

English Department
Hamden Hall Country Day School
1108 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT. 06517

Middle & Upper School

Summer Reading 2010

Introduction

Hamden Hall expects each student to read at least **four books** (gaining four credits) during the summer months. If students have already read the selections listed for a particular favorite author, they may select another book written by that author. Occasionally, books of notable length will be noted as "counts twice"; these texts gain students two credits. In September, students will write about the books that they have read as a normative part of the curriculum.

The best way to choose summer books is to travel to a major book outlet in the area. Then, students should browse promising titles and choose those which begin to speak to them. Style, after all, is inextricably linked with plot and should be its best vehicle, and a tangible source of appeal to the reader. Happy Reading!

Note Well: ALL SCHOOL TEXT! (All students Grades 7-12 are reading the following text):

Hickam October Sky (please purchase under this title—top-listed at www.bn.com (Barnes & Noble)) After seeing the Russian launch of Sputnik in 1957, Homer dreams of building rockets for the newly formed NASA. He lives in Coalwood, West Virginia, where only a few boys leave town on football scholarships. A touching, vivid true story of fighting for one's dreams.

Note: The Following Courses Also Have Required Summer Reading Texts (please see next page): Chemistry, A.P. Chemistry, A.P. English Literature, A.P. U.S. History, A.P. European History, A.P. Biology

- Also:
1. There are Required Texts for Academic Decathlon team members.
 2. There are Recommended Texts for Physics and Astronomy.
 3. There Is a Recommended Section for Advanced Readers (see page 3).

Foreign Language Department Notes:

1. French students should consider a recommended title from the Departmental List at their particular grade level.
2. Spanish, Latin: Titles suitable for learning more about cultures in these areas of students' foreign language study are included in the grade level lists. **These English language texts are marked with two asterisks (**).**

LISTINGS OVERVIEW

Sections:

1. Required Texts (for particular classes)—Below!

1A. Literary Classics for Advanced Readers

General Elective Lists:

2. Entering Grades 7 and 8
3. Entering Grades 9 and 10
4. Entering Grades 11 and 12
5. Departmental Listings: A-E (Fine Arts- Science)
6. Alternative Lifestyles

1. Required Texts (for particular classes)

AP English Literature: Ondaatje Anil's Ghost

AP European History: Kennedy Rise & Fall of the Great Powers

AP U.S. History: Ellis The Founding Brothers, The Revolutionary Generation

AP Biology: Carroll The Making of the Fittest: DNA and the Ultimate Forensic Record of Evolution

AP Chemistry: Johnson The Invention of Air

Chemistry: Johnson The Invention of Air

Academic Decathlon Team: Seven Titles (a-g) (check the web for many of these):

- a. Steinbeck The Grapes of Wrath
- b. Terkel Selections from Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression
(Interviews with E. Y. "Yip" Harburg and Cesar Chavez only)
- c. LeSueur "Woman on the Breadlines"
- d. Hurston "The Gilded Six-Bits"
- e. Faulkner "Barn Burning"
- f. Sandburg Poem "The People, Yes"
- g. Hughes Poem "Let America Be America Again"

1A. Literary Classics for Advanced Readers

Entering 7/8

Alcott Little Women The classic tale of Jo March, middle sister who doesn't want to fit into a woman's conventional role in 1860's New England . Jo's heroic personal determination to become an acclaimed writer forms the spine of this multifaceted study of family life.

Poe Selected Stories For those who don't mind a few chills amid summer sun, Poe's stories are unequalled for descriptions of a lucid horror as it registers in the mind of a fully attentive narrator. All-time favorites include *Murders in the Rue Morgue*, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, and *The Black Cat*.

Entering 9/10

Bronte Jane Eyre

The classic story of an orphan abused by a cruel aunt who must discover her own willpower and make her own way, occasionally through obdurate resistance, to a life of independence and promise.

Dickens A Tale of Two Cities In this classic fictional account of the French Revolution, displaced nobleman Charles Darnay falls in love with Lucy Manette, daughter of a long-term prisoner of the infamous Bastille prison. Set in both London and Paris, this text renders an unforgettable panorama of a bloody (guillotine), tempestuous time. The supporting cast includes such notables as the murderous Madame DeFarge and the brilliant wastrel Sydney Carton. Truly a vivid read, memorable read.

Entering 11/12

Conrad The Secret Agent One of this great writer's indisputable masterpieces, this is the somewhat sordid tale of an "agent of a European Power" who is told to stir up trouble in England by blowing up the Greenwich Observatory. Many plot points devolve as Verloc's family is drawn into his scheme.

**Garcia-Marquez One Hundred Years of Solitude (counts twice) The NY Times calls this the best novel of the '70's and '80's; the roots of South American history receive magical, mythical treatment in the succeeding generations of the Buendia family. A rewarding read for strong readers.

**Garcia-Marquez Love in the Time of Cholera (counts twice) A magical, intense tale of true love that waits decades to come to fruition by the great Colombian Nobel Prize winner. For the avid reader!

Steinbeck The Grapes of Wrath (counts twice) In this classic novel of the 1930's dust bowl in the Midwest, the Joad family loses their farm to the bank and heads west to California, "the land of plenty", along with millions of other displaced Midwesterners, only to find too much labor and not enough work. This is that rare item, a novel which doubles as an authentic social document of its times. Highly recommended.

2. Entering Grades 7 and 8

Both Grades Must Read the All-School Book (see p. 1)

Adams The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

"Arthur Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction; Adams is a master of intelligent satire, barbed wit, and comedic dialogue." [amazon.com]

Alexander The Book of Three (series)

"Taran, assistant pig keeper, grumbles with frustration at home in the hamlet Caer Dallben; he yearns to go into battle like his hero, Prince Gwydion. Before the story is over, he has met his hero and fought the evil leader who threatens the peace of Prydain, the Horned King." [amazon]

**Alvarez Before We Were Free

This novel's twelve-year-old Dominican narrator tells of her experiences living in hiding under a brutal dictatorship and then emigrating to the U.S.

Asimov The Fantastic Voyage

A science fiction story about travel inside the body; a thriller of a ride!

Ayer Parallel Journeys

A young Jewish girl and a member of the Hitler youth, growing up several miles from each other, travel parallel paths during World War II. A prize-winning recent publication.

Beals Warriors Don't Cry

An account of the historic integrating of Little Rock 's Central High written by one of the nine African-Americans who formed the first wave.

Bradbury Something Wicked This Way Comes

A now classic sci-fi thriller featuring a palpable atmosphere of foreboding and suspense.

Burg A Thousand Never Evers

In rural Mississippi in 1963, Addie Ann Pickett worships her older brother, whether he's around or not, whether he's at home or—gone. Who's responsible? Can Addie Ann, her mother and Uncle Bump struggle on? A 2008 issue with a strong following.

Colfer Artemis Fowl (series)

A fantasy world in which the fairies are real, and so are the trolls and gnomes-- they're armed with electronic weapons, and dangerous. Recently well-received by Independent Booksellers.

Christie Murder on the Orient Express

In this classic novel of murder and sleuthing in the grand style, Christie's Hercule Poirot is sure to track down his man—or woman. (This is not a clue!)

Fisher Snow-Walker

"Long ago, the evil sorceress Gudrun the Snow-Walker banished her powerful son, Kari, to a distant castle, then seized control of the Jarl's people. Now the Jarl's subjects, Jessa and Thorkil, seek to restore the kingdom to its rightful ruler." [amazon.com]

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Herriot All Creatures Great and Small (series)

A set of humorous animal stories, set in the English countryside, told by one of the greatest literary vets of all time; read the sequels, too.

Hersey Hiroshima

The moving stories of Japanese lives that were decimated by the atomic blast of 1945.

Hinton The Outsiders

A classic Texas story about the clash of gangs, the importance of brotherhood, and the bonds of friendship.

Horowitz Point Blank (series)

"Sixteen boys in a boarding school suddenly turn into model students. It's up to 14-year-old Alex Rider to find out why someone has engineered it all in a bid to take over the world of Point Blank." [amazon. com]

Houston Farewell to Manzanar

In 1942, seven-year-old Jeanne Wakatsuki and her family are relocated to the Japanese internment camp of Manzanar. Their experience there contains elements of both tragedy and comedy, and this text gives a vivid picture of what life was like for this family and others whose lives were dislocated.

Keyes Flowers for Algernon

This classic tells the tale of Charlie Gordon, a mentally handicapped man who becomes the subject of an experiment to create dramatic increases in IQ in mice, first, and then humans. The results are both heartfelt and riveting as Charlie embarks on a whole new life.

