

2019 CCDS Upper School English Summer Reading

This will be the first test of the semester. You will also be called upon to discuss these books in class.

Each grade will read the “required” book and choose one from the remaining options. The first major assessment of the school year will be summer reading. *nonfiction.

9th grade, two books:

***The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien**

Whisked away on an adventure by a wizard and dwarves, a complacent hobbit sets out for treasure but discovers a dark, menacing world and a magic ring.

Additionally, choose one of the following two:

***Does My Head Look Big in This*, Randa Abdel-Fattah**

Sixteen-year-old Amal decides to wear the hijab full-time and her world changes.

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie**

A young boy leaves his Spokane Indian reservation for an all-white school.

10th grade, two books:

Required: ***The Shadow of the Wind*, Carlos Ruiz Zafon**

A boy's magical journey through the secrets and shadows of postwar Barcelona in search of a mysterious author whose book has proved as dangerous to own as it is impossible to forget.

Additionally, choose one of the following three:

****Night* Elie, Wiesel**

The true story of life in and survival of the concentration camps in Nazi Germany during World War II.

***The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas**

After her friend is killed by a white police officer, the sole witness, whose life straddles the worlds of privilege and poverty, must testify before a grand jury that will decide whether to indict.

***We Were Liars*, E. Lockhart**

Lazy days of sticky lemonades on the roof and marathon Scrabble games give way to suspense, love, and good intentions gone wrong.

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Honors English Literature: In addition to these 2 selections, you must read ***The Handmaid's Tale*** by Margaret Atwood

11th grade, two books:

Required:

A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Hosseini

Three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny is told through the lives of two women.

Additionally, choose one of the following three:

Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel

A devastating flu pandemic arrives in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it comes to an end.

***Educated, Tara Westover,** In this memoir, a young girl, kept out of school until age 17, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

White Noise, Don DeLillo

A cloud of noxious chemicals and a world doomed by misused technology, artificial products and foods, and overpopulation.

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AP Literature Students: In addition to these 2 selections, you must read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

12th grade, two books:

Required:

The Underground Railroad, Colson Whitehead

A runaway slave on a grisly tour through the American South finds both freedom and mortal danger as she travels on a literal underground railroad.

Additionally, choose one of the following two:

The Life We Bury, Allen Eskens

A college student interviewing a dying Vietnam veteran—and a convicted murderer—unravels mysteries of the past.

Oryx and Crake, Margaret Atwood

In a near-future world the only human left on the planet scavenges and tends to his insect bites as he recalls in flashbacks how the world fell apart.

****Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail, Cheryl Strayed***

Alone and inexperienced, the author hikes more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert to Washington State.

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12 Honors Students: In addition to these 2 selections, you must read *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid