

Incoming 12th Grade Summer Reading List
GENERAL PREPARATORY and COLLEGE PREPARATORY ENGLISH
Emmaus High School 2008-2009

All twelfth grade college preparatory and general preparatory students must read **two** books from the list, one fiction, one non-fiction. **Note: Students enrolled in *Grade 12 World Literature, College Preparatory* should not select titles from this list, but see additional list (attached).**

Dear Students:

The books you choose to read over the summer will serve as the basis for an in-class, one-hundred-point, five-paragraph essay. The mode of writing will be persuasive, and you will be asked to evaluate your books based on their quality. Please consider setting, plot, character development, theme in fictional works and memoirs, and timeliness, uniqueness, accessibility, and depth of information in non-fiction works. Students must illustrate an understanding of the structure of a five-paragraph essay by developing a central idea and a thesis statement, by creating fully-developed body paragraphs with specific examples from the books, and by including an introduction and conclusion. To aid you in completing your essay, you may use any **original, handwritten** notes you collect over the summer. We look forward to reading your responses to the books in September.

Please Note: In the English Department's attempt to provide rich and varied reading experiences for our students, we have selected titles for the summer reading lists written mostly by contemporary authors. Some selections are focused toward mature readers. We encourage parents to read the book descriptions carefully with their children and assist them in selecting interesting, appropriate titles for their summer reading.

War/Work Fiction

Frazier, Charles. *Cold Mountain*.

Cold Mountain begins with the protagonist, a Confederate soldier named Inman, injured in battle during the Civil War. During his recovery in the hospital, he realizes that once he is well enough, he will be sent back to the front lines, a realization that causes him to make the arduous journey home to Cold Mountain. Inman's journey home and the many obstacles he overcomes bring about personal growth and form the main plot of the novel. The second half of the novel involves Inman's love interest, Ada, who is the privileged daughter of Monroe, a preacher who has recently arrived in Cold Mountain. Monroe unexpectedly dies, and Ada tries to make the farm self-sufficient, despite almost overwhelming odds. As the novel progresses, each character faces enormous obstacles that help develop the author's purpose of showing the brutal realities of life and futility of war. *1997 National Book Award, 1997 W. D. Weatherford Award*

Harris, Joanne. *Five Quarters of the Orange*.

When Framboise Simon returns to a small village on the banks of the Loire, the locals do not recognize her as the daughter of the infamous Mirabelle Dartigen -- the woman they still hold responsible for the terrible tragedy that took place during the German occupation decades before. She seeks out a new beginning for herself by opening a small cafe, inspired by a scrapbook of recipes she has inherited from her dead mother. Using this book, Framboise recreates her mother's dishes, which she serves in her small creperie. Within those same tattered pages she also finds the key to what actually transpired the summer Framboise was nine years old, when the Germans occupied their town.

Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone with the Wind*.

Beginning in the pre-Civil War South and continuing through the war and reconstruction, Mitchell's novel remains a classic epic of love and endurance. Scarlet O'Hara, a manipulative Southern woman, yearns for the days of innocent youth and romanticizes her childhood love. However, she remains ignorant of the fact that the only man who could possibly share her deep passion and fiery spirit is truly the love of her life. The novel retells the stories of war from the characters who struggle to endure amidst the destruction of war and shares their friendship, turmoil, and heartache. A must read for historical fiction fans. *1937 Pulitzer Prize*

Trumbo, Dalton. *Johnny Got His Gun*.

During World War I, an American soldier awakens in a hospital and realizes his arms, legs, ears, and face (he is also blind deaf and mute) have been destroyed by a landmine, and that he is being kept alive by machines. After nine years of lying in bed, he begins to tap messages in Morse Code by moving his head. He communicates with a nurse and asks for someone to help him leave the hospital or die. The book asks the reader to consider the consequences of war. *1939 National Book Award*

Weisberger, Lauren. *The Devil Wears Prada*.

Just out of college, Andrea is looking to score her dream job in publishing—working for *The New Yorker*. Instead, she ends up working at *Runway* magazine, the pre-eminent voice in women's fashion. Rather than writing pithy stories with an intellectual bent, Andrea finds herself a personal assistant to the imperious Miranda Priestly, a woman completely oblivious to anyone's needs but her own. As Andrea is given one impossible task after another (for example, finding a copy of the new *Harry Potter* novel before it's released to the public), she finds herself developing a grudging respect for Miranda and the world of high fashion. However, her dedication to her job begins to cause havoc in her personal life, as one relationship after another begins to fall apart. Andrea must decide what her future holds—will she follow in the footsteps of Miranda Priestly, or will she forge her own path in life? *NY Times bestseller, Quill Award Variety Blockbuster book to film award*

War/Work Non-fiction

Bourdain, Anthony. *Kitchen Confidential*.

In this irreverent exposé of what it's really like to work in the gourmet restaurant business, Bourdain does not hold back. He claims he wanted to write a book that a professional chefs and "restaurant lifers" would find funny and true. This book is not for the faint-hearted, as Bourdain spends plenty of time warning the reader about what not to order in restaurants—and why. He also tries to initiate the lay-person in "kitchenese," a no-holds-barred recreation of the sometimes raunchy and shocking language of the professional kitchen. Behind all the shock value, however, is a man who truly loves cooking and food, and the book offers some transcendent moments in the way Bourdain describes his experiences with food, like eating his first oyster or cooking his favorite dishes. Since the publication of this book, Bourdain has become a celebrity chef in his own right and hosts a television show in which he travels and experiences the various cuisines of the world. His show from Lebanon, abruptly aborted due to military hostilities, was nominated for an Emmy. *NY Times bestseller*

Jadick, Richard and Thomas Hayden. *On Call in Hell: A Doctor's Iraq War Story*.

Jadick was an experienced Marine Corps officer who eventually attended medical school on a navy scholarship. In 2004 he left a promising civilian career as a urologist, responding to the military's desperate need for trained surgeons in Iraq. Jadick found himself in the midst of the savage fight for control of the city of Falluja. He chose to operate on the front line, saving both time and lives. Jadick's story is shocking, bloody, and, at times, sickening. He pulls no punches in describing the devastating injuries he had to cope with day after day. Yet, this is an inspiring story because of both the dedicated and brilliant innovations practiced by Jadick and his colleagues and the sheer bravery of the soldiers he encountered.

O'Brien, Tim. *If I Die in a Combat Zone*.

Tim O'Brien writes *If I Die in a Combat Zone* from the perspective of a young man who was drafted into the Vietnam War. O'Brien doesn't agree with the politics of the war and experiences an internal conflict once he is drafted. Throughout the work, he contemplates the rights and wrongs of war in general, and he philosophically considers the virtues of dodging the draft versus killing others in battle. In addition, O'Brien deeply considers the meaning of courage and bravery as he searches his character and the character of others. These contrasting ideas are developed through examples of bureaucracy, dialogue between characters, specific behaviors of soldiers and officers, and actions of characters as they are faced with the struggles and difficulties of war. O'Brien's purpose in writing *If I Die in a Combat Zone* is to give a raw, realistic account of the confusing and harsh realities of the Vietnam War. *O'Brien—National Book Award Winner*

Swofford, Anthony. *Jarhead*.

An unflinching, sometimes brutal and profane, account of the experience of a marine deployed to operation Desert Storm. Swofford uses "jarheadese" to immerse the reader in the mindset of the marines in an elite sniper division. Swofford depicts the realities of the war, with its alternating moments of terror and long stretches of sheer boredom. He also describes the cruelty of the Corps, from a tortuous basic training experience to the callous treatment of commanding officers. This book is not for the squeamish or prudish. People considering a career with the Marines might think twice after reading this book. *2004 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award, 2004 LA Times Book Prize Finalist*

Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation*.

Sadly enough, according to Schlosser, the only character with greater recognition than Ronald McDonald is Santa Claus. After reading this book about the practices of fast food restaurants around the US, you may find yourself tempted to order an "Unhappy Meal." Schlosser takes the reader into the big business of fast food and its infiltration into the culture of American life. Descriptions of food preparation and animal killing may be disturbing to some readers, but nothing is more disturbing than the picture Schlosser paints of this industry's effect on the culture and health of Americans. *Schlosser won a Sidney Hillman Foundation Award for Reporting and a Loeb Award for business journalism*

Tzu, Sun. *The Art of War*.

