

May 9, 2009

Dear SMCA Parents/Guardian:

It's that time again - SUMMER! Ah, summer: vacation, family time, family trips, camps and camping, reading.... READING?! Yes, summer reading! It's time to turn off the TV, go to the bookstore, and set up the old reading schedule ("Okay, we have 635 pages, and 8 weeks, so that means...")

The English Department at St. Michael's has maintained this tradition over the years because we believe in the importance of cultivating life-long habits. Requiring students to read during the summer is part of this policy, and is an investment in their future as life-long readers.

Below, please find your student's grade level and placement for the coming year and the appropriate list for fall. Students must read these works; this is not an optional assignment. Class discussions and assignments the first weeks of school are predicated on these readings.

No special editions of these are required, unlike the rest of the school year, where we require uniform texts. Students may - and should - mark their texts as they read.

Freshmen: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Smith

Sophomores: Required: J.D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye. Then **choose one*** from the following list: Cormack McCarthy, All the Pretty Horses; Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis I and II; Gilbert Tuhabonye, This Voice in my Heart; Frank McCourt, Angela's Ashes; Ishmael Beah, A Long Way Gone.

Juniors AP: John Steinbeck, Grapes of Wrath; Langston Hughes, Not Without Laughter.

Juniors: Orson Scott Card, Ender's Game; John Steinbeck, Cannery Row

Seniors: Katzuo Ishiguro; Never Let Me Go

Senior AP: Graham Greene, The End of the Affair; Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice.

Happy Reading!

The St. Michael's English Department

- for purposes of choice, both the Amazon.com and the Barnes & Noble websites have helpful blurbs and reviews

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Betty Smith, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

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Gilbert Tuhabonye, This Voice in my Heart

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Katzuo Ishiguro, Never Let Me Go

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Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice