

Purpose: The Summer Reading Program encourages students to enjoy, think about, and evaluate what they read.

Reading/Writing Requirements: Summer reading is worth up to **10 %** of your first-quarter grade. Read the book closely and be prepared to respond to a long composition prompt during the first full week of school in September. There is an optional journal assignment.

- CP and Standard students choose **one** book from the list below.
- Honors and AP students choose **two** books from the list below. (AP students will also have a packet.)

EXTRA CREDIT: You may earn extra credit by reading a second book from this list and keeping a journal using the summer reading journal prompts (see your teacher or the FHS website).

Allende, Isabel: Eva Luna/The House of the Spirits

Choose between two novels written by the niece of the assassinated Chilean president Salvadore Allende. Eva Luna traces the life of an orphan from humble beginnings to fame and fortune. The House of the Spirits, steeped in mysticism, details the lives of the Trueba family members and their passions.

Amado, Jorge: Gabriela, Clove and Cinnamon

Gabriela comes to the city from the poverty-stricken Brazilian countryside and forges a new life centered around food.

Austen, Jane: Pride and Prejudice or Emma

(Pride and Prejudice) In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with being pursued by a snobbish gentleman, as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.

(Emma) A comedy of errors surrounding self-centered, but endearing, Emma Woodhouse.

Beah, Ishmael: Long Way Gone: A Memoir

This gripping story by a children's rights advocate recounts his experiences as a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s during one of the most brutal civil wars in recent memory.

Bronte, Charlotte: Jane Eyre

In early nineteenth-century England, an orphaned young woman is hired as a governess at Thornfield Hall, a country estate owned by the mysterious Mr. Rochester.

Carson, Rachel: Silent Spring (What's Falmouth Reading book choice for 2011)

In 1960, a woman noticed the birds had stopped singing and their population had severely decreased in her neighborhood, so she summoned her friend, biologist Rachel Carson, to investigate. Carson's discovery, the overuse of pesticides, prompted the environmental movement that exists today.

Desai, Kiran: The Inheritance of Loss

Set in mid-1980s India, a retired Cambridge-educated judge lives at the foot of the Himalayas with his orphaned granddaughter and his cook. The tranquility of his existence is contrasted with the life of the cook's son, working in grimy Manhattan restaurants in this moving and revelatory novel.

Diaz, Junot: The Brief Wonderful Life of Oscar Wao

"Ghetto nerd," outcast, and anime-loving Oscar Wao is the latest in a long line of doomed generations to suffer the dreaded fuku curse of his native Dominican Republic. With humor and talent as his weapons, he perseveres, knowing "you can never run away. Not ever. The only way out is in."

Eggers, Dave: Zeitoun

This non-fiction work examines the life of Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a successful Syrian-born painting contractor, who decides to stay in New Orleans and protect his property while his family flees Hurricane Katrina. After the levees break, he uses a small canoe to rescue people, before being arrested by an armed squad and swept powerlessly into a vortex of bureaucratic brutality.

Ferraris, Zoe: Finding Nouf

Sixteen-year-old Nouf ash-Shrawi, daughter of a wealthy Saudi Arabian family, mysteriously disappears and is eventually found drowned in the desert. Was she kidnapped, or did she run away – and if the latter, why?

Frank, E.R.: Life is Funny

Over seven years the lives of several young people of different races, economic backgrounds, and family situations living in Brooklyn, New York become intertwined.

Gourevitch, Philip: We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories From Rwanda

Gourevitch provides insight into the 1994 Rwandan genocide and its roots in European colonialism.

Gramm, David: The Devil and Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Murder, Madness, and Obsession

This book is a collection of articles on various subjects (all true stories) focused around the basic theme of Madness and obsession.

Hamill, Pete: Snow in August

Set in a working-class Brooklyn neighborhood in 1947, this tale revolves around eleven-year-old Irish Catholic Michael Devlin and Rabbi Judah Hirsch, a refugee from Prague.

Heinlein, Robert: Stranger in a Strange Land

Heinlein's science fiction-based theological treatise is the story of a man who was born on Mars, grew up among the Martians and came back to Earth.

Hesse, Hermann: Demian

One of the great writers of the twentieth century tells the dramatic story of young, docile Emile Sinclair's descent- led by precocious schoolmate Max Demian- through a secret and dangerous world of petty crime and revolt into eventual awakening to selfhood.

Irving, John: A Prayer for Owen Meany

Owen Meany is a dwarfish boy with an unusual voice who accidentally kills his best friend's mother with a baseball. Owen believes that he is an instrument of God.

Jones, Lloyd: Mister Pip

On a copper-rich tropical island shattered by war, on which survival is a daily struggle, eccentric Mr. Watts, the only white man left after the other teachers flee, spends his days reading to the local children from Charles Dickens's classic novel Great Expectations.

Larsen Erik: The Devil in the White City

The activities of the sinister Dr. Holmes, a murderer, are told as a backdrop to the construction of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, designed by architect Daniel Burnham.

Martel, Yann: Life of Pi

En route with his family from their home in India to Canada, young Pi's cargo ship sinks, and he finds himself adrift in a lifeboat – alone with a zebra, an orangutan, a hyena, and a Bengal tiger.

McCall Smith, Alexander: the Full cupboard of Life (of the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency)

Set in Botswana, No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency owner Precious Ramotswe and her assistant Mma Makutsi tackle mysteries while retaining true to their morals.

Nafisi, Azar: Reading Lolita in Tehran

After the Taliban prohibits women studying, eight women meet in Nafisi's home to shed their veils and read and study forbidden literature.

Picoult, Jodi: Nineteen Minutes

The story of what can happen in nineteen minutes as relayed by a victim and the troubled teen who destroyed his school.

Pirsig, Robert M.: Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

The book details a cross-country motorcycle trip by a man and his 11-year-old son, as well as his quest for truth and spiritual fulfillment.

Russo, Richard: The Risk Pool

A story of not-so-successful folk in a decaying town in New York as seen through the eyes of Ned Hall, better known as "Sam's son."

Salzman, Mark: Iron and Silk

Salzman creates the adventures of a young American martial arts student in China.

Thomas, Rob: Rats Saw God

In an attempt to make up credit and graduate from high school, protagonist Steve York agrees to complete an assignment that helps him to sort out his relationship with his famous-astronaut father.

Tolstoy, Leo: Anna Karenina

In what some critics say is the greatest novel ever written, Tolstoy tells the story of an aristocratic woman who brings ruin on herself.

Wroblewski, David: The Story of Edgar Sawtelle

This modern take on Hamlet is set in rural Wisconsin, and, instead of the Prince of Denmark as its hero, a young mute plays the role with poignant grace.

Yoshimoto, Banana: Kitchen

When college student Mikage Sakurai is orphaned, she is rescued by Yuichi, a young flower shop delivery man; she discovers that home can be in any number of places.