



# The Study

April 30, 2017

## **Summer Reading Lists 2017 Students Entering Grade Eleven**

Dear Parents of Grade Ten Students,

It is our pleasure to supply you with the Summer Reading List for students entering grade eleven in September, 2017. Students are required to read two books for the return in September. The optional selection will be evaluated during the first week of school and the compulsory book will be the focus of the first curriculum unit. Students are requested to purchase the compulsory volume so they have access to their own copy.

We would like to encourage you to discuss the titles with your daughter. Your fondness for a particular text may encourage her to reach out to different kinds of books, or perhaps to 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. Our school librarian, Ms. Papini, and the knowledgeable bookstore staff will be available to help you and your daughter make interesting purchases for a summer of good books. 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

## **Grade 10 into Grade 11**

**You are to read two books, one from each of the lists. Make notes as you read.** You must return with the notes in September and submit them when requested.

For pieces of fiction, record the following information: title, author, genre, central character, other main characters, conflict, setting, theme, main events, vocabulary and author's writing style.

For non-fiction, record the following: title, author, genre, central issue, sub-topics, author's main point and bias, and three major points or arguments.

### **Compulsory Selection:**

**1984**

**George Orwell**

#### **Nineteen Eighty-Four**

Nineteen Eighty-Four is a dystopia set in the country formerly known as Great Britain but now known as "[Airstrip One](#)", where government surveillance manipulates the population. The super-state and its residents are dictated to by a political regime euphemistically named [English Socialism](#), shortened to "Ingsoc" in [Newspeak](#), the government's invented language. The elite of the [Inner Party](#) persecute citizens who favor independent thinking, which is called "[thought crime](#)". "Big Brother", the state's most powerful politician uses two-way spy technology and psychological tricks to control the people. This book, which inspired modern novels like [The Hunger Games](#) and [Divergence](#), will surprise you by how it anticipates modern life. If you want to understand the role that big government and media play in our 21<sup>st</sup> century lives, [1984](#) is a must read.

### **Please Make One Selection:**

#### **The Alchemist**

**Paulo Coelho**

This delicate fable has thrilled readers since its original publication in 1988. It has since sold over 150 million copies. Its fans include President Clinton, Madonna and other names of interest. The young Spanish shepherd, Santiago, sets off in search of his destiny. He joins a caravan to the Pyramids and on his journey to find love and fortune, discovers that life is full of beauty, tricks and significance. Readers who like mystery, adventure, fables and thought-provoking stories will enjoy this book.

**The Kite Runner****Khaled Hosseini**

Two boys grow up in modern Afghanistan. One is wealthy and the other is poor and a servant. The book is about the power of reading and education, the price of betrayal, and the workings of fate and kinship. Afghanistan and its people are still largely unknown to most Canadians, but this book offers the reader the chance to meet fascinating, different personalities who will share with the reader ambition, emotion and the desire for love and success. This book will appeal to strong, empathetic readers.

**The Five Most Important People You Meet in Heaven****Mitch Albom**

An elderly man comes to the end of his life believing that his journey has been without meaning, only to encounter five people whose lives were changed by their encounter with him. This short, fascinating novel questions the meaning of life and chance. Each individual chapter reads like a new short story but the different elements form an inspiring conclusion. This book will appeal to readers who enjoy history, mystery and the unknown.

**All American Boys****Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely**

When sixteen -year -old Rashad goes to the local store to buy a bag of chips he is mistakenly accused of robbery and, brutalized by a zealous policeman who takes his denials for aggression, ends in hospital. The incident has repercussions in the neighborhood, school and state. Written by two authors, one white, the other black, the novel brings to the surface some of the deep- rooted social issues that seethe in modern North American cities. The authors explore how issues of identity can move across racial, family and social lines. This is an exciting, easy to read, topical novel. All American Boys was a 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor book, and recipient of the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature.

**East of Eden****John Steinbeck**

John Steinbeck's masterpiece will intrigue ambitious, thoughtful readers who enjoy stories about struggle, temptation and love. This novel has the basic elements of a myth; its plot deals with love, rivalry, competition and passion. Set in the fertile area of California's Salinas valley, two brothers struggle for the love of the same woman, with consequences of Biblical proportion. There are several film versions of this novel, but neither tackles the entire story. However, if you do want to see a filmed version, watch the one with James Dean. This is an important, thought-provoking book, suitable for strong readers.

**My Sister's Keeper****Jody Picoult**

Jody Picoult's novel, *My Sister's Keeper*, is the popular, riveting story of two sisters. One needs a kidney transplant to stay alive, and the other, the only suitable donor, refuses to cooperate. This is a drama about a dysfunctional family where everyone would like to do the right thing but finds it almost impossible to comply. When the law intervenes to protect the youngest child, the drama moves forward in an

unexpected direction. NB: the film does NOT match the plot of the novel. This is an easy-to-read, drama.

**Handmaid's Tale**

**Margaret Atwood**

In *The Handmaid's Tale*, we are in the near future, living in the totalitarian state of The Republic of Gilead. Offred remembers a time when she lived freely with her family but now she is a breeder, a slave used to produce children for men with infertile wives. Despite the terrible conditions of her life, she finds reasons to believe that happiness may be possible, and she struggles to survive. This is a dystopian selection and has recently been made into a new television movie.

**Jane Eyre**

**Charlotte Bronte**

*Jane Eyre* is a stirring romance with a brave, intelligent heroine and a mysterious love interest. Strong-willed Jane survives many hardships after her parents die, and despite terrible difficulties, becomes a governess to a rich man's child – the only career open to a woman of her station and background. Mr. Rochester is intrigued by her and love blossoms between them. However, nothing is as it appears. Honor, fate and destiny play their role and keep young Jane from finding the security and solace she deserves and desires. There are many great television versions of this story. Once you read the book, speak to me and I will recommend a few of them to you. This book is suitable for eager readers who enjoy mystery, romance and classic themes. It has been called one of the first Gothic romances.