



# The Study

April 30, 2017

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

Dear Parents of Grade Nine Students,

It is our pleasure to supply you with the Summer Reading List for students entering grade nine 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

## **Grade 8 into 9, for the year 2017-2018**

Students will be asked to read ONE compulsory book and ONE additional book from the general selection list for their grade. 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 book:**

#### **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time** **Mark Haddon**

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and every prime number up to 7,057. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, Christopher suffers from a form of autism. At fifteen, Christopher's world falls apart when he finds his neighbour's dog impaled on a pitchfork. Deciding to solve the crime on his own, he turns to his favourite detective, Sherlock Holmes, for inspiration. However, the investigation leads him down some unexpected paths and ultimately brings him face to face with a serious family problem. As Christopher tries to deal with the crisis, the narrative draws readers into the mind of a boy who cannot truly understand emotion. The effect is dazzling, making for a novel of exceptional literary merit that is great fun to read.

NB: As Christopher cannot understand nuance, he often uses inappropriate words and swear words. The reader may be shocked by his language choices. However, Christopher is a simple, sweet boy and his choice of diction is a reflection, both of his condition and of the socio-economic area where he lives. His language choices will be addressed in class.

### **Please select one of the following for your second choice:**

#### **The Horse Boy: A Memoir of Healing** **Rupert Isaacson**

The Horse Boy is the dramatic and heartwarming story of an impossible adventure. Rupert Isaacson is devastated when his son, Rowan, is diagnosed with autism, but when Isaacson, a lifelong horseman, rides their neighbor's horse with Rowan, Rowan improved immeasurably. Isaacson decides to take his family to a place where horses and a type of magical healing still exist. In far away Mongolia, Rowan will find the means to address his conditions. This is a deeply moving story of a family willing to go to the ends of the earth to help their son, and of a boy learning to connect with the world for the first time.

**Following Atticus: Forty-eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, And An Extraordinary Friendship**

**Tom Ryan**

Middle-aged, overweight, acrophobic newspaperman Tom Ryan decides to raise money for cancer research by climbing all forty-eight of New Hampshire's four thousand-foot peaks twice in one winter in the company of his miniature schnauzer, Atticus M. Finch. This is an unforgettable tale of friendship and family, as remarkable Atticus transforms a tough, disillusioned writer into a man of heart and spirit. This memoir will entrance people familiar with the New Hampshire, Vermont area, animal lovers and readers who enjoy reading about the human spirit. For further information, Ryan still blogs online about his life with the now elderly Atticus.

**Seabiscuit**

**Laura Hillenbrand**

In 1938, in the midst of the Great Depression and just prior to the start of World War II, the racehorse Seabiscuit was the single biggest newsmaker in the world, receiving more coverage than American President Roosevelt, Mussolini or even Hitler. Seabiscuit was a crooked-legged racehorse with a miserable tail that seemed fated for the glue factory, but his destiny was changed by three men who saw his potential. Charles Howard, an overnight millionaire, hired mysterious mustang breaker, Tom Smith, to train his new racehorses, and Howard purchased the bargain-priced Seabiscuit at Smith's recommendation. Smith urged Howard to hire jockey Red Pollard to ride Seabiscuit, even though Pollard was a one-eyed, half-crippled former boxer. Despite bad fortune, injury and conspiracy, these three men transformed a lazy, neurotic beast into a champion whose story can still make adults and children alike stand up and cheer.

**All Creatures Great and Small**

**James Herriot**

This memoir by Dr. James Herriot tells of Herriot's adventures as a young country veterinarian in rural, 1930s England. The learning curve for the young idealistic vet is steep: he has eccentric colleagues, odd clients and animals that challenge him in every way. From the pig called Nugent to wild cattle a clever, nasty sheepdog and a spoilt Pekingese, Herriot learns to balance the needs of his busy practice with his desire for romance with Helen, the lovely daughter of a local farmer. James Herriot's laugh-out-loud, charming memoirs have inspired movies and television shows, and have entranced readers since they were first published.

**Jurassic Park: A Novel**

**Michael Crichton**

On the island of Isla Nublar, genetically engineered dinosaurs roam and thrive. Prior to the grand opening of his Jurassic Park, billionaire John Hammond invites his grandchildren and special guests to enjoy the wonders of this entertainment-research station, where dinosaurs wander behind electrified fences. Michael Crichton spins a story that combines thrills, chills and sufficient scientific fact to intrigue the reader: what would happen if we could really bring back the great lizards? Crichton, the guiding force behind successful television shows like the ground-breaking series, ER, and films like "Timeline" and "Rising Sun", was a

medical doctor and science lover who combined thrilling plots with sufficient, clearly explained science to make the most far-fetched plot seem possible. Read [Jurassic Park](#) and you will learn more about DNA and amber than you ever thought possible. NB: Both the book and the movie of the same name are thrilling but they are not identical.

### **The Cat Who Went to Paris**

### **Peter Gethers**

Peter Gethers loathed cats, but when he met Norton, the sweet-faced Scottish Fold kitten, Gethers underwent a change of heart. Knowing nothing of felines, he treated Norton like a dog and Norton responded in a most unusual way. Together, Gethers and Norton travelled the world, flying to Paris on the Concorde supersonic aircraft, exploring Manhattan by subway, meeting with actors and directors and, ultimately, engaging in life with passion, gusto and open hearts. Norton's adventures are continued in two subsequent accounts.