

## RRPS SUMMER READING LIST 2009

### No Required summer reading for middle schools

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: (CHS and RRHS)

#### Pre-AP English: Choose ONE of the following books

**Peace Like a River** by Leif Enger. Set in 1960's Minnesota, the novel describes the 11-year-old narrator's quest to retrieve his wayward brother.

OR

**The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd. This book describes Lily Owen's blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed and her relationship with her black "stand-in mother."

Assignment: Please read and be ready for discussion on the first day.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: (CHS and RRHS)

#### Pre-AP 10 English: Choose ONE of the following books:

**The Good Earth** by Pearl S. Buck. This great modern classic depicts life in China at a time before the vast political and social upheavals transformed an essentially agrarian country into a world power. Nobel Prize-winner Pearl S. Buck traces the whole cycle of life—its terrors, its passions, its ambitions, and its rewards.

OR

**Nectar in a Sieve** by Kamala Markandaya. In a small village in India, a simple peasant woman recalls her life as a child bride, a farmer's wife, and a devoted mother amidst fights to meet changing times, poverty, and disaster.

#### AP 10 World History: (CHS and RRHS)

**Required Reading: Read the first 90 pages – the rest will be read throughout the year as appropriate.**

**A History of the World in Six Glasses** by Tom Standage. Throughout human history, certain drinks have done much more than just quench thirst. Six of them have had a surprisingly pervasive influence on the course of history, becoming the defining drink during a pivotal historical period.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: (CHS and RRHS)

#### AP 11 English Literature and Composition

**Students are required to read BOTH books**

**The Things They Carried** by Tim O'Brien. Weapons and good-luck charms carried by U.S. soldiers in Vietnam here represent survival, lost innocence and the war's interminable legacy. "O'Brien's meditations--on war and memory, on darkness and light--suffuse the entire work with a kind of poetic form, making for a highly original, fully realized novel," said PW.

AND

**The Great Gatsby** by F. Scott Fitzgerald. A portrait of the Jazz Age in all of its decadence and excess, *Gatsby* captured the spirit of the author's generation and earned itself a permanent place in American mythology. Self-made, self-invented millionaire Jay Gatsby embodies some of Fitzgerald's--and his country's--most abiding obsessions: money, ambition, greed, and the promise of new beginnings.

**Assignment:**

Annotate your copies and be prepared to discuss and answer questions about either book on the first day of class.

**AP US History: (CHS and RRHS)**

**Decision in Philadelphia: The Constitutional Convention of 1787** by Chris Collier. Fifty-five men met in Philadelphia in 1787 to write a document that would create a country and change a world. Here is a remarkable rendering of that fateful time, told with humanity and humor. "The best popular history of the Constitutional Convention available."

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade:( RRHS)**

**AP 12 English Language**

**Read one:**

**Angela's Ashes** by Frank McCourt. Frank's father was frequently unemployed and was an alcoholic. Frank recounts his desperately poor early years as an Irish Catholic child living on public assistance.

OR

**Dreams From My Father** by President Barack Obama. Elected the first black president of the Harvard Law Review, Obama was offered a book contract, but the intellectual journey he planned to recount became instead this poignant, probing memoir of an unusual life.

AND

**William Faulkner's speech when he accepted the Noble Prize for Literature.** The speech may be found on the web at [www.Americanrhetoric.com](http://www.Americanrhetoric.com).

**Assignments:**

Read the chosen memoir and the speech, annotating and be prepared to discuss these on the first day of class.

**AP US Government & AP Macroeconomics: (RRHS)**

Read and be ready to discuss the following on the first day of class.

**Gideon's Trumpet** by Anthony Lewis. Tells the story of one man's improbable battle and the Court's ultimate decision. Author Anthony Lewis has done a remarkable job of putting a human face (several, actually) on one of the landmark cases in criminal procedure and in making the story accessible.

**AND**

**A Pocket United States Constitution** including its Amendments. Paper back (pocket) copies can be purchased at Borders or Barnes and Nobles. Make sure that the edition includes:

- a. *The Declaration of Independence* and the Amendments. We will refer to these documents throughout the semester so please buy an edition that can be carried in your backpack.

**Assignment:**

Students must read and annotate both selections and bring both to school on the first day of school for discussion.