

May 2010

**Shawnigan Lake School
English Department
Summer Reading Programme**

For Grade 10

The English Department Summer Reading Programme is designed to supplement and enhance our students' reading interests, competence and pleasure. The ability to read with care and discernment and to take pleasure in reading is essential not only for success in high school but is also a necessary step towards reaching larger goals and aspirations. Assigned reading should be completed by the end of the summer. Assessment of reading is handled in a variety of ways, short essays, personal reflections, projects, and oral presentations, to name a few. The required reading selections are starred (*). Students are strongly encouraged to choose an author or subject they genuinely enjoy. Enjoy your summer reading.

English 10 (Students are required to read *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins and one other work of their own choice)

****The Hunger Games***, by Suzanne Collins

Students fight for their lives, gladiator-style, in this brutal, apocalyptic vision of the future. (**Note:** English 10 students will begin the year with an examination of *The Hunger Games*.)

The Chrysalids, by John Wyndham

After a future nuclear holocaust, the community of Waknuk believes that mutants are the products of the Devil and must be stamped out. When the main character—a young boy named David—befriends a girl with a slight abnormality, he begins to understand the nature of fear and oppression. When he develops his own deviation, he must learn to conceal his secret. (**Note:** This novel is part of the grade 10 curriculum.)

To Kill A Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

We see the events of this powerful story unfold through the eyes of narrator Scout Finch, an inquisitive six year old, who encounters prejudice in the South as her father, Atticus Finch, defends a Negro accused of a serious crime. (**Note:** This novel is part of the English 10 curriculum.)

The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night Time, by Mark Haddon

This novel is a murder mystery of sorts—one told by an autistic fifteen-year-old who is mathematically gifted, socially hopeless, and raised by parents who can barely cope with their child's quirks.

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie, by Alan Bradley

When Flavia de Luce finds a body at the bottom of the garden behind her home, all her skills as an aspiring detective are suddenly engaged.

The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz, by Mordecai Richler

Canadian author Mordecai Richler created a novel that focuses on the young life of Duddy Kravitz, a poor Jewish boy raised in Montreal, Quebec. Family, friends, lovers, and teachers all contribute to Duddy's burgeoning obsession with power and money—desires embodied in the possession of land. Duddy soon believes land ownership to be life's ultimate goal and the means by which a man is made.

Into Thin Air, by Jon Krakauer

A non-fiction work detailing the author's expedition up Mount Everest on May 10, 1996, which turned catastrophic when eight climbers were killed on one day by a 'rogue storm'.

The Power of One, by Bryce Courtenay

While his childhood is marked by humiliation and abandonment, Peekay vows to survive—to become the welterweight champion of the world and dream heroic dreams. He embarks on an epic journey through a land of tribal superstition and modern prejudice, where he learns the power of words, the power to transform lives, and the mystical power that sustains him even when it appears that villainy rules the world.

The Illustrated Man (stories), by Ray Bradbury

These eighteen science fiction short stories explore the nature of humankind. While none of the stories have a plot or character connection with the next, a recurring theme is the conflict of the cold mechanics of technology and the intimacy of human nature. Each tale derives from a different tattoo on one man's body.

My Sister's Keeper, by Jodi Picoult

My Sister's Keeper is a poignant, uplifting, emotional, sad, triumphant, passionate, heart-wrenching and extremely powerful story about the Fitzgeralds, a family united in their love for each other but divided on exactly where the boundaries of family obligations, love and sacrifice should end. It is, ultimately, a story of two sisters, the unbreakable bond they share and how totally entwined they have been all their lives.

Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Zora Neale Hurston

Under "a blossoming pear tree" in West Florida, sixteen-year-old Janie Mae Crawford dreams of a world that will answer all her questions and waits "for the world to be made." But her grandmother, who has raised her from birth, arranges Janie's marriage to an older local farmer.

English 10 Enriched (Students are required to read *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles; one of either *Lord of the Flies* by Golding, *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Remarque or *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Twain; and two other works of their choice.) The first four starred (*) selections are part of the curriculum and will be studied during the year.

****A Separate Peace***, by John Knowles **(To be read by all students)**

During the confusing time of "coming of age," the novel deals with love, hate, war, and peace among a group of high school boys. Sharing a room at Devon in the summer before World War II, Gene and Finny form a complex bond of friendship that draws out both the best and worst of each boy.

****To Kill A Mockingbird***, by Harper Lee

We see the events of this powerful story unfold through the eyes of narrator Scout Finch, an inquisitive six year old, who encounters prejudice in the South as her father, Atticus Finch, defends a Negro accused of a serious crime.

****Animal Farm***, by George Orwell

One of Orwell's most famous works, it delivers a stinging criticism of communism in its beginnings. Set in a farmyard in England, the fable opens with the animals rebelling against terrible conditions to take control for themselves.

****The Chrysalids***, by John Wyndham

After a future nuclear holocaust, the community of Waknuk believes that mutants are the products of the Devil and must be stamped out. When the main character—a young boy named David—befriends a girl with a slight abnormality, he begins to understand the nature of fear and oppression.

Lord of the Flies, by William Golding

A group of boys stranded on a remote island organizes itself into a democracy for its members' survival and rescue. Soon, however, the boys' fear of the unknown drives them into a tribal war that reveals their emerging savagery. This fascinating story explores the nature of boys and relationships as well as themes of coming of age, civilized society vs. primitive society and the effects of fear on human behavior.

All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque

Germany's Iron Youth, represented by Paul Baumer and his friends, begin the war as teenagers sure of the justice of their cause and the glory that will be theirs. When these young men are confronted with trench warfare, dying in hellish agony, Paul must face the reality in which he finds himself and prepare for the world to which he will return, irrevocably changed.

A Bird in the House, by Margaret Laurence

A series of eight interconnected short stories narrated by Vanessa MacLeod as she matures from a child at age ten into a young woman at age twenty. Wise for her years, Vanessa reveals much about the adult world in which she lives.

The Stone Angel, by Margaret Laurence

The protagonist, Hagar Shipley, age ninety, tells the story of her life, and in doing so tries to come to terms with how the very qualities which sustained her have deprived her of joy.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain

Hilariously adventurous, epic in scope, alive with the poetry and vigor of the American South, Mark Twain's story brings to life a young boy's journey down the Mississippi River with Jim, an runaway slave.

A Tale of Two Cities, by Charles Dickens

This novel offers a swift, exciting story and an unforgettable rendering of the French Revolution, contrasting the chaos of Paris with the tranquility of London. The novel is filled with howling mobs and epic scenes that concentrate on a few central characters.

A Million Little Pieces, by James Frey

The electrifying opening of *A Million Little Pieces* follows a Chicago-bound 23 year-old protagonist without ID or money who is wanted by authorities in three states—and sports a mangled face and missing four front teeth. Frey spends two agonizing months in detox and confronts the fury of his addiction head on.

Who Has Seen the Wind, by W.O. Mitchell

Brian Sean MacMurray O'Connell comes to his own conclusions when, at age four, he goes to the local church alone and no one answers his knock. After meeting the minister later, however, he thinks he hears the voice of God—"My name is R. W. God, BVD." Brian's search for answers to life's biggest questions takes him through ages four, six, eight, and ten in this 1947 novel set during the Depression on the plains of Saskatchewan.