L'Engle A Wrinkle in Time

Two siblings take a perilous journey in search of their missing father through a universe threatened by a dark power. A classic tale, winner of many literary awards.

London The Call of the Wild

Jack London's most famous outdoor adventure, as man and dog fight to survive the savage difficulties of a Canadian winter.

Meyer Gideon's People

When Isaac Litvak, an Orthodox Jew, finds himself stranded in the home of an Amish family, things begin to get complicated. Will Isaac survive the clash of cultures?

Mikaelsen Touching Spirit Bear

Cole Matthews, a violent juvenile delinquent, is sent to Alaska instead of to jail. A story about courage, and the power within us all to change our ways.

**Mohr, El Bronx Remembered

Classic short stories about the Puerto Rican immigrant experience set in the Bronx during the 1950's.

**Myers Scorpions

A strong friendship that bridges their cultures holds Jamal and Tito together as they struggle to survive on the harsh streets of New York .

Paolini Eragon (series)

"Eragon, a young farm boy, finds a marvelous blue stone in a mystical mountain place. It hatches into a beautiful sapphire-blue dragon, of a race thought to be extinct..." [amazon] And on the legend travels!

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Paul Catapult: Harry and I Build a Siege Wagon

Jim Paul decides one day that he has to build a catapult to shoot rocks into the Pacific Ocean. Soon he comes to look for better ammunition inside his own head.

Paulsen Canyons

Meet Brennan Coles, a boy who has few interests besides running-- until he comes upon the skull of an Apache warrior, and destinies intertwine.

Rowling Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (series)

When Harry gets entered in the Triwizard tournament at Hogwart's school, he faces many trials and challenges along the way. Read the earlier and later titles in this series, as well.

Sachar Holes

A boy who is innocent of stealing a famous ballplayer's shoes is sent to Camp Green Lake in Texas . Fun there consists of digging 6' x 6' holes in 100-degree heat. A new classic.

Tolkein The Lord of the Rings (trilogy-- each text counts once)

If you liked The Hobbit, you'll want to continue reading about Tolkein's bumptious hobbits and other creatures, larger and commonly more fearsome. (If you haven't read The Hobbit, read this first.)

Voight Homecoming

"Abandoned in the middle of Connecticut, four children have to find their way to their great-aunt's house in Bridgeport. This is harder than it sounds, and their journey continues to an unexpected conclusion-- and some surprising discoveries about their history." [amazon]

White The Sword and The Stone

The much-acclaimed story of King Arthur, his adventures and preparations to be king.

3. Entering Grades 9 and 10

All Students Must Read the All-School Book (see p. 1)

Achebe Things Fall Apart

In this celebrated novel, an African tribe struggles to maintain its identity in the face of the arrival of colonizing Europeans. The most renowned novel of this great 20th-century Nobel prize-winner.

Achebe The Arrow of God

African tribal life is rendered here with vibrant detail and sympathetic depth. A sequel to Things Fall Apart.

Brown Crossing Over Jordan

From the end of the Civil War to the early twenty-first century, this novel describes a haunting drama that slavery set in motion. Truly a panoramic novel.

Clarke Childhood's End

Science fiction with a big surprise in its midst about past visitors to Earth; a very well-imagined tale.

Crane The Red Badge of Courage

Young Henry Fleming feels that it is necessary to join the Union army during the Civil War to see if he can face his fears, and become a hero. A classic American novel.

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Dostoevsky The Adolescent

Arkady Dolgoruky becomes involved in a scandal involving blackmail, and a very important letter. This is a lot for an adolescent to handle, but Arkady sees no way out. A landmark work by one of the greatest novelists the world has ever known.

DuMaurier Rebecca

A windswept romance of a young woman who marries her employer, a rich gentlemanly widower-- then the intrigue begins. Written in 1938, this has become a classic prized for its characters and epic suspense.

Earley Jim the Boy

A Southern boy is brought up by three bachelor uncles and experiences a new route through adolescence to manhood. Recently published and well-received.

**Fuentes The Good Conscience

A prominent family in Guanajuato struggles with questions of conscience and personal integrity. An interesting novel of modern Mexico by a world-famous author!

Gaines A Lesson Before Dying

The story of an elderly African-American man accused of a crime who finds himself in court facing prejudice and stereotypes one final time. A highly praised 1993 issue.

