

The Masters School

2008 UPPER SCHOOL REQUIRED SUMMER READING

Below are the books for each grade's summer reading. Summer reading should be completed before school begins. Please bring the books and journal entries to the first day of classes. Seniors, please be prepared to write in class about your books.

GRADE NINE: Read *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman, and **one** book from the list below. Write a total of six journal entries—three for each book—according to the directions given below. Journal entries should be single-spaced pages (not entire notebooks); they can be typed (one page per entry) or neatly handwritten (two pages per entry).

Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury
Dune, Frank Herbert
Night, Elie Wiesel
**Call of the Wild*, Jack London
**A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving
Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte
Great Expectations or *David Copperfield*, Charles Dickens
A Separate Peace, John Knowles
**The Old Man and the Sea*, Ernest Hemingway
Stop Time, Frank Conroy
Cry, The Beloved Country, Alan Paton
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
**Animal Dreams* or *The Bean Trees*, Barbara Kingsolver
My Antonia, Willa Cather
**The Red Pony*, John Steinbeck
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain
The Hobbit, J.R.R. Tolkien
A Member of the Wedding, Carson McCullers
The Good Earth, Pearl Buck
Black Boy or *Native Son*, Richard Wright
Black Ice, Lorene Cary
Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson

* Starred books are suggested for ESL students. (Please read the book in English.)

1. After reading the first third of the novel, respond to the following:
 - a. Note the two-three most important characters in the book. Describe these characters and identify their specific traits.
 - b. Identify what you believe each character wants or desires most.
 - c. What is your personal response to these characters? Do you sympathize with any of these characters? Explain.
2. After reading the second third of the novel, respond to the following:
 - a. If you like the book, what is holding your attention, plot or character? Explain.
 - b. How would you describe the author's writing style? For example, does the author use minimal or ample description; does the writer employ suspense to hold your attention or is the focus character development; do you notice any repetition of words, images, character traits, or dialogue that seems an important part of the author's style; does the writer explain a character's actions and feelings or does he/she allow the reader to draw his/her own conclusions, etc?

- c. Is there anything you think the writer could be doing better? Explain.
3. After finishing the book, respond to the following:
- a. Did any of the characters change? Explain by referring to scenes/passages to support your answers.
 - b. What do you think are the major themes of this text (the major ideas)? Explain.
 - c. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

GRADES TEN AND ELEVEN:

Grade 10: Read *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie, and *1984* by George Orwell.

Grade 11: Read *A Good Man Is Hard to Find* by Flannery O'Connor, and *Goodbye, Columbus: and Five Short Stories* by Philip Roth (use the title story from each book for your response, but read all the stories).

Grades 10 and 11, choose **one** of the prompts below for **each** book. For each book, write two typed or four neatly handwritten single-spaced pages in response.

- Stop before the last chapter of your book. Write the last chapter yourself. Consider both the demands of the plot (how the author has set things up) and the demands of the readers (what sort of book this is and what conclusion would satisfy a reader).
- Take a character from this book and put him or her in the world of the other summer book. What would happen and how would that character react? Or, in a related vein, put that character in dialogue with a character from the other book. What would the two talk about? How would they react to each other?
- Write a letter to a friend about why she or he must (or must not) read this book. Be specific. Please do not write as if this were a text message (e.g., no “OMG, u gotta c this”).
- Write a book review. (A review is more than a simple expression of what you liked and didn’t like—you can find examples in newspapers and magazines.)
- Watch yourself as a reader and record some of your significant responses during the time you are reading: What do you find yourself liking or disliking? Are you reminded of anything else? What confuses you? What intrigues you? What surprises you?
- Choose a character from the book to compare and contrast with a character from the other.
- Discuss how a situation, character, or theme in the book relates to your own life.
- Write three discussion questions for yourself and respond to them.

GRADE 12: Read *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and “Here Is New York,” by E. B. White. (The White piece is available alone in a hardcover edition or in a paperback collection called *Essays of E. B. White*.) Adichie is long and White is short, so pace yourself accordingly. You do not need to write journal entries for your reading, but bring your books to the first day of classes and be prepared to write about them.

Seniors taking AP English should also read *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. Make sure to annotate and to take thorough notes outside the book so that you can readily access significant moments, passages, and details in the book.