

## Summer Reading and Writing for Incoming Grade 11 English Honors

Dear Grade 11 English 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 a summer reading assignment that is both interesting and enjoyable, we have included a suggested list of book titles that appeal to a wide range of interests.

You are to read a minimum of **two** books this summer. Of course, we encourage you to use the free time afforded you over the summer to read as many books as you can! Attached you will find a list of recommended books to choose from. Share your thoughts and reactions to your reading with your parents and friends. Great literature should be discussed and shared.

For two books that you read, you need to complete one of the following written tasks. **You must complete two different activities.** Each of these will be graded when you return to school in September.

Possible responses:

- Write an extra chapter for the end of the novel about what happens afterwards
- Rewrite part of the novel from a different character's point of view
- Write a recommendation of the book to persuade a friend to read it.
- Make a comparison between the novel and another that you have read, considering things such as similarities between characters, settings, storyline, ideas.
- Write a plan for a sequel to the novel.
- Design a book cover that encapsulates some of the important features of the novel.
- Imagine you are one of the characters and keep a diary. Write an entry for a day when something particularly important happens to you.
- Imagine you could interview the author. Write a set of questions you could ask them about the novel.
- Consider the ideas the novel got you thinking about. In what ways did it confirm or challenge ideas you have about the world?
- Write your own original short story that presents some of the key ideas of the novel in a different way.

As well as submitting these two tasks in your first lesson after the holidays you will also:

- give an oral presentation in class
- participate in a range of other activities
- complete an in-class essay on your summer reading

Therefore, it is imperative that you read your two books closely and carefully.

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

Sincerely,  
Miss Statz  
Language Arts Teacher, American Section

## Summer Reading List

### Science Fiction:

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. An exciting and thought provoking book about a boy who has to grow up fast in the world of the Battle School and later as a warrior fighting the enemy. The first in an excellent series of novels.

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.

The Chrysalids, John Wyndham, 224 p.

In a world destroyed by a long ago nuclear war, a young boy learns that his world is not what it seems and that being human is not about physical appearance alone. I love this book!

The Knife of Never Letting Go Patrick Ness, 496 p.

I haven't read this one, but my step-son loved it! Another first in a series book about a planet where all the men have been infected by the "Noise germ" that lets them hear each other's thoughts and which killed off all the women. Or did it? This is another exciting, thought provoking novel about what it means to be human.

### Fantasy:

Northern Lights, Philip Pullman, 416 p.

Lyra is an orphan girl living in an alternative Oxford where magic is real and all humans have a daemon-an animal that houses their soul. She uncovers a plot to sever the connection between children and their daemons, embarking on a quest to save the children and existence itself. The first of a trilogy. Another one I absolutely loved.

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!

A wizard of Earthsea, Ursula Le Guin, 320 p.

In a fantasy world, a boy is chosen to become a wizard. Another series starter that transports you to a world full of wonder.

Wolf Brother Michelle Paver 293 p.

A boy has adventures in the distant past of the stone ages, with his wolf friend. A great insight into how people might once have lived, in a world where magic might have been real and adventures abound. The first in another excellent series.

**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. He begins to think there is more to the place than empty rooms. A horrific ending, so be warned! One of the scariest books I have read. Pretty much any other King is also a great read- try The Stand if you don't mind 1000 plus pages!

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 Dairy 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.

War Horse Micahel Morpugo, 176 p.

At the start of World War One, a horse is taken from its loving friend on a farm and set to the battlefields of Northern France. An easy, but heart-warming story of the love between a boy and his horse.

The Iliad Homer, 704 p.

A challenging read for those who love Greek legends. Achilles takes terrible revenge on the Trojans after his friend is killed by them. Battles galore. Excellent! You will probably find the Robert Fagles translation the most readable.

The Histories, Herodotus, 800 p.

If you liked the movie 300, you might like this. The very first history book, that tells the story of the war between the tiny Greek cities of Athens and Sparta and the enormous Persian empire. Great book. I love it. There is a new translation by Tom Holland that is supposed to be very easy to read. Give yourself a challenge and read it. You won't be disappointed.

### **Growing Up:**

Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte, 328 p.

The classic novel of the orphan girl who goes to live as a governess in a mansion where strange howls come from the attic... A great story about resilience and love. It is a challenging read, but also often considered one of the best novels ever written.

Boy's Life, Robert McCammon, 608 p.

One of my all-time favorite novels. The story of a boy growing up in a town where things are not as perfect and peaceful as they seem. A very easy, hard to put down read.

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? This book will especially appeal to girls.

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. This is a great story of reliance and love in the face of calamity.

Tomorrow When the War Began John Marsden, 304 p.

A group of Australian teenagers band together to form a resistance movement to fight an invading army, after all the adults are rounded up by the enemy. The first in a long and hugely popular series.

### **Other Cultures:**

Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence Doris Pilkington, 160 p.

Three Australian aboriginal girls are taken away from their mothers and put in an orphanage to learn how to be white. This is the story of their escape and long journey back along the rabbit-proof fence to their mothers. A true story of the strength of the human spirit.

Whale Rider, Witi Ihimaera, 152 p.

A Maori girl in New Zealand is the only child eligible to be the next whale rider in her tribe. The only problem is, her great grandfather insists only a boy can ride the whales. Kahu sets out to prove him wrong in this easy to read novel.

**Sport:**

Keeper, Mal Peet, 225 p.

I haven't read this, but it has great reviews. A book for the footballers amongst you. If you like it, the author has written other books in the same. Part football story, part-growing up tale, and part ghost story, it will keep you reading.

Tangerine, Edward Bloor, 312 p.

A football meets strange happenings in town 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.