

RRPS SUMMER READING LIST 2009

No Required summer reading for middle schools

9th 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.

10th 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.

11th 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."

12th 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.

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.