



# The Study

April 30, 2017

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

Dear Parents of Grade Seven Students,

It is our pleasure to supply you with the Summer Reading List for students entering grade seven 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. *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:**

#### **Stella By Starlight**

**Sharon M. Draper**

Stella lives in the segregated south—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something that they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, change not welcome by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire, and learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.

### **General selection:**

#### **Bifocal**

**Deborah Ellis and Eric Walters**

A student is arrested on suspicions of terrorism. A high school is torn apart by racism. Two boys from two different sets of circumstances forced to choose sides. These are the issues at the heart of Bifocal, a groundbreaking new novel for young adults. The story is told from two different points of view: Haroon is a serious student devoted to his family; his grandparents emigrated from Afghanistan. Jay is a football star devoted to his team; he is white. One day their high school is put on lockdown, and the police arrest a Muslim student on suspicion of terrorist affiliations. He might be guilty. Or is he being singled out because of his race?

#### **Journey to the River Sea**

**Eva Ibbotson**

This novel, shortlisted for the prestigious Carnegie Medal, recounts the journey of Maia Fielding, a young wealthy orphan who in 1910 goes to South America to live with the Carter family. Maia and her traveling companion, Miss Minton, voyage down the Amazon River to the town of Manaus and then travel to meet her new family. In the tradition of many adventure novels, the new family is not quite what the young girl expects and she must make an effort to come to terms with this strange new world, so different from the sedate world of 19<sup>th</sup> century London.

**Wonder****R. J. Palacio**

August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school—until now. He's about to start 5th grade at Beecher Prep, and if you've ever been the new kid then you know how hard that can be. The thing is Auggie's just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, despite appearances?

**The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larson****Susin Neilsen**

This is an extraordinary little book, suitable for all ages and read with pleasure by many of the school staff. Although there are some references to the type of violence that plagues our society, this book focuses on a wonderful group of characters. There is humour here, and deep emotion. Please read this Tundra Books review of this winner of the 2012 Governor General's Award at the following address:

<http://www.tundrabooks.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9781770493728>

**The Song of the Lioness: Alanna: The First Adventure****Tamora Pierce**

Alanna of Trebond wants to become a knight, and despite her courage and extraordinary ability, she is forbidden to try to become a knight because she is a girl. Choosing the path of deceit and cunning, she disguises herself as a boy and finds a way to meet the demands of the program, befriending many people, including brave Prince Jonathan and other knights-in-training. However, she also makes enemies, and one of them, Prince Roger, has designs on the throne. Alanna takes on the challenge of defending the heir to the throne and defeating his enemies. Brave, determined and goal oriented, Alanna is a terrific role model for girls. She is willing to admit her weaknesses and to work to repair them, and she is a loyal and sensible friend.

**Before Green Gables****Budge Wilson**

Before arriving at Green Gables, Anne Shirley has had a difficult childhood. Orphaned as a baby, she is sent from one foster home to the next, caring for other people's children although she is still a child herself. Anne escapes from her dark reality through the power of her imagination. Curious, inventive and outspoken even at an early age, Anne battles to make a life for herself by seeking out kindred spirits, finding solace in her books and dreaming of the day when she will have a family to call her own.