Gies Anne Frank Remembered

An account of the Frank family, told by a woman who helped to keep their lives secret during their years of seclusion from the Nazis.

Goldberg Bee Season

This recent novel describes a family that fractionates as each member pursues his/her own separate goals.

Herbert Dune (counts twice)

One of the true sci-fi classics; a story of survival, and political intrigue on a remote planet.

Hesse Siddhartha

This classic "coming of age" tale traces the spiritual journey of a young Buddhist man in India who has to choose among a life of asceticism, a career of physical pleasures, or an uncharted middle path.

Hoffman Second Coming

A man raised by wolves is forced to join a human community and ultimately decide how he wants to live his life.

Huxley Brave New World

In many ways an eerily accurate work of early twentieth century science fiction; a chilling vision of a totally gene-engineered future is brought fully to life.

Junger The Perfect Storm

"The book weaves the history of the fishing industry and the science of predicting storms into the everyday lives of those aboard the Andrea Gail and of others who would soon find themselves in the fury of one of the biggest storms of the last fifty years." [amazon.com]

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Kingsolver The Bean Trees

An adolescent girl travels out West adventurously, acting as mother to an Indian child and caregiver to refugees. A moving tale.

Kinsella Shoeless Joe

The dream of an Iowa farmer yields a mystical crop: past baseball greats return from "the beyond" to play again. A novel for baseball lovers and believers in the power of dreams.

Klein All But My Life

A gripping story of the friendship of two girls set against the inhumanity of the Holocaust.

LeGuin A Wizard of Earthsea (series)

This classic work of science fiction features the art of wizardry and the quest of Ged, a young man who aspires to such mastery. LeGuin's world is vivid, imagistic, and unforgettable. (If you like this title, read the other two novels in this trilogy.)

McBride The Color of Water

The autobiography of a black man's childhood with his white mother in Harlem, NYC, and his coming to terms with his own identity and the predicament of race. A highly acclaimed recent publication.

Morgan Mutant Message Down Under

The tale of an authority on Aborigines who gets abducted by her subjects and taken on a three-month walkabout of the Australian Outback. Quite a story!

Opdyke Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer

This inspirational memoir of a young Catholic girl illustrates acts of love and courage that cast light into the darkness of the Holocaust.

Potok My Name is Asher Lev

A very true-to-life story of an artistic boy whose talents and aspirations clash with the old-world values of his Hasidic father. A much-honored coming-of-age tale.

Renault The King Must Die

Recommended for all Ninth Grade History students. The Theseus myth-- labyrinth, minotaur, and rise to power-- comes to life in this modern retelling.

Selvadurai Cinnamon Gardens

Set in the beautiful garden that is Sri Lanka, this novel details the life of an indigenous family during the struggle for independence in the early part of the twentieth century.

Spark The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie

At the Marcia Blaine School in Edinburgh, a much admired teacher breaks the rules and inspires great loyalty from her students.

Vonnegut Slaughterhouse-Five

A shell-shocked veteran of World War II time-travels to the distant planet of Tralfamadore in this classic sci-fi novel about the burdens of war and the eventual blessings of survival.

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Wolff This Boy's Life

The gripping tale of a young boy's struggle to attain manhood in the face of a demanding, abusive stepfather.

4. Entering Grades 11 and 12

All Students Must Read the All-School Book (see p. 1).

**Allende The Stories of Eva Luna

The author of the acclaimed *House of the Spirits* weaves more of her reality-based magic in these stories involving the complexities of Chilean culture.

**Allende Daughter of Fortune

A young Chilean woman raised in an upper-class British household heads for California during the gold-rush era to find her lover, who is pursuing his fortune.

**Arenas The Doorman

Juan, a Cuban refugee and overzealous doorman at a Manhattan luxury building, wants to help each tenant open the "door to true happiness." The tenants resist enlightenment while their surreal pets plan for their own liberation. A surreal allegory for strong readers.

**Alvarez In the Time of the Butterflies

Four sisters narrate their lives and political awakening during the time of Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic. Based on a true story.

**Altamirano El Zarco-- La Navidad en las Montanas

A classic Mexican "charro" novel from which Zorro's popular character and mission can be traced.

Ansary West of Kabul, East of New York

This autobiography of a young Afghani living in New York describes in detail the author's attempts to bridge two very different cultures. An appropriate read for students who like to give a human face to our world's political struggles, and wars.

