

St. Joseph Central Catholic High School

Summer 2015 Reading List

11th Grade (Regular and Honors)

Required Reading: *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, by Jonathan Safran Foer

- All incoming juniors are required to read this book. We will discuss the text, and I will assess your understanding of it at the beginning of the school year.

Selected Reading: All incoming juniors are required to read **at least one book** from the selected reading list below. Attached is a written assignment you must complete and hand in on the **first** day of school for the book you choose. No late work will be accepted.

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| • <i>Leaves of Grass</i> | Walt Whitman |
| • <i>Walden Pond</i> | Henry David Thoreau |
| • <i>Red Badge of Courage</i> | Stephen Crane |
| • <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> | Lorraine Hansberry |
| • <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> | Ernest Gaines |
| • <i>Gone with the Wind</i> | Margaret Mitchell |
| • <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> | John Steinbeck |
| • <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> | Charles Dickens |
| • <i>Things Fall Apart</i> | Chinua Achebe |
| • <i>Farewell to Arms</i> | Ernest Hemingway |
| • <i>The Things They Carried</i> | Tim O'Brien |
| • <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> | Ray Bradbury |
| • <i>Angela's Ashes</i> | Frank McCourt |
| • <i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i> | David Guterson |
| • <i>Wuthering Heights</i> | Emily Bronte |
| • <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof or Death of a Salesman</i> | Tennessee Williams |
| • <i>Silas Marner</i> | George Eliot |
| • <i>The Namesake</i> | Jhumpa Lahiri |
| • <i>Native Son</i> | Richard Wright |
| • <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> | Nathaniel Hawthorne |
| • <i>Macbeth or Julius Caesar</i> | William Shakespeare |
| • <i>Fellowship of the Ring</i> | JRR Tolkien |
| • <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> | Jane Austen |
| • <i>The Help</i> | Kathryn Stockett |
| • <i>Water for Elephants</i> | Sara Gruen |
| • <i>Ender's Game</i> | Orson Scott Card |
| • <i>House Rules</i> | Jodi Picoult |
| • <i>The Lovely Bones</i> | Alice Sebold |
| • <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> | Betty Smith |
| • <i>Jane Eyre</i> | Charlotte Bronte |
| • <i>This Side of Paradise or The Beautiful and the Damned</i> | F. Scott Fitzgerald |

Summer Selected Reading Assignment

*You may not use Sparknotes or any other similar internet/book source for the completion of this assignment. This includes copying directly, paraphrasing or just getting ideas from such a source. If this is done, it will result in a zero on the assignment and a meeting with the honor committee. This is supposed to be your original work; not the work of a published English professional. These are your ideas and thoughts.

Directions: Complete this assignment for your selected reading book. The assignment is due on the first day of school. If you turn it in late, you will lose 5% off of your total grade for every day it is late. I will not accept the assignment after three days. There is also an option for some extra credit.

Complete each of the following 2 sections. They must be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12pt. font with 1 inch margins. 11th and 12th graders - use MLA format/heading.

1. (50%) As you read the book, complete at least **5 reader's responses**. Your responses should not include plot summary. Assume I wrote the book, so you don't need to fill me in on it. Responses should include, but are not limited to, ideas such as: characterization (how characters evolve throughout the book), themes (larger ideas the author is trying to express/how the book relates to life), the author's talent/craft, use of literary techniques (symbolism, irony, foreshadowing, plot twists, figurative language, etc...), and the like. In addition, you may also comment on something specific that you like or dislike about the book. Think of it as a journal that you are keeping as you read. Your responses should be written in sentence form and include **a minimum of 5 sentences each**. Although these must be typed when turned in, feel free to respond in a notebook or on post-its as you read and then later transfer these thoughts to a word processor.

2. (50%) Identify what you feel are the **5 most important passages** from the book or **5 passages you like the best**. This could be for a number of reasons: character development, well written prose/dialogue, theme development, symbolism, etc. The passage may be a phrase, sentence, or group of sentences / piece of dialogue. For each of the passages, write out the full passage with appropriate quotation marks and page citation. After the passage, analyze its importance to the book as a whole. Again, do not summarize the plot but give an analysis that explains why this passage is important to understanding the work as a whole. Or, write why you like it. **Each analysis should be a minimum of 5 sentences**. I suggest you keep track of passages as you read which could possibly end up as a final choice. This way, when you finish, you can just glance back at the passages you selected and choose the 5 most important/best.

***Extra Credit Option*:** Do the same assignment for your required reading book.