June 2017

Dear Parents/Students,

In order to encourage life-long reading and prepare for the upcoming school year, we have developed a summer reading program featuring relevant selections that connect to the English curriculum. Our summer reading program provides an opportunity for students to begin the year ready to participate in both class discussion and a written evaluation of the works. This discussion and evaluation will be included in the first quarter English grade.

The summer reading program works as follows:

- Students in each grade level will read an assigned book or books as listed on the MDSA website under the Academics tab: [www.mountdesales.org/academics](http://www.mountdesales.org/academics)
- Some reading selections are required of all students in a given class. Additionally, in most classes, students are also required to choose a reading selection from a short list of literary works.
- Discussion questions can be downloaded from the MDSA website
- Students will use the discussion questions for each work to guide them in their reading
- Students do not have to write the answers to the questions, but answering the questions will help prepare them for the written evaluation/test which will be given the first or second week of the quarter
- **Limited** class discussion will take place on each assigned book.
- **The written evaluation/test on the book(s) will be included as part of the first quarter grade.**

In this way, students will have the opportunity to make the connection between their summer reading and other literature covered in their English classes and will also be held accountable for reading the works.

Since the summer reading selections will be used during the first few weeks at the beginning of the first quarter, we encourage students to purchase the assigned text(s) so that they are available for the class discussion and evaluation. All of these texts are readily available at *Barnes and Noble* and online sites such as *Amazon*.

We genuinely hope that the program will provide an enjoyable reading and learning experience for your daughters.

Sincerely,

Helen Hufford
English Department Chair
SUMMER READING LIST 2017

AP English Literature (Seniors)

Honors Senior English – British Literature
Required Reading: 1984 – George Orwell, Wuthering Heights – Emily Brontë
Choose one of the following selections:
The Remains of the Day – Kazuo Ishiguro
Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
Tess of the D’Urbervilles – Thomas Hardy
To the Lighthouse – Virginia Woolf

Level 2 Senior English – British Literature
Required Reading: 1984 – George Orwell
Choose one of the following selections:
Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad
The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde
Tess of the D’Urbervilles – Thomas Hardy
Wuthering Heights – Emily Brontë

Level 1 Senior English – British Literature
Required Reading: Lord of the Flies – William Golding
Choose one of the following selections:
And Then There Were None – Agatha Christie
A Tale of Two Cities – Charles Dickens
Kidnapped – Robert Louis Stevenson

AP Language/American Literature (Juniors)
Required Reading: Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston,
A Farewell to Arms – Ernest Hemingway
Choose two, one from each of the following pairings:
Bartleby - Herman Melville
Of Mice and Men - John Steinbeck
&
Angela’s Ashes – Frank McCourt
The Glass Castle – Jeannette Walls

Honors Junior English – American Literature
Required Reading: Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston
Choose one of the following selections:
Billy Budd – Herman Melville
The Turn of the Screw – Henry James
My Antonia – Willa Cather
East of Eden – John Steinbeck
Level 2 Junior English – American Literature

Required Reading:  *Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston

Choose one of the following selections:
- *Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury
- *Our Town* – Thornton Wilder
- *East of Eden* – John Steinbeck
- *The Secret Life of Bees* – Sue Monk Kidd
- “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber,” “Big Two-Hearted River,” and “Indian Camp” – Ernest Hemingway – (Read all three short stories, counting as one selection)

Level 1 Junior English – American Literature

Required Reading:  *Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston

Choose one of the following selections:
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee
- *The Secret Life of Bees* – Sue Monk Kidd

Honors Sophomore English

Required Reading:  *Great Expectations* – Charles Dickens

Choose one of the following selections:
- *Lord of the Flies* – William Golding
- *A Separate Peace* – John Knowles
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* – Betty Smith

Level 2 Sophomore English

Required Reading:  *The Old Man and the Sea* – Ernest Hemingway

Choose one of the following selections:
- *All Quiet on the Western Front* – Erich Maria Remarque
- *A Room with a View* – E.M. Forster
- *Call of the Wild* – Jack London
- *The Moviegoer* – Walker Percy

Level 1 Sophomore English

Required Reading:  *The Old Man and the Sea* – Ernest Hemingway

Choose one of the following selections:
- *The Pearl* – John Steinbeck
- *Our Town* – Thornton Wilder

Honors Freshman English

Required Reading:  *The Secret Life of Bees* – Sue Monk Kidd

*Sense and Sensibility* – Jane Austen

Levels 1 and 2 Freshman English

Required Reading:  *The Secret Life of Bees* – Sue Monk Kidd
Freshman English – Honors
Summer Reading Questions

Required Text:  The Secret Life of Bees – Sue Monk Kidd

Consider the following questions while you read the novels and be prepared to discuss them in class. You should be able to refer to specific examples from each novel.

1. How would you describe Lily's feelings about her mother? Did they change throughout the novel? Lily struggles with guilt and forgiveness. Was it harder for Lily to forgive her mother or herself? Explain.

2. What compelled Rosaleen to spit on the white men's shoes? Did she understand the ramifications of spitting on their shoes? Should she have apologized? What aspects of Rosaleen’s personality are appealing?

3. What does each of the Boatwright sisters, May, June and August, represent? For example, how would the story be different if there had just been June and August in the pink house and no May involved? How did time spent in the company of the Calendar Sisters and the Daughters of Mary transform Lily?

4. The social situation outside the sanctuary of the pink house is harsh. How do the two worlds conflict? Other white people in the outside community judge Lily’s presence in this little black enclave. What do you think of their reactions? Do you think their little community could have survived in that era in the American South, or is it too idealistic a picture?

5. What do the bees mean to the story? What is "the secret life of bees?" Who is the queen bee? How does the bee calendar, along with the changing seasons, influence the characters and their lives?
Freshman English - Honors
Summer Reading Questions

Required Text: **Sense and Sensibility** – Jane Austen

Consider the following questions while you read the novels and be prepared to discuss them in class. You should be able to refer to specific examples from each novel.

1. The title *Sense and Sensibility* lists two traits which can be applied, to one extent or another, to many of the characters in the book. Which two characters, in particular, define these traits? Does Austen seem to prefer one trait over the other?

2. Compare and contrast Willoughby and Colonel Brandon. What do they have in common? In what important ways are they different? Which is best suited to Marianne?

3. The relationship that begins to develop between Elinor and Edward at Norwood is, for the most part, conducted outside of the reading, while the reader is given a lot more information about the courtship of Marianne and Willoughby. Do you think this is deliberate? Why or why not?

4. Do you agree with Edward’s decision to honor his engagement to Lucy Steele, which necessarily means forgetting the love he found with Elinor? Why or why not? Do you think Jane Austen agrees with it?

5. Do you think that Marianne’s decision to marry Colonel Brandon is a believable ending? Why or why not?

6. Why do you think Colonel Brandon did not fall in love with Elinor?

7. Consider the character of Mrs. Jennings. In the beginning of the story, both Elinor and Marianne think she is a bit ridiculous, but by the end both girls confide in and respect her. What does this suggest about her character? About the sisters?

8. Willoughby's final confession to Elinor allows us in some part to forgive and pity him. Why would Austen include this scene in her book?

9. *Sense and Sensibility* contains, by its end, at least two marriages that Jane Austen considers successful, and at least two (potential) marriages that she does not. Does a comparison of these reveal any of Austen’s attitudes towards marriage?