

OUR LADY OF MERCY

SUMMER READING LIST – June 2009

GRADES 7 & 8

Our Lady of Mercy Summer Reading List is a way of preparing incoming seventh and eighth grade students for the many themes, genres, and literary works that will be covered in their English classes during the school year. In selecting these novels, consideration has been given to such factors as readability, developmental readiness (social/life experience as well as intellectual), issues that appeal to middle school females, connection with concepts covered in social studies, and multicultural issues. Parents are encouraged to read the novels and discuss them with their daughters. All books on this list are available at your local library.

Seventh Grade

Required Reading:

Walk Two Moons – Sharon Creech
The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963 – Christopher Paul Curtis

Suggested Reading:

These titles are offered as suggestions in connection to the themes that will be covered in the ELA curriculum.

Kira-Kira – Cynthia Kadohata
Criss Cross – Lynne Rae Perkins
Heir Apparent – Vivian Vande Velde

Eighth Grade

Required Reading:

Hope Was Here – Joan Bauer
The Devil's Arithmetic – Jane Yolan

Suggested Reading:

These titles are offered as suggestions in connection to the themes that will be covered in the ELA curriculum.

The Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank
Elsewhere – Gabrielle Zevin
Stargirl – Jerry Spinelli

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GRADE 9 – Regents and Honors

Expanding to encompass more than just reading, Our Lady of Mercy Ninth Grade Summer Humanities List is a way of preparing incoming freshmen for the many settings, genres, and literary works that they will study in the World Literature I course. The suggested videos are meant to help students gain insights into the styles, language, music and social customs of a particular era that they will study in depth through the novels, short stories, and poetry during the school year. Parents are encouraged to read the books and watch the suggested videos and discuss them with their daughters. Students will be assessed on their summer reading at the beginning of the school year. All books and videos are available at the library.

Required Reading:

Jim the Boy – Tony Earley

Shabanu – Suzanne Fisher Staples

Inside the Walls of Troy – Clemence McLaren

It is suggested that students view the following videos:

Romeo and Juliet – directed by Franco Zeffirelli

Sense and Sensibility – starring Emma Thompson

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GRADE 10 – Regents and Honors

Our Lady of Mercy Tenth Grade Summer Humanities List is designed to help prepare sophomores for the study and appreciation of the varied settings, genres, and literary works that will be covered in the World Literature II Regents and Honors English courses. All required and suggested books and videos are intended to help students gain insights into the styles, language, traditions, and social customs of a particular era that will be studied in more depth through novels, short stories, and poetry during the school year. Parents are encouraged to read the novels and discuss them with their daughters. All students will be required to take a summer reading test based on the works listed below during the first full week of school in September. It is imperative that these books be read carefully with attention to detail and literary devices; therefore, it would be best for students to purchase the books.

World Literature II – Regents

Required Reading:

Sister of My Heart – Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
Summer of My German Soldier – Bette Greene
Rebecca – Daphne du Maurier

World Literature II – Honors

Required Reading:

Girl with the Pearl Earring – Tracy Chevalier
Rebecca – Daphne du Maurier
The Scarlet Pimpernel – Baroness Orczy
The Chosen – Chaim Potok

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SUMMER READING LIST – June 2009
GRADE 11 – Regents and Honors

Our Lady of Mercy Eleventh Grade Summer Humanities List is designed to help prepare juniors for the study and appreciation of the varied settings, genres, and literary works that will be covered in the American Literature Regents and Honors courses. All required and suggested books and videos are intended to help students gain insights into the styles, language, traditions, and social customs of a particular era that will be studied in more depth through novels, short stories, and poetry during the school year. All students will be required to take a summer reading test based on the works listed below during the first full week of school in September. It is imperative that these books be read carefully with attention to detail and literary devices; therefore, it would be best for students to purchase the books.