The Art of War develops the idea that conflict pervades all areas of our lives. We experience and contest with conflict in all walks of life. Whether it's from an individual's perspective or from society's perspective, whether on a national scale or on an international scale, conflict surrounds us, and according to a "mysterious warrior-philosopher," there are strategies within us to "deal with conflict wisely, honorably, and victoriously."

Memoir (Non-fiction)

Frey, James. *A Million Little Pieces*.

Frey's high school and college years are a blur of alcohol and drugs, culminating in a full-fledged crack addiction at age twenty-three. As the book begins, his fed-up friends have shipped him off to his parents, who promptly put him in Hazelden, the rehabilitation clinic with the greatest success rate, twenty percent. Frey doesn't shy away from the gory details of addiction and recovery; all of the bodily fluids make major appearances here. What really separates this title from other rehab memoirs, apart from the author's young age, is his literary prowess. He doesn't rely on traditional indentation, punctuation, or capitalization, which adds to the nearly poetic, impressionistic detail of parts of the story. Readers cannot help but feel his sickness, pain, and anger, which is evident through his language. Fellow addicts are as much, if not more, help to him than the clinicians who are trying to preach the twelve steps, which he does not intend to follow in his path to sobriety. This book is highly recommended for teens interested in the darker side of human existence. *School Library Journal Adult Books for Young Adults*

McCourt, Frank. *Teacher Man*.

In the third part of his trilogy beginning with *Angela's Ashes*, Frank McCourt writes *Teacher Man* as a memoir of his teaching career. He chronicles his thirty-year career providing the reader with an open, honest, and witty account of what he experienced in the New York public school system. Not only does McCourt share the successes he had as a creative teacher, he also shares his blunders and often considers if he should have been a teacher at all. However, McCourt suggests that it was through his storytelling in class that he became a writer. *McCourt—Pulitzer Prize Winner*

Eggers, David. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius.*

In this engaging memoir by David Eggers, he describes his parents' horrific deaths from cancer within a few weeks of each other during his senior year of college and his decision to move with his eight-year-old brother from the suburbs of Chicago to Berkeley. In California, he manages to care for his brother, work at various jobs, and even take a star turn on MTV's *The Real World*. While his is an amazing true story, Eggers mainly focuses on the ethics of the memoir and of his behavior—his desire to be loved because he is an orphan and admired for caring for his brother versus his fear that he is attempting to profit from his terrible experiences and that he is only sharing his pain in an attempt to dilute it. Eggers's memoir is true-to-life in many aspects, one of which involves strong language. *2001 Pulitzer Prize Finalist, 2000 New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice, 2000 Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Washington Post, and Time Best Book of the Year*

Sedaris, David. *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim.*

In this collection of essays, David Sedaris writes about his eccentric family with edgy, uproarious results. He describes fights with his boyfriend and his sister-in-law's difficult pregnancy. When sister Lisa complains about the stories involving the family, he writes about that, too. Sedaris also shows his softer side in essays devoted to his mother—he draws a poignant portrait of an intelligent yet slightly zany woman. His mother acted as his muse until her untimely death from cancer. Along with poignancy and tenderness, Sedaris replicates the authentic, if sometimes raunchy, speech of his most oddball relative, his brother Paul, otherwise known as “the Rooster.” He is a great humorist, memoirist and raconteur who never forgets to expose the humanity along with the hilarity. *2004 NYT Bestseller, 2004 Grammy nomination for audio version (read by Sedaris), Sedaris won a James Thurber Humor Award*

Uchida, Yoshiko. *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese-American Family.*

Uchida details the experience of her Japanese-American family during World War II. Sent to internment camps in California and Utah, Uchida and her family faced stark conditions and unlawful confinement with grace and stoicism. Initially housed in what was once a horse stall, the family braved armed guards and a complete loss of privacy. Remarkably, the internees reacted to their situation with a resiliency of spirit that enabled them to create a sense of community, educate their children, and attempt to lead productive lives.

Teacher's Book Bag (Fiction)

Conroy, Pat. *The Prince of Tides*

Melrose Island, South Carolina, is the setting for Conroy's novel depicting life of a football coach who is trying very hard to overcome growing up in a dysfunctional family. Tom Wingo shares a great love with his sister, Savannah, and his brother, Luke, though all three continue to struggle with memories of a strong, domineering father and a mother who is a great dreamer. A family crisis forces Tom to remember the past, something he has been reluctant to do. Despite the serious issues and drama which unfold, the Wingo family adventures provide plenty of wit and laughter.

