

REQUIRED READING HIGH SCHOOL

All students are required to read the novel that responds to their 2018-2019 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.

Song of Solomon (Grade 10)

by Toni Morrison

Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly. With this brilliantly imagined novel, Toni Morrison transfigures the coming-of-age story as audaciously as Saul Bellow or Gabriel García Márquez. As she follows Milkman from his rustbelt city to the place of his family’s origins, Morrison introduces an entire cast of strivers and seeresses, liars and assassins, the inhabitants of a fully realized black world.

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.

GRADE 12 - Little Bee by Chris Cleave

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.