Atwood Cat's Eye

A contemporary woman returns to her Canadian hometown and remembers being an adolescent girl amid the competitive meanness of her peers.

Barker Border Crossing

"Can people change?" The young man who asks this is Danny Miller, convicted killer out on parole. The man he questions helped to convict him. A gripping work of fiction about the recent Irish "Troubles" by the prize-winning author of *Regeneration*.

**Borges Ficciones

First published in 1945, these short stories remain influential today. Philosophy, labyrinths, mirrors, imaginary encyclopedias, detective stories, and scholarly commentaries on nonexistent books-- Borges brings them all together with stunning plot twists and surprises. For the adept reader.

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Boyle Talk Talk

Boyle is a writer whose work often dwells in cynical wit, this is an exception. Dana Halter, a deaf, hard-working teacher, has her identity stolen by a professional, and she and her husband respond with an all-out counterattack. The resulting suspense doesn't lift through 200 pages of twists, turns and dogged pursuit.

Brown Manchild in the Promised Land

A young man's struggle to maintain his humanity amidst the trials of ghetto life. A classic account!

Brown The Da Vinci Code

When a murder takes place in the Louvre, a cryptographer and a symbologist must piece together the clues left behind. The clues take them all over the world in the search of the Holy Grail. This novel enjoyed a truly phenomenal sales supremacy.

Brownrigg Ten Women Who Shook the World

This new collection of delightful and imaginative short stories is both inventive and quick-witted, and may become this your favorite summer read!

Capote In Cold Blood

An unforgettable "real life novel" of two murderers: their crime, their wild flight, their being brought to justice. A classic of investigative writing, source of the recent hit movie, *Capote*. Not for the squeamish.

Cather My Ántonia

A lyrical account of life on the prairie in the nineteenth century as immigrants arrive to pursue new dreams, and to add to the rich fabric of American life.

Chevalier Girl with a Pearl Earring

In 17-century Delft, a girl gains entrance to the Vermeer house as a servant and witnesses intrigues and artistic creation in the great painter's life.

Danticat Breath, Eyes, Memory

The most influential novel of this young Haitian prodigy, this tale traces the life of a Haitian girl who must adjust from isolated island life to the joys and hardships of New York City. A vivid depiction, full of strong dialogue.

Doyle Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha

The Booker Prize winning first-person account of a young Dublin boy, told in view of his will to live and find joy even in the midst of a troubled family.

Erdrich The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse

A compelling account of Native American life by this great contemporary writer. This novel is for ambitious readers who value complex, magical prose.

Fink Journey

Two sisters flee the Holocaust by entering Germany in disguise. A splendidly constructed tale of survival.

Gates Colored People: A Memoir

A rich and varied depiction of African-American community life in a small West Virginia town on the eve of desegregation.

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Glitlin The Sixties: Years of Hope. Days of Rage

The definitive book on the 1960's. Covers everything from civil rights to Vietnam to the counter-culture.

Hegi Stones from the River

Trudi Montag is a dwarf in a German town who draws strength from her inability to fit into a conformist and repressive society. Soon Trudi becomes the town's conscience, leading it in unexpected directions.

Heller Catch-22 (counts twice)

The biggest bestseller of the 1960's, a blackly comic, very funny look at World War II through absurdist anti-war eyes.

Herr Dispatches (non-fiction)

A reporter's vivid account of his time covering the Vietnam War. Considered one of the best Vietnam texts.

Hesse Journey to the East

This simple, compact, profound novel provides an unmatched introduction to some of the essential tenets of Zen Buddhism and Eastern religions.

James Children of Men

In England in the year 2025, a child is a treasured possession, as rare as a precious jewel. A gripping suspense novel of survival in a low-fertility future. (We're not supposed to say that the recent film is great.)

Kingsolver Animal Dreams

Returning to her hometown, a young woman resumes her relationships with her father and sister in an effort to remake herself and to attain happiness.

Klein Woody Guthrie: A Life

A graphic, even exciting account of the ragtag beginnings of the father of modern American folk music. All the American heartland of the 1920's seems to be included in Guthrie's young life.

Krakauer Into Thin Air (non-fiction)

As 1996 dawned, it seemed that modern climbing equipment and derring-do had made Mount Everest a humbled, mortal peak. Here, in gripping language, the mountain exacts its revenge on three climbing parties.

Lamb I Know This Much Is True (counts twice)

Recent bestseller told by a troubled man who is burdened with the care and tending of a schizophrenic, deeply needy fraternal twin. Truly original, gripping fiction.

Malamud The Natural

The mythic, now classic account of Roy Hobbs, baseball natural whose varied luck is baffling and thrilling.

Martel Life of Pi

After an accident at sea, Piscine must survive on a small boat with a menagerie of animals, most notably a Bengal tiger. A tale at once picaresque and realistic, this is a justly well-received recent title (2002).

Miller Family Pictures

The narrator's family gathers around the handicapped child in their midst. This is a moving novel, full of the highs and lows of everyday life.

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Min Red Azalea

The story of a young girl in the time of Mao's "continuing revolution" who is lifted out of her agrarian commune and sent to Shanghai to be an actress because of her proletarian face. What ensues is hardly predictable, and in the telling, the mood of China under Mao is revealed.

Munro Lives of Girls and Women

Compellingly rendered sketches of contemporary women by this Canadian master stylist. These are rich, well-crafted short stories indeed!

Naylor Women of Brewster Place

A poignant story of black women, their friendships, their struggles, and their pain. A now-classic, prize-winning novel that is treasured by those who admire it.

**Neruda Selected Poems

Vivid poems from South America 's Nobel laureate; imagery both realistic and visionary abounds.

Pirsig Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

A man and his son take a journey of truth-telling and self-discovery through the American West on a vintage motorcycle. A now classic philosophic tale for the dedicated reader.

Rosenbaum Explaining Hitler

This nonfiction work roams the intellectual gamut in search of Hitler's authentic identity, polling a cast of analyzers of Hitler who have markedly different ideas about the nature of his evil.

Shilts, Greider And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic

The definitive history of the early Aids crisis from the early 70s to the late 80s chronicles the medical community's slow reaction to the problem, and the Regan Administration's slowness to respond. The best study of the onset of AIDS in America.

Styron Sophie's Choice

A woman survives the concentration camps and plunges into a hellish world of guilt and memory after gaining her freedom and coming to America.

Suskind A Hope in the Unseen

An African-American teenager travels from the ghetto to Brown University. A story of courage and determination in the face of great odds.

Tam The Bonesetter's Daughter

The great contemporary Chinese American novelist writes a biographical account of her mother and the secrets that she and her family kept amidst the turmoil of the 20th century.

Wells Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood

Sidda is having problems with her mother, Vivi. Vivi's friends encourage her to send her daughter a scrapbook. The story jumps around in history as we see Vivi and her friends as adults and children. A very popular story of mothers and daughters as antagonists and friends.

Wolff In Pharaoh's Army (non-fiction)

Small, finely crafted tales of the author's life during a year's tour of duty in the Vietnam war.

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Wolff Old School

"Tobias Wolff's *Old School* is at once a celebration of literature and delicate hymn to a lost innocence of American life and art. Set in a New England prep school in the early 1960s, the novel imagines a final, pastoral moment before the explosion of the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and the suicide of Ernest Hemingway." [Amazon]

5. Departmental Listings

5A. Recommended Fine Arts Department Titles

Theater Titles

Berry Voice and the Actor

This is a new, ground-breaking text on voice production training for aspiring actors.

Brook Shifting Point

Eclectic essays about theater, art, Shakespeare, life-- insightful!

Chekhov On the Technique of Acting

Essential techniques for those interested in acting. One of the best books ever written on the subject.

Johnstone Improv

An excellent book on the techniques of good improvisation.

Shurtleff Audition

Good suggestions and advice to help aspiring actors get the roles they want in audition. This features many insights and anecdotes collected from modern professional theater.

Sweet Something Wonderful Right Away

An account of the origins of seminal improv groups like Compass Theater and Second City which gave birth to SNL and Comedy Central. Full of rich anecdotes.

Sculpture Title

Lin Boundaries

This engrossing, amply illustrated book details the thinking and experimentation behind myriad projects including elemental sculptures, interiors, and furniture designed with an unusual degree of consideration for the user's needs. *Boundaries* reflects the same blend of analysis and intuition that marks Lin's projects.

Painting Titles

Albers Interaction of Color

This masterwork of one of the most influential artists of the 20th century is a brilliant explanation of the characteristics of color and the conditions under which certain optical phenomena occur.

