

St. Thomas More High School 2016 Summer Reading

Hello Everyone,

While the summer is a time to recuperate and enjoy time away from the stresses of school, too often our students do not find themselves in front of a book which challenges them intellectually, spiritually, and personally. Consequently, students return from summer break in a literary rut, which hinders them from immediately succeeding in their English classes. Therefore, beginning in the summer of 2016, the English Department is implementing required summer reading for all English classes for all grades. The novels chosen are relative to particular genres and origins associated with each English class. For example, sophomores will be reading an American author in preparation for their class in American Literature. In addition, the English Department has chosen novels which they believe are relative to the expected reading grade level and allow for students to form a connection to the characters and ideas in the novel. Finally, the English Department considered novels which would capture the reader's imagination, making this experience more enjoyable and engaging.

Novels may be purchased with ease at any book store, or students may go to their local library and check the book out. The department is not requiring any specific edition of the texts below. It is suggested that the students have the book for the first two weeks of school, as each class will have different formal assessments which will be explained during the first two or three days of the school year. Now, there is temptation for students to potentially skirt corners and watch the movie of a novel if it is available. Students are warned that movies often change plot elements and characters for different effects than the novel anticipates. Furthermore, the formal novel assessments will rely on student reading and work with the novel, not watching the movie.

Enjoy your summer vacation, and while you are relaxing on a beach, camping, or flying to your favorite vacation spot, pull out a book and immerse yourself in a fictional world. This assignment is also posted on the school website by clicking on the "Academics" tab and selecting the English Department page. If you have any questions, please contact either Mr. Dineen or Mr. Wolffersdorff.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dineen
kdineen@tmore.org

Mr. Wolffersdorff
ewolffersdorff@tmore.org

Novel Titles for 2016/2017 School Year

Incoming Freshmen (Class of 2020)

Lord of the Flies – William Golding

Incoming Sophomores (Class of 2019)

Into the Wild - Jon Krakauer

Incoming Juniors (Class of 2018)

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson

Incoming Seniors (Class of 2017)

Life of Pi - Yann Martel

Please note that students in AP Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition have their own separate, independent summer reading assignments and are not to complete the above assignment.