

May 2010

**Shawnigan Lake School
English Department
Summer Reading Programme
For Grade 11**

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 summer reading is handled in a variety of ways: short essays, personal reflections, projects, and oral presentations. The required reading selections are starred (*). Students are strongly encouraged to choose an author or subject they genuinely enjoy. Enjoy your summer reading.

English 11 (Students are required to read *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger and one other work of their own choice)

****The Catcher in the Rye***, by J.D. Salinger

The story of Holden Caulfield, whose journey following his expulsion from boarding school is by times amusing, provocative and heart-wrenching.

1984, by George Orwell

A dystopian novel, this work tells the story of Winston Smith and his degradation by the totalitarian state in which he lives.

Generation X, by Douglas Coupland

A group of young people in Palm Springs tells each other stories while they work pointless McJobs and glory in cultural wreckage. The book's strength is mostly in its moments -- definitions, clever epigrams and the stories that include tiny observational zingers about the American personality.

Never Let Me Go, by Kazuo Ishiguro

Kathy, Tommy and Ruth are students at Hailsham, a very exclusive, very strange English private school. They are treated well in every respect, but as they grow older they come to realize that there is a secret that haunts their lives: Their teachers regard them with fear and pity, and they don't know why. Once they learn the secret ...

The Hour I First Believed, by Wally Lamb

A fictional narrative based on the Columbine High School shootings told from the point of view of an eye-witness.

Through Black Spruce, by Joseph Boyden

Boyden delivers the powerful story of former bush pilot and Cree native Will Bird. The novel opens with Will in a coma, with his niece Annie, who just returned from an eight-month excursion in search of her sister, by his side. Narrated by Will and Annie, the story backtracks to tell of Will's fight to keep his bush-country Native life alive and protected while he suppresses painful childhood memories (and befriends an old bear).

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, by Dai Sijie

In 1971, as Mao's Cultural Revolution swept over China, shutting down universities and banishing "reactionary intellectuals" to the countryside, two teenage boys are sent to live on the remote and unforgiving mountain known as Phoenix in the Sky, where they are considered dangerous intellectuals. They spend their days carrying buckets of excrement up and down the mountain to fertilize the fields.

**English 11 Enriched (Students read a minimum of three works)
(Students are required to read *The Catcher in the Rye* and *Frankenstein* and one other work of their own choice.)**

The Golden Mean, by Annabel Lyon

The story of Aristotle and his most famous student, Alexander, just as he is coming to manhood.

****The Catcher in the Rye***, by J.D. Salinger

The story of Holden Caulfield, whose journey following his expulsion from boarding school is by times amusing, provocative and heart-wrenching.

****Frankenstein***, by Mary Shelley

This disturbing novel describes what can happen when 'Man the Over-reacher' is careless about his creations.

The Hour I First Believed, by Wally Lamb

A fictional narrative based on the Columbine High School shootings told from the point of view of an eye-witness.

Through Black Spruce, by Joseph Boyden

Boyden delivers the powerful story of former bush pilot and Cree native Will Bird. The novel opens with Will in a coma, with his niece Annie, who just returned from an eight-month excursion in search of her sister, by his side. Narrated by Will and Annie, the story backtracks to tell of Will's fight to keep his bush-country Native life alive and protected while he suppresses painful childhood memories (and befriends an old bear).

The Underpainter, by Jane Urquhart

Jane Urquhart's clear vision is reflected in language that is plain and quite ordinary, yet her art is subtle, delicate, multi-faceted and very moving. It is an art of shifting light and shade, but her engagement with humanity is deep and she uses the language of painting in a sensual and erotic way that her narrator could never achieve.

Heart of Darkness, by Joseph Conrad

This novel explores the dual nature of man, and the resulting chaos caused by unbridled passion. Many additional themes emerge, including "the night journey," "civilization" and the dark anguish of the early twentieth century.

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.

The Handmaid's Tale, by Margaret Atwood

Set in Cambridge, Massachusetts, this futuristic novel presents a totalitarian theocracy that has forced a certain class of fertile women to produce babies for elite barren couples. These "handmaids," denied all rights and severely beaten if uncooperative, are reduced to state

property. Through the voice of Offred, a handmaid who mingles memories of her life before the revolution with her rebellious activities under the new regime, Atwood has created a terrifying future based on actual events.

Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen

Among the first romantic comedies in the history of the novel, its opening is one of the most famous lines in English literature—"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."

Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte

Jane Eyre, a penniless orphan, is engaged as governess at Thornfield Hall by the mysterious Mr. Rochester. Her integrity and independence are tested to the limit as their love for each other grows, and the secrets of Mr. Rochester's past are revealed.