

Postgraduate Summer Reading List 2009

REQUIRED READING

Students will read two books this summer, one specified by English teachers and one that may be chosen from the list provided.

A. For English class: Please read the following book and complete the writing assignment below.

Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*

From the two items below, choose one and write about 250 words, typed or handwritten, to demonstrate your knowledge and grasp of the book's themes and points.

1. Find a significant passage and show specifically how that passage helps a reader understand the whole book.
2. Find a gap that you think should be filled. Write a scene or episode to fill that gap. At the start of your episode, say exactly and explicitly where the episode belongs (give a page number).

You are expected to turn in your notes to the English department head at registration. Please bring *The Things They Carried* to the first English class meeting. If you have any questions regarding the English reading call Pam Shoemaker at 413-498-2183.

B. For the opening day of school: Read one book from the following list of titles (teachers who recommended them are in parentheses, along with annotations if supplied). On one page, write up answers to the following questions, and be prepared to bring the notes and the book to class and deliver these answers in an oral report on the first day of school.

1. Why did you choose this book?
2. What did you like or dislike about the book?
3. Select one passage from the book that you think is particularly well written and representative of what readers can expect from the book.

To learn more about the books on this list, visit nmhschool.org/academics.

From students:

Catch-22, Joseph Heller (Patrick Norton '11)
Guns, Germs, and Steel, and *Collapse*, Jared Diamond (Jun Ho Sung '11)
Of Love and Shadows, Isabel Allende (Kendall Sercombe '10)
Pattern Recognition, William Gibson (Priscilla Hume '10)
The Fourth Hand, John Irving (Priscilla Hume '10)
The Satanic Verses, Salman Rishdie
Cat's Cradle, Kurt Vonnegut
The Red Tent, Anita Diamant
The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao, Junot Diaz
The Lorax, Dr. Seuss

From the **history and social sciences** department:

Wild Swans, Jung Chang
Killer Angels, Michael Shaara
All the Kings' Men, Robert Penn Warren

From the **library** staff:

The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age, Kevin Boyle
The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume I: The Pox Party, M. T. Anderson

From the **mathematics** department

The Road, Cormac McCarthy
Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini
The Hungry Tide, Amitav Ghosh
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, David Wroblewski
A Tour of Calculus, David Berlinski (Peter Snedecor)
The Climb: Tragic Ambitions on Everest, Anatoli Boukreev, (John Christiansen)
Invisible Cities, Italo Calvino (Mark Yates)
The Eyre Affair, Jasper Fforde (John Christiansen)
Fermat's Enigma, Simon Singh (Peter Snedecor)
City of Dreams: A Novel of Nieuw Amsterdam and Early Manhattan, Beverly Swerling (John Christiansen)
Veil: The Secret Wars of the CIA, 1981–1987, Bob Woodward (John Christiansen)

From the **performing arts** department:

Couldn't Keep It to Myself: Testimonies from Our Imprisoned Sisters, Wally Lamb, ed. (Marianne Lockwood)
Bel Canto, Ann Patchett (Sheila Heffernon)
Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon—And the Journey of a Generation, Sheila Weller

From the **physical education and athletics** department:

Bang the Drum Slowly, Mark Harris
The Natural, Bernard Malamud

From the **religious studies** department:

Nickle and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America, Barbara Ehrenreich (A noted social critic explores poverty in the US by spending a year trying to live on menial jobs.)
The Dispossessed, Ursula K. Le Guin (This science fiction classic contrasts two worlds where different social systems have evolved.)
The Palace Walk, Nagib Mahfouz (The first of the Cairo trilogy by this Nobel laureate tells the story of a traditional Egyptian family in the early part of the 20th century.)
The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth, E. O. Wilson (The noted Harvard scientist seeks common ground with evangelical Christians in a letter about preserving biodiversity.)

From the **science** department:

Surely You're Joking, Mr., Feynmann, Richard Feynmann (Craig Hefner)
Unbowed: A Memoir, Wangari Maathai (Becca Leslie)
Fast Food Nation, Eric Schlosser (Laura Christiansen)
Rainbows End, Verner Vinge (Jay Ward)
The Future of Life, Edward O. Wilson

Acquiring Genomes, Lynn Margulis
Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth, James Lovelock
The World Without Us, Alan Weisman

From the **visual arts** department:

Daybooks, Edward Weston
A Gathering of Old Men, Ernest Gaines
Mastery: The Keys to Success and Long-Term Fulfillment
The Measure of a Man, Sidney Poitier
Creative Authenticity, Ian Roberts
Prep, Curtis Sittenfeld

From the **world languages** department:

Chi.nese

Beginning Level

Mandarin Chinese Phrase Book
The Legend of White Snake, Zhao Qingge (ENG-CHI version)
The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan

Intermediate and Advanced Level

Selected Readings of Contemporary Chinese Short Stories, Liu Lianli
Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, Zhao Qingge
The Dragon Lover and Other Chinese Proverbs, Yong-sheng Xuan

French

Intermediate Level

Le Petit Prince, Antoine de St-Exupéry
Voltaïques, Short stories, Ousmane Sembene (Senegal)

Advanced Level

Le gone du Chaâba, Aziz Begag (Algérie/France)
Le Bouc Emissaire (the Scapegoat), Daniel Pennac (France)

Latin

Cicero, Anthony Everitt
Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii Lost and Found, Mary Beard
Fire From Heaven, Mary Renault
Claudius, The God, Robert Graves

Spanish

Cool Salsa—Bilingual Poems

Red Hot Salsa—Bilingual Poems

Intermediate Level

El Libro de los Abrazos, Eduardo Galeano
Poemas y Adivinanzas, Gloria Fuertes

Advanced Level

La Casa en Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros
Los Cuentos de Eva Luna, Isabel Allende

If you have any questions regarding the opening day reading assignment, please call John Adams at 413-498-5072.