

Summer Reading 2008 (Summer before 10th grade)

- In response to information gathered from students, parents, staff, and research, we have adopted a different approach to summer reading—the most significant being a new, wider range of choices. We do encourage students who are considering English studies for the future to consider classic novels for their reading.
- Widening the list, however, limits our ability to purchase copies of all the selections. All of the books below can be found in local libraries, bookstores, or on discount websites. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and *Death of a Salesman* are available to borrow from the school for two-week periods.
- We strongly encourage parents and students to *collaborate* on deciding which books best suit the needs, interests, and natures of the students. Novels marked with an * contain mature content or language.
- **All academic sophomores will be required to read any TWO (2) books from below.**

Contemporary

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan- Four Chinese women and their American-born daughters describe their differences through various ordeals and narratives. The book deals with how the parents try to incorporate their old-style ways of life, while the daughters try to live their lives their way.

In Country by Bobbie Ann Mason- Having lost her father in Vietnam, Sam now lives with her Uncle Emmett, a Vietnam War survivor and victim of Agent Orange. Set in rural Kentucky, Sam ponders the everyday problems a teenager has while trying to discover the relevance of Vietnam in her life. She realizes her life is tied to the war and tries to make sense of it all.

The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown- This intelligent thriller will keep you involved to the final page. Several murders in Paris set the stage for this mind-puzzling and harrowing thrill ride with many twists along the way. Religious scandals, cover-ups and vengeance add to the drama as the novel takes the reader through France, England, and even the Vatican.

Classics

**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey- An inmate fakes a mental disorder to avoid going to prison. The plot thickens as inmate McMurphy begins to strike

friendships with various patients at the asylum. This prototypical Man vs. the System novel turns tragic along the way as the author illustrates the misfortunes and weaknesses in our mental health system.

**The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger-Experience a couple of days in the life of Holden Caulfield as he tries his best to find truth in his life. This sixteen-year-old yearns to find the meaning of life, as he meets various "phonies" along the way after he runs away from his New York prep school. He becomes disillusioned by what he sees and tries to understand how life can be more "real" to him.

**Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller-This play focuses on how people interpret the American Dream. One of the most famous literary characters ever, Willy Loman, is a salesman who raises his two sons to try to live "the dream" . . . but, it may not be their dream. This melodrama shows how Willy's older ways may be dying and this family must come to grips with differing ideals on how to live life.

Night by Elie Wiesel- In this powerful memoir, a guilt-ridden teen who survives the Holocaust tries to accept that he survived this tragedy while many in his family did not. The teen must deal with the tragic memories and, all the while, try his best to understand how the God he believes in could allow such an event to happen.