

## MHS English Department 2021 Summer Reading List For Students Entering Grade 12

*Students entering Grade 12 College Prep or Honors* are encouraged to read one or more books for their enjoyment and for their continued skill development during the summer vacation. The books suggested in the list below are related thematically to several of the unit topics that students will explore in these courses.

**If a student wishes to receive extra credit for reading one of the selections, he/she must: (1) read a book from the suggested titles below, (2) complete a reading journal (see guidelines at the end of this list), and (3) submit the journal to his/her English teacher during the first week that the class meets (teacher will announce due date).**

\*The reading journal guidelines can be found at the end of the list

*Students entering 12 AP* are **REQUIRED** to read the **TWO** AP Selections\*\* and may choose one of the selections from the list of suggested novels for extra credit by completing and submitting a reading journal (see guidelines\*).

**12 AP students: see attached document for the required reading selections and assignment.**

Grade 12		
Marjane Satrapi	<i>Persepolis (Part 1)</i>	<i>Persepolis</i> is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. <b>Amazon.com Synopsis</b>
Ishmael Beah	<b>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</b>	This absorbing account by a young man who, as a boy of 12, gets swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war, reveals the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare. Told in a clear, assessable language, this memoir is a gripping firsthand account of war and the ongoing plight of child soldiers in conflicts worldwide. <b>Publishers Weekly Synopsis</b>
Sylvia Plath	<i>The Bell Jar</i>	Esther Greenwood is brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under—maybe for the last time. In her acclaimed and enduring masterwork, Sylvia Plath brilliantly draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that her insanity becomes palpably real, even rational—as accessible an experience as going to the movies. A deep penetration into the darkest and most harrowing corners of the human psyche, <i>The Bell Jar</i> is an extraordinary accomplishment and a haunting American classic. <b>Amazon.com Synopsis</b>

Fredrik Backman	<i><b>Beartown</b></i>	Everyone knows Beartown is a hockey town. And everyone in Beartown knows someone who is connected to hockey, from the lonely owner of the local bar to the former athlete now managing the supermarket. In a town dying from economic decay and isolated by the surrounding wilderness, Beartown needs its junior hockey team to bring home the championship and bring in tourism and sponsorship dollars to keep the town alive. The son of a wealthy businessman and team patron, Kevin is the squad's superstar. Amat is an immigrant whose speed and skill on the ice may be his ticket to popularity. Maya is the daughter of the team's beloved general manager. When the paths of these three collide in the supercharged aftermath of a decisive game, the town's financial survival rests on the moral convictions of its most vulnerable citizens. <i><b>Booklist Review</b></i>
Kevin Powers	<i><b>The Yellow Birds: A Novel</b></i>	This first novel by Powers traces the story of a young soldier named John Bartle and his friend Murph during fighting in northern Iraq in 2005. Sterling, the tough sergeant of their platoon, has informally assigned Bartle the job of watching over Murph, who is young, small, and not much of a soldier, and Bartle had also promised Murph's mother that he would take care of him. As the horrors of war escalate, all the soldiers seem to lose their grip, and Murph finally snaps, leaving the compound and forcing Bartle and Sterling to search for him through the nightmarish landscape of a ravaged city. Alternating with this plot is the story of Bartle's life after his return home, as he attempts to piece together his friend's fate and come to grips with it. <i><b>Library Journal Review</b></i>
Vanessa Diffenbaugh	<i><b>The Language of Flowers</b></i>	In Victorian times, the language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating mistrust and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now 18, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But an unexpected encounter with a mysterious stranger has her questioning what has been missing in her life.

Cheryl Strayed	<i>Wild</i>	At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and she would do it alone. Told with suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and humor, <i>Wild</i> powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her. <b>Amazon.com Review</b>
Bram Stoker	<i>Dracula</i>  <a href="#">Click here for a link to the text via Project Gutenberg</a>	Dracula is an 1897 Gothic horror novel by Irish author Bram Stoker. Famous for introducing the character of the vampire Count Dracula, the novel tells the story of Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England so he may find new blood and spread the undead curse, and the battle between Dracula and a small group of men and women led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing. <b>Amazon</b>

## Extra Credit Reading Journal for Grade 12

In order to receive extra credit for completing your summer reading, you must answer **all** of the following prompts **carefully** and **thoroughly**. Be sure to include **relevant textual evidence** to support your ideas. Also, don't forget to identify the novel's title and author's name!

**Due:** First week of English class (Teacher will announce due date)

**Length:** Approximately 3 pages, neatly handwritten\*

- Write a one-page reaction statement to the novel you read. Be specific in your thoughts about the points that you liked or didn't like about the novel, ideas that intrigued you, etc. Be sure to include **specific textual references** (include page numbers) to support your reaction/thoughts.
- Cite a memorable passage of no more than thirty words or three sentences from the book (include page number(s)). Explain **why** you have chosen this passage from the book.
- Describe your first impression of one character or event that you find interesting. Give at least **three examples of specific textual evidence** (include page numbers) that support or generate this impression.
- \*\* Identify what causes a significant change in one character and describe the results of that change. This change may be the consequence of a choice, a conflict of some kind that has to be resolved, a display of some outstanding trait like courage, or even the result of an action/event that occurs during the story. Whenever possible, include **specific textual references** (include page numbers) to support your conclusions, especially those that help to illustrate or provide evidence of the character's change.

\*\*Students with IEPs or 504 plans with the typed response accommodation may choose to type their responses.

