

9th Grade Summer Reading 2009

The students will receive a writing assignment in relation to two of the books from the above list. As with last year, the students will use these books in the curriculum throughout the year, and in the order of the list, but they should do all required reading over the summer.

Next year's Humanities course will roughly cover the following topics: Early Civilizations, ancient cultures of Africa, Asia: Egypt, China, India, Greece and Rome, Europe 500-1300, Byzantine Empire, Islam and the Crusades, Renaissance and Reformation, Global Age, Absolutism, Elizabethan era.

The books on the required and supplementary reading lists have been chosen to relate somewhat to these topics while also offering a broad range of enjoyable, enlightening reading. Books marked with a * are on the IB World Literature List.

Required Summer Reading for 9th Grade

****Siddhartha*, Herman Hesse**
***Blood Red Horse*, K.M. Grant**
****Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe**
***The Catcher in the Rye*, JD Salinger**

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.

Supplementary Reading Suggestions:

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

**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.

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

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.

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!

Saylor, Stephen. *The Judgment of Caesar: A Novel of Ancient Rome*
St. Martin's Minotaur, 2004. In 48 B.C., Roman generals Caesar and Pompey have long battled to rule the world. As Pompey plots a reckless stand on the banks of the Nile, Gordianus the Finder, who has brought his wife Bethesda to the river seeking a

cure for her in its sacred waters, finds himself suddenly at the heart of a series of treacherous and history-altering events.

Homer's *Iliad* and *The Odyssey*

We will be reading selections from these, but students are encouraged to read either the original texts or re-written modern versions of the stories, of which there are many.

Riordan, Rick. *Lightning Thief*.

Miramax, 2005. Percy Jackson can't figure out why he has such problems with his anger, or why some people seem to be trying to destroy him until he learns that his father is a Greek god. First book in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series.

Spinner, Stephanie. *Quiver*.

Knopf, 2002. Atalanta, abandoned as an infant, has grown to become a renowned archer and swiftest mortal alive due to the intervention of Artemis, goddess of the hunt, so when the father who forsook her so many years before issues an ultimatum that Atalanta marry and produce an heir, she counters with the condition that the man she weds must be able to best her in a footrace or die.

The Arabian Nights

Students are encouraged to read any version of these classic tales.

Fletcher, Susan. *Shadow Spinner*

Atheneum, 1998. When Marjan, a thirteen-year old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Scheherazade the stories which will save the queen's life.

Kerr, P.B. *Children of the Lamp: The Akhenaten Adventure*

Orchard, 2004. Can John and Phillippa Gaunt, 12-year-old twins who have just discovered they are from a long line of djinn, be strong, skilled, and clever enough to outwit the most evil djinn in the universe?

The Pearl, John Steinbeck

Short, poignant and sympathetic to every reader from every society- a great way to spend an afternoon.

The Good Earth, Pearl S. Buck

This story is beautiful and timeless- I read it first at about 13 years old and have read it maybe 5 times since!

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!

Yancey, Richard. *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp*.

Bloomsbury, 2005. Orphaned and incurably-geeky teen Alfred Kropp is coerced by his unscrupulous uncle into stealing a valuable sword that turns out to be Excalibur, and he is drawn into a dangerous and violent misadventure.

Gardner, Sally. *I, Coriander*

Dial, 2005. Coriander, a seventeenth-century Londoner who finds herself friendless after her mother dies and after her father leaves her with a Puritanical stepmother, discovers that she is a fairy – just like her mom.

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.

Hale, Shannon. *Princess Academy*

Bloomsbury, 2005. The king's priests divine that the prince must choose his bride from among the young girls who live in a small mountain village, and the girls are then ordered to attend a special academy established to train them in the ways of royalty. When bandits attempt to kidnap and hold the future princess as ransom, Miri, one of the mountain girls, realizes that she can mindspeak and saves herself and the others from harm. Newberry Honor book

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

LeGuin, Ursula. *A Wizard of Earthsea*

First published 1968. After pride causes him to unleash a demon, Zed is compelled to chase or escape from the ever pursuing shadow. Earthsea Trilogy.

Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again*

First published 1937. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Yolen, Jane. *Girl in a Cage*

Philomel, 2002. Marjorie Bruce, daughter of Robert the Bruce of Scotland, has been captured in 1306 by Edward I (Longshanks) of England and placed in a cage on public display for months.

Jordan, Sherryl. *The Hunting of the Last Dragon*

HarperCollins, 2002. In England In 1356, as a monk records his every word, a young peasant tells of his journey with a young Chinese noblewoman to St. Alfric's Cove and the lair of a fire breathing dragon.

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

Pierce, Tamora. *Trickster's Choice*

Random House, 2003. Alianne, kidnapped and put into slavery, calls forth her mother's courage and her father's spying skills in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy. Sequel: Trickster's Queen.

Fisher Staples, Suzanne. *Shanabu: Daughter of the Wind*.

A Pakistani girl experiences what it means to "grow up" in her culture. This book looks great!

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

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

Carmi Samir, Daniella. *Samir And Yonatan*.

A Palestinian boy wakes up in an Israeli hospital among the people he blames for his brother's death.

Ellis, Deborah. *Parvana's Journey*

Groundwood, 2002. Parvana buries her father and sets out across Afghanistan, dressed as a boy to protect against attacks from the Taliban, determined to find her mother and the rest of her family.

Al-Windawi, Thura. *Thura's Diary: My Life in Wartime Iraq*.

Viking, 2004. Presents an English translation of the diary entries of nineteen-year-old Thura Al-Windawi, the oldest daughter in a middle-class Shia Muslim family living in Baghdad. She shares her thoughts, emotions, and experiences throughout the war in Iraq, from March 15 through June 2003.

Ahmedi, Farah with Tamin Ansary. *The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky*

Simon Spotlight, 2005. Farah Ahmedi, a victim of a land mine at twelve, tells of her childhood before and during the Taliban rule in Afghanistan, and how she and her mother coped after coming to America.

Miklowitz, Gloria. *Secrets in the House of Delgado*

Eerdmans, 2001. In Spain in 1492, fourteen-year-old Maria, a Catholic orphan, becomes a servant to a wealthy family of Conversos, converted Jews, at a time when the Jews are being expelled from the country and when the Inquisition is diligently searching for religious heretics.

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*

Dutton, 1999. Sixteen-year-old Griet, hired as a servant in the busy household of famous 17th-century artist Johannes Vermeer, takes on the duties of cleaning his studio, mixing colors, and standing in as a model. Eyebrows are raised when Griet is seen wearing a pearl earring that belongs to Vermeer's wife.

Chevalier, Tracy. *The Lady and the Unicorn*

Dutton, 2004. A handsome fifteenth century artist who is commissioned to create a series of woven tapestry panels becomes smitten with the daughter of his nobleman patron.

Cadnum, Michael. *Ship of Fire*

Viking Penguin, 2003. In 1587, sailing to Spain on board Sir Francis Drake's ship "Elizabeth Bonaventure," seventeen-year-old surgeon's apprentice Thomas Spyre finds that, with the sudden death of his master, he must take over as ship's surgeon and prove his skill not only as a doctor but also as a fighter when he is enlisted by Drake to face battle.

Blackwood, Gary. *The Shakespeare Stealer*, Dutton, 1998. A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of Hamlet.

Koertge, Ron. *Shakespeare Bats Clean up*

Candlewick, 2003. When a fourteen year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love, and loss.

Non-Fiction

Flannery, Sarah with David Flannery. *In Code: A Mathematical Journey*

Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2002. A sixteen-year-old girl and her father convey their love of mathematics in the book written after Sarah wins Ireland's Young Scientist of the Year 1999 award for her project on cryptography.

Cone, Marla. *Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic*

Grove/Atlantic, 2005. Traditionally thought of as the last great unspoiled territory on Earth, the Arctic is actually home to some of the most contaminated people and animals on the planet.

Wilson, Edward O. *The Future of Life*

Knopf, 2002. A complex, intelligent look at a plan to save the biosphere for ensuing generations by resolving the conflict between environmentalism and economics.