

**Please start your reading at the beginning of the summer.** We will start the year with the first book and continue down the list, but students will not be given time to read the books during the school year- so start the year off right with all of your reading done! If all required reading is completed, the supplementary list below offers books related to our Humanities topics by Quarter; choose as many as you like! \* indicates books from the IB World Literature list. **Bring the assignments to class on August 25<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Required Summer Reading for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**\**Siddhartha*, Herman Hesse**  
***Blood Red Horse*, K.M. Grant**  
**\**Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe**  
***Our Secret, Siri Aang*, Christina Kessler**

Assignments should be at least one double-spaced typed page.

Assignment #1: describe the main *conflict* from any two of the books; are the conflicts internal (man versus self) or external (man versus man, man versus nature, man versus society)? How are the conflicts similar to each other? How are they different?

Assignment #2: describe the phases of Siddhartha's development in the book (hint: each chapter basically follows him through a different stage). What does Siddhartha want most in the world? Does he get it? Explain.

### **Required Summer Reading for 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

**\**Woman at Point Zero*, Nawal El Saadawi**  
**\**The Metamorphosis*, Franz Kafka**  
**\**The Stranger*, Albert Camus**  
**\**The Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad**

Assignment: discuss the issue of perspectives. Some ideas to consider: Gregor's perspective on his condition compared with his family's; Meursault's perspective on his crime; the perspective of a woman in Firdaus's society; the white man's perspective of Africa in Conrad. This assignment is open to interpretation, but should include quotations to support your ideas. 2 ½-3 pages double-spaced.

**Supplementary Reading List:** brief descriptions of the books are included, but you can always look them up on the internet if you want to know more. I have also given them an estimated "difficulty" rating of 1-4 (1 being the simplest and 4 the most difficult) but don't let that scare you into only choosing "easy" books, especially for 10<sup>th</sup> graders. They are all great, and that's why they made the list. Many of these books are in the Upper School collection (marked USL), and can be checked out over the summer. Some others are available through the Main Campus Library (marked MCL).

#### Quarter 1

**\**The Sound Of Waves*, Yukio Mishima:** a boy and a girl fall in love on an island in Japan in this simple and beautiful story. 3 USL

*The Woman Warrior*, Maxine Hong Kingston: stories of a girl growing up Chinese in California, trailing the ghosts of her home country. 4 USL

*Children Of The River*, Linda Crew: a Cambodian girl escapes from the Khmer Rouge to Oregon and tries to have a normal life there (boys, high school, family, etc.). 2 USL

*The Good Earth*, Pearl S. Buck: a poor man struggles to make his way in China during the last days of the emperors. One of my favorite books ever! 2 USL, MCL

\**A Thousand Cranes*, Yasunari Kawabata: this is a subtle and artful portrayal of life and love told through the motif of the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. One of the best books I've read in years. 3 USL

\**Kitchen*, Banana Yoshimoto: fantasy, loneliness, friendship. USL

### Quarter 2

*The Once and Future King*, T.H. White tells the story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table: action, adventure, love, magic swords, myth! 3 USL

*The Year of Wonders*, Geraldine Brooks: the story of a young woman living in a town that decided to impose a quarantine on itself to stop the spread of the bubonic plague. During the year 2/3 of the isolated population died! A really well done historical fiction. 3 USL

*The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown: fun "potboiler" about a mysterious society, murder, religion and art. Tons of vocabulary words, and intelligent allusions make this better than your average thriller. 3 USL

*Life of Pi*: a boy is stuck on a life raft with a tiger after a shipwreck. Interesting, enjoyable, and full of thoughtful discussion on religion, faith, truth and the stories that make our lives bearable. 3 USL

*The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini: a boy growing up in Afghanistan experiences traumatic internal and external conflict- a new classic and soon-to-be-film. 4 USL

*Samir And Yonatan*, Daniella Carmi Samir, a Palestinian boy, wakes up in an Israeli hospital among the people he blames for his brothers death... 1 MCL

### Quarter 3

*Journey To Jo'burg*, Beverley Naidoo: two children travel to Johannesburg, South Africa, and learn difficult lessons about the world of Apartheid. 1 MCL

\**The Dark Child*, Camara Laye: a autobiography of a boy growing up in Malinke tribe in Guinea as he chooses between his traditional ways and the path of schooling. 3 USL

*A Girl Named Disaster*, Nancy Farmer: Nhamo, not yet 12, flees alone to Zimbabwe from an arranged marriage. 1 MCL

*Tsotsi*, Athol Fugard: in South Africa, tsotsi is the name for a thug; in this powerful story, a true thug from the streets finds something that changes his life. 3 USL

*The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver: four girls and their mother re-tell the story of their family's life as missionaries in the Belgian Congo. An amazing book! 4 USL

*The Baboon King*, Anton Quintana: a young man in exile begins life again as part of a group of baboons. Looks really interesting! 1 MCL

*Shanabu: Daughter of the Wind*, Suzanne Fisher Staples: a Pakistani girl experiences what it means to "grow up" in her culture. This book looks great! 2

*Nectar In A Sieve*, Kamala Markandaya: poverty and development in an Indian village. 3

*The Namesake*, Jhumpa Lahiri: follows the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. 3 USL

#### Quarter 4

*Catch 22*, Joseph Heller: I have not actually read this satirical WWII classic, but it is *emphatically* loved by many- especially boys. I plan to read it this summer... 3

*Summer Of My German Soldier*, Bette Greene: a Jewish girl in the South discovers an escaped German POW in the barn and (awww) begins to see him as just a frightened boy instead of an enemy soldier. 2 MCL

*The Boy in Striped Pajamas*, John Boyne: this young people's fiction is chilling. I can't give away more than that! 1

*The Devil's Arithmetic*, Jane Yolen: Hannah is tired of her family always talking about the past- but at this year's Passover Seder, she is transported into that terrible past herself! 1 USL

*Milkweed*, Jerry Spinelli: a street boy in Nazi occupied Warsaw tries to survive. 2 MCL

*The Diary of Anne Frank*, Anne Frank: this book stands alone as an insight into what it was like to be persecuted by the Nazis. Anne lived for years in a secret attic with her entire family, going through usual and unusual experiences of adolescence, and this is her diary. Unique and powerful! 2

*Slaughterhouse 5*, Kurt Vonnegut: this book changed my life- more than once. 4 USL

\**The English Patient*, Michael Ondaantje: beautiful story about tragedy, loss, identity, secrecy, nationalism, conflict, the ravages of war, and above all, the lengths we will go to for love. 4 USL