

REQUIRED READING GRADES 9-12

All students are required to read the novel that responds to their 2019-2020 grade level.

Students will discuss, be tested on and write an in class essay relating to their assigned novel during the first week of school.

Fahrenheit 451 (Grade 9) by Ray Bradbury

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television.

Kite Runner (Grade 10)

The Kite Runner is the first novel by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini.^[1] Published in 2003, it tells the story of Amir, a young boy from the Wazir Akbar Khan district of Kabul, whose closest friend is Hassan. The story is set against a backdrop of tumultuous events, from the fall of Afghanistan's monarchy through the Soviet military intervention, the exodus of refugees to Pakistan and the United States, and the rise of the Taliban regime.

The Things They Carried (Grade 11)
by Tim O'Brien

They carried malaria tablets, love letters, 28-pound mine detectors, dope, illustrated bibles, each other. And if they made it home alive, they carried unrelenting images of a nightmarish war that history is only beginning to absorb. Since its first publication, *The Things They Carried* has become an unparalleled Vietnam testament, a classic work of American literature, and a profound study of men at war that illuminates the capacity, and the limits, of the human heart and soul.

Little Bee by Chris Cleave (Grade 12)

In this novel, a young Nigerian woman is released from an immigration detention center where she has been held for two years after sneaking aboard a British tea ship. This woman, called Little Bee, makes her way to the home of Andrew and Sarah O'Rourke, the only people she knows in England. However, Andrew has recently committed suicide and Sarah is still reeling from the shock which is compounded by the sight of Little Bee, someone she had thought was dead. Little Bee is a tragic story of simple humanity that leaves the reader struck by the inevitability of life even as they learn what it means to be human.

The Poisonwood Bible (REQUIRED FOR AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION) by Barbara Kingsolver

The Poisonwood Bible is a deeply philosophical story of a family that moves from America to the Congo on a church mission. Told from a new perspective each chapter, this novel gives moving insight about the nature of piety, war, guilt, and family