

Dear Students and Parents,

The English department at Sturgis has created a new summer reading list that we hope will get our students excited about reading and will provide a starting point for the curriculum in the fall. Works were chosen for their literary merit, their thematic relevance, their global perspectives, their interest level, and their fit with our I.B. curriculum.

Our primary goals are for students to read and enjoy good literature and to begin the school year with a common experience and the background for discussion. Therefore, it is important that students in grades 9-11 complete both the required book and at least one choice book from the list provided. Students entering grade 12 do not have a summer reading requirement due to the expectation that they will be working on extended essays and CAS requirements over the summer.

During the first two weeks of school in the fall, students will be assessed on the books read. A test will be given on each required book, and an in-class essay and/or oral presentation will assess the choice books read. Additionally, it is recommended that students keep up a reading journal. Students might record quotations of interest or significance and personal response to them or make notes on plot, characterization, technique, structure, and meaning.

**At each grade level, students must read the required book and at least one book from the choice list.** In the spirit of intellectual and academic pursuit, it is expected that students will NOT use reading aids such as *Spark Notes* and that any outside sources, including movies, which are consulted will be acknowledged in reading journals.

Enjoy the summer and enjoy your reading!

**Sturgis Charter Public School  
SUMMER READING LIST 2010**

**Ninth Grade:**

**All entering freshmen must read *The Sound of Waves* by Yukio Mishima**

*The Sound of Waves* takes the reader to Uta-Jima--Song Island--home to a small fishing community in the Gulf of Ise in Japan in the 1950's. It presents the story of the young love that grows between a handsome young fisherman Shinji and Hatsue.

**Freshmen must also choose one additional text from the following:**

***When My Name Was Keoko* by Linda Sue Park**

“Inspired by her own family's stories of living in South Korea during the Japanese occupation in the years preceding World War II, Park chronicles the compelling story of two siblings and their battle to maintain their identity and dignity during one of Korea's most difficult and turbulent times.”

***Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

Best selling author Sherman Alexie writes a gripping novel for young readers about the awkward, funny, and poignant moments in a young Indian boy's life living on a reservation. This wannabe cartoonist is in the thralls of adolescence, trying to understand the world of his home, as compared to the white-bred upper middle class of his high school.

***Feed* by M.T. Anderson**

This novel centers on Titus, a teenager whose “ability to read, write, and even think for himself, has been almost completely obliterated by his ‘feed’, a transmitter implanted directly into his brain” and what happens when someone begins to question the ‘feed.’

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**Tenth Grade:**

**All rising sophomores must read *Boyhood: Scenes from Provincial Life* by J.M. Coetzee**

*Boyhood* is a short, touching account of a young boy's experience during the confusing and often harsh world of South Africa in the beginning of the Apartheid. This engrossing page-turner has horrific descriptions that engulf the reader into the pitiless and cruel honesty of a child's mind; one who is learning to live in this world of segregation, sexual curiosity, and family pain.

**Sophomores must also choose one additional text from the following:**

***Caucasia* by Danzy Senna**

In Danzy Senna's *Caucasia*, Birdie, a bi-racial teen who "passes" as white, is physically torn from her father and sister, both of whom fit into the black community. Although Birdie's situation is unique, students will find the familiar as Birdie copes with divorce, family, love, and identity.

***The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls***

Walls chronicles her upbringing at the hands of eccentric, nomadic parents who repeatedly uprooted their children and left them largely to their own devices and eventually landed the family on the streets. Without complaint or playing the victim, Walls reveals what it was like to live in this family dynamic and finds positives amidst the crazy, embarrassing, shocking, and loving reality that was her life.

***Sold by Patricia McCormick***

This novel follows Lakshmi, a thirteen year-old girl who lives with her family in a small village in Nepal. When monsoons wash away the family's crops, Lakshmi is told she must find work, and when she is taken to India, ostensibly to work as a maid in the city, she instead is sold into prostitution. Though the content of this novel is at times raw and disturbing, it is an absorbing and fast read.

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**Eleventh Grade:**

**All rising juniors enrolled in Standard Level IB English AND Higher Level IB English must read:**

***A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah*** (which is part of their IB curriculum).

“*A Long Way Gone* is one of the most important war stories of our generation. The arming of children is among the greatest evils of the modern world, and yet we know so little about it because the children themselves are swallowed up by the very wars they are forced to wage. Ishmael Beah has not only emerged intact from this chaos, he has become one of its most eloquent characters.

**All rising juniors must choose one additional text from the following:**

***The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini***

This novel follows the story of Amir, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman in Kabul, and Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant.. Hosseini manages to provide an educational and eye-opening account of Afghanistan's political turmoil while making the reader forget this is a novel rather than a memoir.

***The Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle***

In Boyle's novel, Candido and his wife America are illegal aliens living in the canyons and brush areas of Southern California. The story is told through the alternating voices of Candido and Delaney and juxtaposes the lives of these very different people and their very different experiences.

***Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi***

This is a prize-winning graphic novel about a young girl in Iran in the early years of the Islamic Revolution in that country. It is a biographical work based on Satrapi's own experiences growing up in Iran in a time of great social change. A vivid picture of daily life in Iran is presented as are the problems of trying to be true to one's self in a climate of political repression.