

## English Summer 2017 Work

### Summer Reading and Writing for Incoming Grade 11-12 Honors Students

Dear Grades 11-12 Honors students and families,

The Modern English School Secondary English Department wishes you all a relaxing and fun summer break. In an effort to provide you with a summer reading assignment that is both interesting and enjoyable, we have included a list of book titles that appeal to a wide range of interests.

You are to read **two** of the books on the Summer 2017 Reading Lists this summer. As students in an Honors course, much will be expected from you including, but not limited to, integrity, dedication, and diligence. With that in mind, please choose at least one novel of considerable length (more than 400 pages) to read and analyze. If you are unable to find the titles on the list, you must email Ms. Bull ([kbull@mescairo.com](mailto:kbull@mescairo.com)) and request permission to read alternative titles. The alternative titles have to be approved by Ms. Bull via email.

Of course, we encourage you to use the free time afforded to you over the summer to read as many books as you can! Share your thoughts and reactions to your reading with your parents and friends. Great literature should be discussed and shared.

For the two books you read this summer, you are to process each book in a written way that will be useful to you when you return in September. Processing texts is personal and may include taking notes, using post-its, writing quotes, drawing images, creating symbols, writing summaries and responses, journaling, using graphic organizers, etc. You may choose to process your books in any way that works for you, but it must be something tangible that you can turn in on the very first day you return to school for your first homework grade. Each book needs separate processing tools.

In addition to the written processing tools you will be turning in for a grade, we will be using your texts to complete our first two and a half weeks of school activities. We will complete an in-class essay, create projects, present orally and engage in many other activities. Therefore, it is imperative that you read your two books closely and carefully. Make sure your processing tools are as thorough and as detailed as possible so that they are able to assist you in these endeavors.

Have a great summer, and enjoy this opportunity to read wonderful books! We look forward to discussing your books with you in September.

Sincerely,

Ms. Bull

Head of the English Department for the American Section

#### **\*\*Summary of important information:**

- 1) Read two books closely.
- 2) Process each book in a written way.
- 3) You will be turning in your written processing tools the very first day you return to school in September for your first homework grade.
- 4) The first two and a half weeks of school will be devoted to working with these books in a variety of ways for a variety of grades.

## **Summer 2017 Grades 11-12 Honors Reading List**

### **Science Fiction/Fantasy:**

#### ***Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card, 352 pages**

Ender is a child genius, selected for training to become part of an elite force trying to defend Earth in a war with the Formics, an alien race. Exciting and thought provoking.

#### ***The Time Machine*, H.G. Wells, 118 p.**

Follow the adventures of a hypothetical Time Traveller who journeys into the future to find that humanity has evolved into two races: the peaceful Eloi — vegetarians who tire easily — and the carnivorous, predatory Morlocks. An exciting blend of adventure and pseudo-scientific romance.

#### ***The War of the Worlds*, H G Wells, 138 p.**

One of the very first science fiction novels. It tells the story of what happens when the Earth is invaded by Martians. A quick, exciting read.

#### ***House of the Scorpion*, Nancy Farmer, 400 p.**

Futuristic, coming-of-age adventure tackles some heavy moral issues. Matt Alarcan has lived in seclusion on the estate of the drug lord of El Patron, knowing nothing of the outside world until he meets Maria. Interesting and compelling!

#### ***Ready Player One*, Ernest Cline, 400 p.**

Ready Player One follows Wade both in the virtual and real world as he solves the riddles and puzzles of Halliday's quest, but he's not alone. A great introduction to sci-fi and gaming set in a high stakes adventure.

#### ***Northern Lights*, Philip Pullman, 416 p.**

Lyra is an orphan girl living in an alternative Oxford where magic is real; she uncovers a plot that puts all children and mankind itself in danger.

#### ***Watership Down*, Richard Adams, 476 p.**

An exciting adventure starring rabbits! The warren is in danger and the heroes are put to the test in this story of rabbit courage. Another classic, must-read!

### **Horror:**

#### ***The Shining*, Stephen King, 688 p.**

A really scary book, so don't pick it up if you are easily frightened! A young boy stays at a closed down hotel in the Rocky Mountains with his parents during the winter. A horrific ending, so be warned!

#### ***Something Wicked This Way Comes*, Ray Bradbury, 304 p.**

Two teenagers learn that there is something not quite right about the travelling carnival that comes to town. Can they save themselves and the town, from the evil lurking inside the carnival tents?

## **War and conflict:**

### ***The Book Thief*, Marcus Zuzak 576 p.**

A German girl helps to protect a Jewish man from the Nazis in war torn Berlin. Interesting narrative style adds to an excellent examination of courage in wartime.

### ***The Diary of Ann Frank*, Ann Frank, 304 p.**

The classic diary of a teenage Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis in war-time Amsterdam. Not just a book about the horrors of war, but a wonderful insight into growing from girl to woman.

### ***The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien, 246 p.**

In an unparalleled Vietnam testament, they carried malaria tablets, love letters, 28-pound mine detectors, dope, illustrated bibles, each other. And if they made it home alive, they carried unrelenting images of a nightmarish war that history is only beginning to absorb. A profound study of men at war that illuminates the capacity, and the limits, of the human heart and soul.

### ***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*, by Laura Hillenbrand, 473 p.**

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

## **Growing Up:**

### ***The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls, 288 p.**

Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.

### ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky, 224 p.**

Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie is navigating through the strange worlds of love, drugs, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show", and dealing with the loss of a good friend and his favorite aunt. Funny, touching, and haunting.

### ***Does My Head Look Big in This?*, Randa Abdel-fattah, 368 pages**

This is the story of a Muslim girl in Australia, who decides to wear the Hijab. How do her parents, friends, teachers react to a Muslim girl who decides to take this step?

***How I Live Now*, Meg Rosoff, 194 p.**

An American girl visits her relatives in England in a near future world where war suddenly forces the group of teenagers to fend for themselves. Meanwhile, love blossoms between two characters.

**Sport:**

***Keeper*, Mal Peet, 225 p.**

This book has great reviews. A book for the footballers amongst you. Part football story, part-growing up tale, and part ghost story, it will keep you reading.

***Tangerine*, Edward Bloor, 312 p.**

Football meets strange happenings in this story. A legally blind boy moves to a new town with his family and joins the football team. He also begins to uncover some disturbing facts about his brother and the town he now calls home.

***Boy21*, Matthew Quick, 288 p.**

It's never been easy for Finley, particularly at home. But two things keep him going: his place on the basketball team and his girlfriend, Erin - the light in even the darkest of his days. Then Russ arrives. He answers only to Boy21, claims to be from outer space, and also has a past he wants to escape. He's one of the best high school basketball players in the country and threatens to steal Finley's starting position. A moving tale of incredible friendship.

***The Natural*, Bernard Malamud, 256 p.**

Published in 1952, it is the first—and some would say still the best—novel ever written about baseball. In it Malamud, usually appreciated for his unerring portrayals of postwar Jewish life, took on very different material—the story of a superbly gifted "natural" at play in the fields of the old daylight baseball era.