American Literature – Regents

****Required Reading:**

The Secret Life of Bees – Sue Monk Kidd

The Bean Trees – Barbara Kingsolver

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – Betty Smith

****One book from the following list is also required:**

Black Like Me – John Howard Griffin

The Color of Water – James McBride

American Literature – Honors

****Required Reading:**

Catcher in the Rye – J. D. Salinger

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – Betty Smith

****One book from the following list is also required:**

The Awakening – Kate Chopin

The Old Man and the Sea – Ernest Hemingway

Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain

The Color Purple – Alice Walker

****One book from the following list is also required:**

An American Childhood – Annie Dillard

Black Like Me – John Howard Griffin

High Tide in Tucson – Barbara Kingsolver

Travels with Charley – John Steinbeck

Suggested Viewing for both Regents and Honors:

Gone With the Wind

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SUMMER READING LIST – June 2009

GRADE 12 Regents Level – Critical Approaches

Our Lady of Mercy Twelfth Grade Summer Humanities List is designed to help prepare seniors for the study and appreciation of the varied settings, genres, and literary works that will be covered in the Critical Approaches course. All required and suggested books and videos are intended to help students gain insights into the styles, language, traditions, and social customs of a particular era that will be studied in more depth through novels, short stories, and poetry during the school year. All students will be required to take a summer reading test based on the works listed below during the first full week of school in September. It is imperative that these books be read carefully with attention to detail and literary devices; therefore, it would be best for students to purchase the books.

****Required Reading:**

The Third Witch by Rebecca Reisert **OR** *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks

Both of these novels by contemporary writers take you back into life in old England. Did you ever wonder about those witches in *Macbeth*? Reisert vividly depicts castle life, from bottom up, to give you her ideas. Brooks offers her rendition of an historic outbreak of the Black Death in a little village north of London in 1665. The ending will surprise you!

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte – (B&N ed) ISBN 978-1-59308-128-7

OR *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

At a time when *Twilight* and other vampire novels are so popular, you may find a special kinship with these classic Gothic novels of 19th century England, written by major Victorian novelists with the intent to scare and haunt you!

What We Keep by Elizabeth Berg

Berg dedicated this book “To women who risk telling the hard truths.” As Ginny is flying across the US, she flashes back to her youth, only to find a shockingly different view of reality when she meets her mother after 35 years of separation. This fast read will make you ask what you keep!

****One of the following books about women’s lives in other cultures is also required:**

A Thousand Splendid Suns – Khaled Hosseini (fiction: Afghanistan)

Princess – Jean Sasson (non-fiction: Saudi Arabia)

Women of the Silk – Gail Tsukiyama (fiction: China)

The Space Between Us – Thrity Umrigar (fiction: India)

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AP English

Our Lady of Mercy Twelfth Grade Summer Humanities List is designed to help prepare seniors for the study and appreciation of the varied settings, genres, and literary works that will be covered in the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course. All required and suggested books and videos are intended to help students gain insights into the styles, language, traditions, and social customs of a particular era that will be studied in more depth through novels, short stories, and poetry during the school year. All students will be required to take a summer reading test based on the works listed below during the first full week of school in September. It is imperative that these books be read carefully with attention to detail and literary devices; therefore, it is highly recommended that students purchase the books and make notations in them as they read.

Required Reading:

Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe
Sailing Alone Around the Room – Billy Collins
Snow Falling on Cedars – David Guterson
The Poisonwood Bible – Barbara Kingsolver

Major works we will be covering during the 2009 – 10 school year:

In addition to an in-depth critical examination of the summer reading list books and a number of selections from our textbook, our study of literature will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following major works in the order in which they appear below:

How to Read Literature Like a Professor – Thomas C. Foster
Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad
The Sun Also Rises – Ernest Hemingway
Hamlet – William Shakespeare
Beloved – Toni Morrison
The Things They Carried – Tim O'Brien

We may also read and discuss *Cat's Eye* – Margaret Atwood and/or *Death of a Salesman* – Arthur Miller.

In addition, each of you will become our “resident expert” on an author of your choice from a list of recommended authors and books for pre-college reading. I will be providing details for this assignment during the first quarter of the school year.