



May 25, 2017

Dear Upper School Families,

At the close of each school year we ask our students to continue their learning through the summer. Acquiring knowledge, exercising intellectual curiosity, and reading for aesthetic pleasure are activities that should not cease in the summer months. Consequently, the English Department provides a summer reading list for all Upper School students. Please note the required reading for each form.

**Form III:** Students entering Form III (Grade 9) will read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie (ISBN: 9780316013697). They are also required to read ONE additional book from the following list of eight recommended Form III books (this list is also available on Pingry's website at [pingry.org/SummerReading](http://pingry.org/SummerReading)):

- *Black Boy* by Richard Wright
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
- *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline
- *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride
- *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok
- *Mr. Penumbra's 24 Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan

At the beginning of the school year, students will be assessed on both of the required texts.

**Form IV:** Students entering Form IV (Grade 10) will read Dai Sijie's *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* (ISBN: 978-0385722209). They are also required to read ONE additional book from the list of recommended Form IV books, available on Pingry's website at [pingry.org/SummerReading](http://pingry.org/SummerReading). At the beginning of the school year, students will be assessed on both of the required texts.

**Form V:** Students entering **Form V (Grade 11)** will read *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, updated 2014 Penguin Classics edition (ISBN # 9780143107309). Students are required to read the entire text, including the introduction, the preface, and the appendix to the *Narrative*. Students are also required to read ONE additional book from the following list of eight recommended Form V books (this list is also available on Pingry's website at [pingry.org/SummerReading](http://pingry.org/SummerReading)):

- *My Antonia* by Willa Cather
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *A White Heron and Other Stories* by Sarah Orne Jewett
- *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison
- *Mrs. Spring Fragrance* by Sui Sin Far
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Basking Ridge Campus, Upper and Middle School  
131 Martinsville Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
phone 908-647-5555

Short Hills Campus, Lower School  
50 Country Day Drive, Short Hills, NJ 07078  
phone 973-379-4550



- *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton
- *Life Among the Piutes* by Sarah Winnemucca

At the beginning of the school year, students will be assessed on both of the required texts.

**Form VI:** Students entering Form VI (Grade 12) will read Kazuo Ishiguro's *Remains of the Day* (ISBN: 978-0679731726). They are also required to read ONE additional book from the list of recommended Form VI books, available on Pingry's website at [pingry.org/SummerReading](http://pingry.org/SummerReading). At the beginning of the school year, students will be assessed on both of these texts.

On the suggested grade-level lists, the texts marked with an asterisk would be appropriate preparation for students interested in sitting for the AP English Literature exam at the end of their junior or senior year.

We encourage parents to join students in reading and discussing the books on the reading lists. And, of course, we hope you will read far beyond the list, enjoying the freedom of time to read as much as you like.

Have a wonderful summer!

Chris Taylor  
English Department Chair

Ananya Chatterji P '25  
Upper School Director