

Senior Summer Reading List 2010

World Authors

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.
Allende, Isabel. *House Made of Spirits*
Atwood, Nancy. *The Handmaid's Tale* or *Cat's Eye*.
Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*.
Bolt, Robert. *A Man for All Seasons*.
Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*.
Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*.
Burgess, Anthony. *A Clockwork Orange*.
Camus, Albert. *The Stranger* or *The Plague*
Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*.
de Pizan, Christine. *The Treasure of the City of Ladies: Or, The Book of Three Virtues*.
Desai, Anita. *In Custody*.
Dickens, Charles. *Hard Times, Oliver Twist, David Copperfield*.
Dinesen, Isak. *Out of Africa*.
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. *The Brothers Karamazov, Notes from the Underground*.
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *The Hound of the Baskervilles, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.
Forster, E. M. *A Passage to India*.
Ghosh, Amitav. *The Shadow Lines*.
Gordimer, Nadine. *The Late Bourgeois World*.
Joyce, James. *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man, The Dubliners*.
Kafka, Franz. *Amerika, The Trial*.
Kincaid, Jamaica. *Annie John*.
Mahfouz, Naguib. *The Beggar*.
Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*.
Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. *Love in the Time of Cholera, One Hundred Years of Solitude*.
Moore, Sir Thomas. *Utopia*.
Orwell, George. *1984*.
Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country*.
Shakespeare, William. *King Lear, Othello, Midsummer Night's Dream*.
Shute, Neville. *On the Beach*.
Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.
Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels*.
Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse, The Waves*.

American Authors

- Gruen, Susan. *Water for Elephants*.
McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*.
Proulx, E. Annie. *The Shipping News, Accordion Crimes*.
Rush, Ron. *Serena*.
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Player Piano, Slaughterhouse-Five, Cat's Cradle*.

Senior Summer Reading

The Assignment

Senior English focuses on world literature, or literature written by authors who are not American, but the summer reading list provides a short list of American authors. The town library will have some of these works available to you, but it is best to buy the books and highlight them, or keep notes. A recent popular reading strategy is to use post-it notes throughout the text. You are entering your last year of high school. You should know now the best way for you to read, analyze, and remember a text.

You will be required to write an essay similar to mid-terms and finals that you have taken before: One question, two days, scored by two teachers, using the 1-6, 1-4 rubric with which you have become familiar. The question will be posed in such a way that you will be required to reference the work you read over the summer. Other work will commence immediately, so make sure you have this done for the opening of your last year in high school. Remember, this will constitute a major grade for your first quarter. Start the year off successfully rather than by being behind.

Furthermore

Start looking into colleges or making plans of some nature as to what will be on your horizon this time next year. Deadlines for Early Action come quickly. Don't sell yourself short. There is a lot of money out there to help your financial situation, as long as you have decided to be a good student. Be an adult and realize how fast time has moved since you got to PHS and now it is almost over. Time goes quickly, so you have to start planning now. Talk to your parents. Are you bound for a four-year school? Community college? A trade school? Start to figure this out. Get on line. Check things out. If you need to take or retake the SAT, you should buy a practice book. No matter what anyone says, the SAT is still very important in college admissions. The good news is that you can get much better at it if you seriously practice. Go to www.collegeboard.com and establish an account. There is also a set of electronic SATs on this site that you can purchase. It might seem expensive, but there is no comparison between the \$70 you should spend on the test-prep material and what good scores might get you by getting into a school that has a large endowment.

The best practice for the Critical Reading portion of the SAT is...reading. However, very few passages are fiction. Most are cultural critiques, scientific theory, or historical analysis...articles you can read in *National Geographic*, *Time*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Discover*, the Ideas section of the Sunday *Boston Globe*, all over the place. If you force yourself to read because you want to get better, then along the way you'll enjoy it, and then you'll get good at it. Think about this...seriously...how else have you ever got to be good at anything? I mean *anything*. You get out there and do it. You can do the same with reading.

Anyway, enjoy your summer and read more than but at least one of the books on the list.zx