

May 2010

**Shawnigan Lake School  
English Department  
Summer Reading Programme  
For Grade 8**

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. The required reading selections are starred (\*). Students are strongly encouraged to choose an author or subject they genuinely enjoy.

**English 8 (Students read *Spud*, by John van der Ruit and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton)**

**\**Spud***, by John van der Ruit

As Apartheid crumbles, a South African boy leaves his dysfunctional family for boarding school. Believe it or not, the novel is a comedy—and the fastest-selling book in South African history. Meet Spud, and expect the unexpected.

***The Outsiders***, by S.E. Hinton

The story of a gang of boys searching for excitement and themselves.

***Dove***, by Robin L. Graham

The compelling story of a solo, round-the-world sailing odyssey undertaken by 16 year-old Robin Graham.

***White Fang***, by Jack London

An adventure story in the northern wilderness with a ferocious husky as the protagonist.

***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time*** (Young Readers' Edition), by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

The story of building a school in a remote part of Pakistan.

***The Giver***, by Lois Lowry

In a world with no poverty, no crime, no sickness and no unemployment, and where every family is happy, 12-year-old Jonas uncovers the disturbing truth about his perfect world and struggles against the weight of its hypocrisy.

***Watership Down***, by Richard Adams

A powerful saga of courage, leadership, and survival, this is an epic tale about a hardy band of Berkshire rabbits forced to flee the destruction of their fragile community and their trials and triumphs in the face of extraordinary adversity as they pursue a glorious dream called "home."

***The Chronicles of Narnia***, by C.S. Lewis (any one or all of the 7 books)

These works are known for their journeys to the end of the world, fantastic creatures, and epic battles between good and evil.

***A Wrinkle in Time***, by Madeleine L'Engle

This is no superhero tale, nor is it science fiction, although it shares elements of both. The travelers must rely on their individual and collective strengths, delving deep within themselves to find answers in the battle for good over evil.

***Flowers for Algernon***, by Daniel Keyes

This is the journal of Charlie Gordon, a mentally retarded adult who becomes a genius after undergoing a brain operation. Keyes conveys the yearning of a young adult who longs to be as smart as those around him, the pain of the transformed man who must live with the newfound memories of cruel childhood rejection, and finally his horror at the return of his diminishing intellectual capacity.

***Robinson Crusoe***, by Daniel Defoe

A story of a shipwrecked castaway who spends 28 years on a remote island and encounters natives, captives, and mutineers before being rescued.

***Hound of the Baskervilles***, by Arthur Conan Doyle

The detective Sherlock Holmes and his assistant Dr. Watson are called to investigate a curse alleged to hang over the house of the Baskervilles.

***Ender's Game***, by Orson Scott Card

In a future where mankind has barely survived two invasions by the "buggers," the world's most talented children, including the extraordinary Ender Wiggin, are taken into "Battle School" at a very young age to supply commanders for an impending 3<sup>rd</sup> Invasion.

***Chocolate War***, by Robert Cormier

Watching someone take a stand is easy; doing it yourself can be absolutely terrifying. That's what Jerry Renault learns when he refuses to participate in his school's annual candy drive and incurs the wrath of the ruling clique of students: brutal, frightening, and completely mesmerizing.

***The Secret Garden***, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Bratty, spoiled and orphaned, Mary Lennox becomes the ward of an uncle in England she has never met. As she tries to carve a new life for herself at secluded Misselthwaite Manor, Mary befriends a high-spirited boy named Dickon and investigates a secret garden on the Manor grounds.

***Anne of Green Gables***, by Lucy Maud Montgomery

When Marilla Cuthbert's brother, Matthew, returns home to Green Gables with a chatty redheaded orphan girl, Marilla exclaims, "But we asked for a boy. We have no use for a girl." It's not long, though, before the Cuthberts can't imagine how they could ever do without young Anne of Green Gables--but not for the original reasons they sought an orphan.

***Treasure Island***, by Robert Louis Stevenson

An adventure novel, a thrilling tale of "buccaneers and buried gold."

***Holes***, by Louis Sachar

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.