

May 31, 2018

Dear Upper School Families,

Each 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. All summer reading lists, directions, and materials can be found on our website: www.pingry.org/SummerReading.

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 ten recommended Form III books (this list is also available on Pingry's website at 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
- *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Wells
- *Family* by Ba Jin

At the beginning of the year, students will be assessed on both 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, which are available on the Pingry website at pingry.org/SummerReading. At the beginning of the year, students will be assessed on both 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):



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

At the beginning of the year, students will be assessed on both 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, which are available on the Pingry website at pingry.org/SummerReading. At the beginning of the year, students will be assessed on both texts.

When choosing a summer reading book, consider your interests! Is the cover art appealing? Does the blurb catch your attention? Read the first few pages—is the vocabulary manageable? Do you like the writing style? Remember that some books are appealing to friends and family members, but they might not be to you—take control of your choice!

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 and/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