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Henri The Art Spirit

This book details the essential beliefs and theories of a great teacher and American artist, Robert Henri. While this text embodies the entire system of his teaching, it also contains inspiration for those who are less consumed by art but consider the happiness to be found through the arts to be important.

Music Titles

Nelson Hip Hop America

Hip Hop America contains an overview of the history of hip-hop from its early days in the South Bronx.

Garland and Kahn Math and Music: Harmonious Connections

Fibonacci, fractals and more; Neat facts that show the relationship between math and music.

Reeves Creative Jazz Improvisation

For those who are interested in improvisation, this text offers a step-by-step introduction to the basics of improvisation and the associated scales and forms, and offers transcribed scales of masters of the Jazz idiom to help you to become a great improviser.

Piston Harmony

A technical book that details the basic fundamentals of Harmony.

Bernstein The Unanswered Question- Six Talks at Harvard

A classic study by Leonard Bernstein, late great composer and conductor, in which he discusses the philosophy of music of all types ranging from Hindu ragas to Beethoven.

5B. Recommended History Department Titles

[all citations from amazon.com]

AP European History

Dostoevsky The Brothers Karamazov (counts twice)

"[Dostoevsky is] at once the most literary and compulsively readable of novelists we continue to regard as great. This great novel stands as the culmination of his art-- his last, longest, richest and most capacious book."

Manchester A World Lit Only By Fire

"Manchester 's marvelously vivid popular history humanizes the tumultuous span from the Dark Ages to the Renaissance."

Remarque All Quiet on the Western Front

This text "explores the horrors of World War I through the eyes of a German soldier named Paul. Remarque attempts to teach the reader to understand the horror of war, the value of friendship and the absurdity of traditional values."

Turgenev Fathers and Sons

"When a young graduate returns home he is accompanied, much to his father and uncle's discomfort, by a strange friend who doesn't acknowledge any authorities or accept a single principle on faith. Turgenev's masterpiece of generational conflict continues to seem as fresh and outspoken today as it did to those in 1862 who first encountered its nihilistic hero."

Entering Grade 11 (U.S. History)

Appy Working Class War

This is an assessment of selective service (the draft) during the Vietnam War. This work of nonfiction is recommended for students taking the Vietnam seminar.

Morrison Jazz

"Jazz embraces the vibrant music and lifestyle of 1920s Harlem, an urban renaissance of opportunity and glamour. A novel of murder, hard lives, and broken dreams, Jazz sways with a lyric medley of voices and human consciousness."

Shaara The Killer Angels

"This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (1974) concerns the battle of Gettysburg and was the basis for the 1993 film *Gettysburg*. The events immediately before and during the battle are seen through the eyes of Confederate Generals Lee, Longstreet, Armistead, and Northern Colonel Joshua L. Chamberlain, and a host of others."

Sinclair The Jungle

"Originally published in 1906, *The Jungle* sent shock waves throughout the United States resulting in cries for labor and agricultural reforms. Sinclair was a devout Socialist who traveled to Chicago to document the working conditions of the world-famous stockyards. It is indeed rare that a book should have such a political impact, but it is apparent that his words form a political agenda of their own."

Entering Grade 10 (World Civilizations II)

Remarque All Quiet on the Western Front

"This 1929 novel served as Remarque's attempt to confront and ultimately rid himself of the graphic and haunting memories of his time serving in World War I. This novel with autobiographical overtones follows the experiences of Paul Baumer and his comrades as they struggle with both the physical and psychological effects of war on the Western Front." [amazon]

Sijie Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress

"This beautifully presented novella tracks the lives of two teens, childhood friends who have been sent to a small Chinese village for "re-education" during Mao's Cultural Revolution. Ultimately, the book is a lovely telling of a classic boy-meets-girl scenario, and the story movingly captures Maoism's attempts to imprison one's mind and heart, and the sheer delight that books can offer to a downtrodden spirit." [amazon]

Solzhenitsyn One Day in the life of Ivan Denisovich

"Solzhenitsyn's first book, this relentless novel is one of the most forceful artistic indictments of political oppression in the Stalin-era Soviet Union . The simply told story of a typical, grueling day of the title character's life in a labor camp in Siberia is a modern classic of literature and cemented Solzhenitsyn's international reputation upon publication in 1962."

