Summer Reading List for students entering grade ten in September, 2017. Your daughter is required to read two books over the summer vacation - one compulsory and one from a list of options.

Although students will review the selections with their teacher, we urge you to discuss the books with your daughter. Your fondness for a particular text may encourage your daughter to reach out to different kinds of books or to even read a little more.

During the month of May, The Study School will hold its annual Summer Reading Book Fair in conjunction with Paragraphe Books. Ms. Papini, our school librarian, together with the knowledgeable bookstore staff will be available to help you and your daughter make interesting purchases for a summer of good books.

In addition to the required reading, there will be a selection of young adult and adult volumes to tempt readers, both avid and reluctant.

When we come back in early September, your daughter may be required to produce an assignment for each of her texts. Her required reading must be completed before we return. Should you or your daughter require additional information, we would be most happy to speak with you. We are readily available via e-mail.

We look forward to sharing these interesting books with your daughter, and we anticipate a most exciting, intellectually rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

The English Department

cc: Nancy Sweer, Head of School
Patricia Briand, Senior School Director
Tracy Woodward, English Teacher
Jennifer Rosenbaum, English Teacher
Edna Reingewirtz, English Teacher
Susan Papini, Librarian

Students will be asked to read ONE compulsory book and ONE additional book from the general selection list. Both must be finished before the first day of school. Students should keep a list of new vocabulary words in a notebook that they will bring to class. They should also note the following for pieces of **fiction**: title, author, genre, central character, other main characters, conflict, setting, theme, main events, and author's writing style. For pieces of **non-fiction**, record the following: title, author, the main ideas and supporting details, the issues and/or life lessons presented, and the author's writing style. *These notes should be handwritten OR typed and will be submitted upon returning to school.*

We will begin the year with the compulsory read; your daughter is requested to bring a hard copy of the novel with her upon her return to school.

Compulsory read:

Out of the Easy

Ruta Sepetys

Josie Moraine is a teenage girl in 1950s New Orleans who wants to go to an Ivy League school and become a writer. Supporting herself by cleaning rooms in a brothel and working in a bookstore where the honest owner has given her a room to call her own, she struggles to study and maintain her dreams. Although Josie's mother works as a prostitute in a brothel run by Willie Woodley, Willie recognizes that Josie will follow a different path and in her own brusque way helps Josie as she navigates the tough streets of New Orleans. Yes, this book is set in a seedy world but Ruta Sepetys, author of the young adult book, *Between Shades of Gray* - an awardwinning young adult account of the Lithuanian exile to Siberia during World War II - knows how to present difficult situations without scarring young minds. Despite some of the settings, this is a book about how a young girl remains true to her vision and her values, and overcomes great difficulties to remain true to herself.

General selection:

The Underground Railroad

Colson Whitehead

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hellish for all the slaves but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood - where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned and, though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. *The Underground Railroad* is at once a kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian **Sherman Alexie**

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

Fangirl

Rainbow Rowell

Cath is a Simon Snow fan. Okay, the whole world is a Simon Snow fan... But for Cath, being a fan is her life—and she's really good at it. She and her twin sister, Wren, ensconced themselves in the Simon Snow series when they were just kids; it's what got them through their mother leaving. Reading. Rereading. Hanging out in Simon Snow forums, writing Simon Snow fan fiction, dressing up like the characters for every movie premiere. Cath's sister has mostly grown away from fandom, but Cath can't let go. She doesn't want to. Now that they're going to college, Wren has told Cath she doesn't want to be roommates. Cath is on her own, completely outside of her comfort zone. Can she make it without Wren holding her hand? Is she ready to start living her own life? Writing her own stories? And does she even want to move on if it means leaving Simon Snow behind?

Lullabies for Little Criminals

Heather O'Neill

At thirteen, Baby vacillates between childhood comforts and adult temptation: still young enough to drag her dolls around in a vinyl suitcase yet old enough to know more than she should about urban cruelties. Motherless, she lives with her father, Jules, who takes better care of his heroin habit than he does of his daughter. Baby's gift is a genius for spinning stories and for cherishing the small crumbs of happiness that fall into her lap. But her blossoming beauty has captured the attention of a charismatic and dangerous local pimp who runs an army of sad, slavishly devoted girls—a volatile situation even the normally oblivious Jules cannot ignore. And when an escape disguised as betrayal threatens to crush Baby's spirit, she will ultimately realize that the power of salvation rests in her hands alone.

The Help

Kathryn Stockett

It took Kathryn Stockett six years to write this book and another three to get it published, but her tale of black maids and Eugenia, "Skeeter" Phelan, the young university graduate who writes their story, mesmerized the reading public when it was published in 2009. You will find the book somewhat different from the film, but equally compelling.