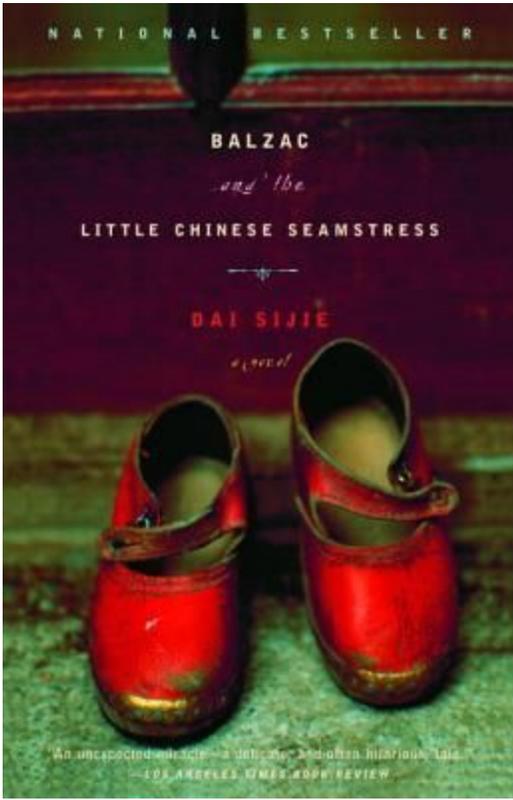


The Pingry School Summer Reading 2018  
Required Reading  
Entering Form IV

All students entering Form IV are required to read the following text:



***Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, by Dai Sijie**

**ISBN #9780385722209--this version of the text is required.**

In this enchanting tale about the magic of reading and the wonder of romantic awakening, two hapless city boys are exiled to a remote mountain village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution. There they meet the daughter of the local tailor and discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation. As they flirt with the seamstress and secretly devour these banned works, they find transit from their grim surroundings to worlds they never imagined.

In addition to reading *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, pick ONE book from the list below to read. (Texts marked with a star are helpful preparation for the AP English exams.)

\***SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** and **EMMA** by Jane Austen

Austen presents satiric pictures of the quest for matrimony in early nineteenth-century Britain.

\***PÈRE GORIOT** by Honoré Balzac

Coming of age in nineteenth century Paris.

\***WUTHERING HEIGHTS** by Emily Brontë

Meet the brooding Heathcliff and the rebellious Catherine in this famous romantic novel set in nineteenth century Yorkshire.

\***THE STRANGER** and **THE PLAGUE** by Albert Camus

In the former, M. Meursault is ostensibly put on trial for murder, but he is really being judged for not crying at his mother's funeral. In the latter, an outbreak of plague in Oran elicits the courage of a doctor. Both explore existentialist values.

**GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING** by Tracy Chevalier

A brief, beautifully written novel about the painter Johannes Vermeer, told from the point of view of the new maid, who possesses artistic talent herself. Remarkable Creatures is the author's latest novel.

\***THE MOONSTONE** and **THE WOMAN IN WHITE** by Wilkie Collins

Two Victorian thrillers

\***OLIVER TWIST**, **BLEAK HOUSE**, and **HARD TIMES** by Charles Dickens

Life in Victorian England is vividly presented. Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* is a romantic historical novel about the French Revolution

\***CRIME AND PUNISHMENT** by Feodor Dostoevski

The famous Russian novel about a poor student who murders to test a theory and finds himself haunted by guilt.

\***MADAME BOVARY** by Gustave Flaubert

Emma Bovary's desire to escape from her boring life in the provinces comes to a tragic end.

**HOTEL ON THE CORNER OF BITTER AND SWEET** by Jamie Ford

A middle-aged Chinese-American widower living in Seattle remembers the early forties when he and his Japanese girlfriend are separated because she is sent to an internment center.

**THE FORSYTE SAGA** by John Galsworthy

An intricate, many-charactered novel that traces three generations of a wealthy English family.

**\*CATCH 22** by Joseph Heller

The famous novel of World War II about Yossarian, a traumatized bombardier.

**\*BRAVE NEW WORLD** by Aldous Huxley

Science fiction meets the savage world.

**SCHINDLER'S LIST** by Thomas Keneally

A fictionalized but true story about a German factory owner who saved a group of Jews from death in the Holocaust.

**\*CHINA MEN, WOMAN WARRIOR, and TRIPMASTER MONKEY** by Maxine Hong Kingston

Novels about powerful individuals in conflict with their societies.

**SHOELESS JOE** by W. P. Kinsella

A magical story about the power of baseball.

**A SEPARATE PEACE** by John Knowles

An American classic, *A Separate Peace* is a multilayered story of friendship, competition, and identity set at an all-boys boarding school in New England as World War II rages in the background.

**THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD** and **TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY** by John LeCarré

Two very famous spy novels about the Cold War.

\***PASSING** by Nella Larsen

The story of two women's struggle with racial identity in early twentieth century America.

\***THE NATURAL** and **THE ASSISTANT** by Bernard Malamud

Two classic stories about hubris and moral dilemmas.

\***THE RAZOR'S EDGE** by Somerset Maugham

One man's spiritual journey explores the clash between Eastern and Western values.

\***1984** by George Orwell

England has become a totalitarian country, watched over by Big Brother.

**THE VAMPIRE CHRONICLES** by Anne Rice

One of a popular series that includes: *Interview with the Vampire*, *The Vampire Lestat*, *Queen of the Damned*, *The Tale of the Body Thief*, *Memnoch the Devil*, *The Vampire Armand*, *Merrick*, *Blood and Gold*, *Blackwood Farm*, and *Blood Canticle*.

**THE LOVELY BONES** by Alice Sebold

A girl looks down at the life her murderer took from her.

**FRANKENSTEIN** by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

A Gothic thriller and cautionary tale about the responsibility of creators of all kinds, *Frankenstein* is a classic novel that tells the story of committed science student Victor Frankenstein and an experiment gone wrong.

\***ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH** by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

A short but powerful novel about a prisoner in a Russian gulag, written by the Nobel Prize novelist.

**THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY** by Irving Stone

A fictionalized biography of the Renaissance sculptor, Michelangelo.

\***SOPHIE'S CHOICE** by William Styron

A young Southerner comes of age through his relationship with his neighbors, a beautiful Polish Holocaust survivor and her charismatic boyfriend.

**THE KITCHEN GOD'S WIFE** by Amy Tan

Winnie's story of her life on a small island outside Shanghai in the 1920s, and other places in China during World War II. The novel traces the happy and desperate events that led to Winnie's coming to America in 1949.

**\*ANNA KARENINA and WAR AND PEACE** by Leo Tolstoy

Two huge family novels about life in nineteenth century Russia.

**\*FATHERS AND SONS** by Ivan Turgenev

Two fathers and two sons in Russia during the nineteenth-century.

**THE GIRL IN HYACINTH BLUE** by Susan Vreeland

Trace the history of painting through the stories of the individuals who temporarily possessed the portrait of the girl in hyacinth blue.

**SAG HARBOR** by Colson Whitehead

Benji Cooper is one of the few black students at an elite prep school in Manhattan. But every summer, Benji escapes to the Hamptons, to Sag Harbor, where a small community of African American professionals have built a world of their own.