Entering Grade 9 (World Civilizations I)

Mary Renault The King Must Die

"One of the most enduringly popular historical novels of our time, the story of young Theseus is a spellbinding blend of myth and imagination set in ancient Greece ."

Mary Stewart The Crystal Cave

"Born the illegitimate son of a Welsh princess, Merlin leads a perilous childhood, haunted by portents and visions. But destiny has great plans for this no-man's-son, taking him from prophesying before the High King to the crowning of Uther Pendragon, and the Round Table of Arthur -- king for once and always."

5C. Recommended Foreign Language Department Titles

Spanish and Latin students should browse the general list for appropriate titles for their language study. These texts are marked by two asterisks. All French students should consider reading the following titles at the appropriate grade level:

-for students entering French 4

Ayme Les Contes Rouges du Chat Perche (in French)

Seven tales taking place on a farm in the 1930s where two little French girls, Delphine and Marinette, live "ordinary" lives between harsh parents and talking farm animals.

-for students entering French 3

Pagnol Manon of the Spring

Jean's daughter, Manon, now all grown up, seeks revenge from the neighbors who ruined her parents. (English translation by W.E. van Heyningen)

-for students entering French 2

Pagnol Jean de Florette

A marvelous tale of greed and intolerance about a disabled city dweller who inherits a valuable piece of property in rural France. (English translation by W.E. van Heyningen)

-for students entering French 1

Verne Journey to the Center of the Earth

An intrepid band of scientists sets out to discover the secrets of the earth's core. What they depict is fantasy writing of the very first order! (This was written in the 1880's, before scientists knew that the center of the earth was molten ore.)

5D. Recommended Mathematics Department Titles

The following titles are recommended for the mathematically curious student.

Abbott Flatland

A romance in two dimensions. A now classic work of mathematical fiction.

Berlinski A Tour of the Calculus

An odd and tantalizing book by a writer who takes immense pleasure in this great mathematics tool, and strives to create this feeling in others.

Bronowski The Ascent of Man

A very readable history of mankind from the perspective of mathematics and science.

Burger Sphereland

A sequel to Flatland which provides a good beginning to understanding our Einsteinian Universe.

Kanibel The Man Who Knew Infinity

The life and achievements of a mathematical genius. What Mozart is to music, Ramanujan is to the development of mathematics.

Kline Mathematics in Western Culture

An interesting perspective on the history of mathematics.

Kline Mathematics and the Search for Progress

One of the first questions in this book is. "Is there a physical world independent of humanity?"

Peter Playing with Infinity

This book explains some important mathematical ideas using little algebra and no formulas.

Shushan, ed. Games Magazine: The Book of Sense and Nonsense Puzzles

As described.

Stokes Stretch, Bend and Boggle

A collection of logical problems for those who relish stimulation and challenge.

5E. Recommended Science Department Titles

Recommended for Physics, Advanced Physics, and Astronomy:

Born Restless Universe

The most readable account of modern physics ever written.

General Interest

Darwin Voyage of the Beagle

A fascinating journal of Darwin 's travels around the world and of his natural history observations, leading to his theory of Natural Selection.

p. 18, Hamden Hall Summer Reading 2010

Lorenze King Solomon's Ring

A delightful anecdotal book about animal behavior.

Mawer Mendel's Dwarf

The compelling tale of a distant relative of Gregor Mendel, who is born with achondroplastic dwarfism. For those with an abiding interest in genetics.

Preston The Hot Zone

'The dramatic story of an ebola virus outbreak in a suburban Washington, D.C. laboratory, with descriptions of historical epidemics of rare and lethal viruses. More hair-raising than anything Hollywood could think of, because it's all true.' [Amazon.com]

Sacks The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat

These case studies of neurologic patients with cognitive afflictions are fascinating, alarming, even humorous sometimes. The world is indeed what we make it, as these patient profiles of a learned neurologist give proof of.

Sayre Rosalind Franklin and DNA

This account presents an entirely different viewpoint on the discovery of DNA than Watson's. A true companion work to The Double Helix.

6. Recommended Alternative Lifestyle Titles

Boykin One More River to Cross

The personal reflections of President Clinton 's advisor on gay issues. Boykin's identity as an African-American also figures into this lively history.

Selvadurai Funny Boy

This novel, set in lush Sri Lanka, details the coming of age of a gay youth in vivid language which brings both the beautiful locale and the coming-to-awareness of this young man to life.

Enjoy Your Summer Reading!