



Dear High School Students,

We're excited to share our Summer Reading list for the 2019-2020 school year. We continue to make adjustments to the program to give you the best possible experience while also upholding the desire to turn you into life-long readers. We know that people who read are more successful in all spheres of life, and we want to give you the best opportunity to be successful both here at OSS and beyond. On the other side of this sheet, you'll find the summer reading lists. Please note that you do not need to purchase copies of these books and **the only summertime requirement is that all books are read prior to the first day of school.** All additional work will be assigned after school has begun.

A note on the books assigned for Summer Reading: We know that there may be some difficult ideas in the books we've assigned. We know that there are events and language that you may question, albeit very minimal. We want you to know that we don't assign these texts lightly or without the knowledge that it is our job and our privilege to prepare you for what is ahead, both in your education and in your future. We have carefully selected each text you will encounter based on age-appropriateness, complexity, thematic content, and an awareness of what we know colleges and employers will expect you've been exposed to. More than that, however, we also believe in the power of literature to encompass the human experience in a way that not only enlightens us but that connects us to the great, wide world around us. We believe that literature faces the human experience without flinching and that some of that experience is difficult. That being said, we don't intend to let you float through these texts without guidance and help, and we *know* that you will have the opportunity to emerge on the other side with deeper insight, more compassion, a better understanding of yourselves and the world around you.

We want to share with you an excerpt from a letter to the editor written by author Pat Conroy in 2007:

The world of literature has everything in it, and it refuses to leave anything out. I have read like a man on fire my whole life because the genius of English teachers touched me with the dazzling beauty of language. Because of them I rode with *Don Quixote* and danced with *Anna Karenina* at a ball in St. Petersburg and lassoed a steer in *Lonesome Dove* and had nightmares about slavery in *Beloved* and walked the streets of Dublin in *Ulysses* and made up a hundred stories in *The Arabian Nights* and saw my mother killed by a baseball in *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. I've been in ten thousand cities and have introduced myself to a hundred thousand strangers in my exuberant reading career, all because I listened to my fabulous English teachers and soaked up every single thing those magnificent men and women had to give. I cherish and praise them and thank them for finding me when I was a boy and presenting me with the precious gift of the English language.

We hope that, at the end of your time at OSS, all of you will leave with a deep love of the English language and for the stories that connect us. We hope that you are more compassionate, thoughtful, and intelligent people. We hope that you will develop wisdom and the ability to look beyond the surface of a thing to see its deeper truths, whether that "thing" is a book, a political situation, or another person. We hope that you are wise and just and true in your dealings with the world, and we *know* that great literature can help you to become all of those things. Happy reading!

#### **SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

It's important to note that students are expected to complete all reading **prior to the first day of school.** Please make arrangements to complete the reading even if you will be traveling during the summer; only those students who register *after* the 2019-2020 school year has begun will be exempt from this expectation.

Last year, we launched a new structure to our summer reading. We're excited to continue and build on that this year. We've chosen ONE book for all high school students to read (this includes rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders). This will allow us to have school wide discussions, "book club" meetings, and literacy events all revolving around the same summer reading. We're also inviting all high school teachers and staff to join us in reading our annual Summer Reading book, and to join in our shenanigans at the start of the next school year.

In addition, we're assigning a contest for rising 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, and a Summer to Change Your Mind project for rising 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders (and ALL AP Lang, AP Lit, and AP Seminar students). Below, you'll find a synopsis of each of these things.

We have also built a website where you should go to find specific grade level information and resources. **PLEASE REFERENCE THE WEBSITE BEFORE YOU CONTACT THE SCHOOL WITH SUMMER READING QUESTIONS.** All the information you need is there.

## SUMMER READING WEBSITE: [www.oshs-ela.com](http://www.oshs-ela.com)

2019 SUMMER READING SUMMARY (Again, please see the above website for details, resources, and any questions):

- ALL GRADES, ALL COURSES: School Wide Summer Reading
  - *Barracoon* by Zora Neale Hurston
    - *Barracoon* is a non-fiction text. Hurston, in her primary career as a sociologist, interviewed the last living slave brought to the US via the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. He was brought into the US on an illegal slave ship called the Barracoon. The story is told mostly in his own words. We will pair this with a study of one of our most famous local authors, and a field trip opportunity in the winter to the annual *Zora!* Festival held in Eatonville, FL.
- RISING 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> GRADES ONLY: *New York Times* Summer Reading Contest
  - The contest opens on JUNE 14.
  - OSHS Requirements:
    - Students should submit a minimum of four (4) reflections throughout the summer in order to receive credit.
    - In addition to your entries, you need to keep a digital file with each entry. You will turn this in at the beginning of the school year. Your file should include:
      - The title, byline (writer) and date of the article
      - A brief summary of the article (a couple sentences is fine)
      - Your entry/reflection
    - Students who enter MORE than 4 times over the summer will receive extra credit.
    - Remember, you may read articles about any topic that interests you!
- RISING 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> GRADES ONLY: Summer to Change Your Mind Project
  - Read a minimum of 7 sources about your topic. They should come from varied sources and present all sides of the issue.
  - Complete an annotated bibliography
  - You can find a list of ideas to get you started on the above website
- AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION:
  - In addition to the Summer to Change Your Mind Project and *Barracoon*, you will need to read one of 4 selected books: *Hillbilly Elegy* (poverty, education, race), *Dopesick* (opioid epidemic, healthcare, corruption), *The New Jim Crow* (criminal justice, racism, mass incarceration), *A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face With Modern-Day Slavery* (human trafficking, crime, sex trafficking, modern slavery). Please see the website for details.
- AP LITERATURE & COMPOSITION:
  - In addition to the Summer to Change Your Mind Project and *Barracoon*, you will need to read Thomas C. Foster's *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Second Edition (the edition is important). Please see the website above for a PDF version of the text. It is recommended, however, that you purchase a copy as we will use it throughout the year.
- AP SEMINAR:
  - In addition to the Summer to Change Your Mind Project and *Barracoon*, you will need to read one of 4 selected books: *Hillbilly Elegy* (poverty, education, race), *Dopesick* (opioid epidemic, healthcare), *The New Jim Crow* (criminal justice, racism, mass incarceration), *A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face With Modern-Day Slavery* (human trafficking, crime, sex trafficking, modern slavery). Please see the website for details.