

May 2010

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

For Grade 9

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. Enjoy your summer reading.

English 9 (Students read *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan or *Troy* by Adele Geras and one other work of their choice)

****The Lightning Thief***, by Rick Riordan

Ancient mythology seen and experienced through the eyes of a bright 13 year-old boy.

****Troy***, by Adele Geras

This novel tells the story of life in a besieged city from the perspective of two young women who live at the palace of King Priam of Troy.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, by J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter is living a miserable existence with his nasty relatives, the dastardly Dursleys and their son Dudley—who are quite unaware that he is not a Muggle (a human), and that he is, in fact, destined for greatness.

Shoeless Joe, W.P. Kinsella

A powerful narrative about baseball, the fulfillment of dreams, love, redemption and belief in people's goodness. (This is part of the grade 9 curriculum.)

Le Morte d'Arthur: King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, by Thomas Malory (Signet Classics edition recommended)

The story of King Arthur and his court, his many knights and their legendary exploits.

Deloume Road, by Matthew Hooten

This new novel, about the friendship between two boys, takes place in Shawnigan during one event-filled summer.

People of Darkness, by Tony Hillerman

A powerful mystery story involving the attempted murder of a dying man, the disappearance of his corpse from the hospital morgue, a uranium mine, a fatal oil-well explosion 30 years earlier, and the theft of a keepsake box filled mostly with black rocks. If they like this genre, students may wish to read other Hillerman mysteries, including *The Shape Shifter* and *Listening Woman*.

Many Lives and Secret Sorrows, by Sandra Gulland

The story of the French Revolution from teenager Josephine Bonaparte's perspective.

The Da Vinci Code, by Dan Brown

A mind-bending code hidden in the works of Leonardo Da Vinci. A desperate race through the cathedrals and castles of Europe. An astonishing truth... concealed for centuries.... unveiled, at last.

White Fang, by Jack London

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

A Great and Terrible Beauty, by Libby Bray

A Victorian boarding school story, a Gothic mansion mystery, a gossipy romp about a clique of girlfriends, and a dark other-worldly fantasy—jumble them all together and you have this unusual first novel.

It's Not About The Bike, by Lance Armstrong

An autobiography of the world champion cyclist Lance Armstrong who beat cancer to take several titles at *Tour de France*: the world's most grueling and prestigious cycling race.

October Sky, by Homer Hickham

The true story of a young man's fascination with rockets.

The Old Man and the Sea, by Ernest Hemingway

Tells the story of an aging Cuban fisherman who struggles with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

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.

Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson

Melinda rapidly becomes the school reject when she calls the cops on a summer party. As she loses connection with most of her peers, she also loses her ability to speak, making it extremely difficult for anyone to understand her hidden secrets.

English 9 Enriched (Students read *The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan and two other works of their choice)

****The Lightning Thief***, by Rick Riordan

Ancient mythology seen and experienced through the eyes of a precocious 13 year-old boy.

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A mind-bending code hidden in the works of Leonardo Da Vinci. A desperate race through the cathedrals and castles of Europe. An astonishing truth, concealed for centuries, is unveiled at last.

October Sky, by Homer Hickham

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This new novel, about the friendship between two boys, takes place in Shawnigan during one event-filled summer.

Many Lives and Secret Sorrows, by Sandra Gulland

The story of the French Revolution from teenager Josephine Bonaparte's perspective.

It's Not About The Bike, by Lance Armstrong

An autobiography of the world champion cyclist Lance Armstrong who beat cancer to take several titles at *Tour de France*: the world's most grueling and prestigious cycling race.

The Forest Lover, by Susan Vreeland

This novel depicts the courageous Canadian painter Emily Carr, who traveled through native villages and wilderness of British Columbia in the early 1900s, often alone, on a quest to paint totem poles and other artifacts before the indigenous traditions died out and the poles were destroyed or sold.

The Natural, by Bernard Malamud

This novel follows Roy Hobbs, a baseball prodigy whose career is sidetracked when he is shot by a crazed fan.

A Great and Terrible Beauty, by Libba Bray

A Victorian boarding school story, a Gothic mansion mystery, a gossipy romp about a clique of girlfriends, and a dark other-worldly fantasy—jumble them all together and you have this unusual first novel.

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My Losing Season, by Pat Conroy

A sports memoir as honest and heartbreaking as a double overtime loss to a hated rival. A step by step, game by game account of an NCAA Division I basketball team that won a mere eight games. This is counterintuitive for a sports book because we are supposed to remember those athletes and teams that never lose.