Morris, Mary McGarry. *Songs in Ordinary Time*

It's the summer of 1960 in Atkinson, Vermont. Marie Fermoye is a strong but vulnerable divorced woman whose loneliness and ambition for her children make her easy prey for dangerous con man, Omar Duvall. This book explores a woman's quest to deal with an alcoholic ex-husband, troubled children, and poverty while retaining her dignity and spirit. *Oprah's Book Club*

Rushdie, Salman. *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*

Rushdie offers as eloquent a defense of art as any Renaissance treatise. *Haroun* concerns a supremely talented storyteller named Rashid whose wife is lured away by the same saturnine neighbor who poisons Rashid's son Haroun's thoughts. "What's the use of stories that aren't even true?" Haroun demands, parroting the neighbor and thus unintentionally paralyzing Rashid's imagination. The clocks freeze: time literally stops when the ability to narrate its passing is lost. Repentant, Haroun quests through a fantastic realm in order to restore his father's gift for storytelling. Rushdie's fabulous landscape, which operates by P2C2Es (Processes Too Complicated To Explain), features a court where all the attendant Pages are numbered, and unfurls a riotous display of verbal pranks punning on everything from Tolkien to The Beatles. In this story Rushdie suggests that storytelling isn't a luxury but a necessity. *Writer's Guild Award, Rushdie is a Booker Prize Winner*

Satrapi, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis.*

In this starkly but beautifully designed graphic novel, Marjane Satrapi recounts her youth during the Islamic Revolution in Tehran, Iran. Even as a young girl, Satrapi recognizes the discrepancy between her private life at home and the propaganda of the political regime. When things become desperate, her parents send her abroad to complete her education. Away from family and friends, Marjane must cope with the typical trials of coming of age, including trying to fit in, experimenting with drugs and alcohol, and experimenting with sex. Marjane's candid style and simple block drawings make this memoir both unique and universal.

Alternate Titles (Classics)

Bowen, Elizabeth. *The Death of the Heart.*

In this piercing story of innocence betrayed set in the thirties, the orphaned Portia is stranded in the sophisticated and politely treacherous world of her wealthy half-brother's home in London. There she encounters the attractive, carefree cad Eddie. To him, Portia is at once child and woman, and her fears her gushing love. To her, Eddie is the only reason to be alive. But when Eddie follows Portia to a sea-side resort, the flash of a cigarette lighter in a darkened cinema illuminates a stunning romantic betrayal--and sets in motion one of the most moving and desperate flights of the heart in modern literature.

Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine.*

The Time Machine is the story that launched Wells' successful career--the classic tale of the Time Traveler and the extraordinary world he discovers in the far distant future. A haunting portrayal of Darwin's evolutionary theory carried to a terrible conclusion.

Resources

Below are some ways to acquire free or inexpensive copies of the required summer reading, provided for your reference:

1 – Students with demonstrated financial need should see their guidance counselor, as the books can be generously provided by the Emmaus High School Angel Network.

2 – The Emmaus High School Library has purchased copies of all books on the list and they are available to borrow free of charge. Your local public library also has copies of most of them. Note: If you wait until the last minute, your selection will likely be limited.

3 - There are a number of websites where new or used copies of books can be purchased at up to a 90% discount. Hundreds such sites are available on the web. A few sites we have used and can recommend are listed below:

- Ebay (www.ebay.com) - *Type in the title of your book and bid on copies available from individual sellers around the country.*
- Half.com (<http://www.half.ebay.com/>) - *Type in the title of your book and directly purchase new or used copies directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings. No bidding required*
- Amazon.com marketplace (www.amazon.com) - *Select 'books' in the menu and type in the title of your book. You can purchase the book new from amazon.com or click on 'buy used and new' and purchase a copy directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings. No bidding required.*

Incoming 12th Grade Summer Reading List
COLLEGE PREPARATORY WORLD LITERATURE
Emmaus High School 2008-2009

All twelfth grade college preparatory world literature students must read **two** books from the list below.

Dear Students:

Please read two books from the following list before the beginning of school in September. The books you choose to read over the summer will serve as the basis for an in-class, one-hundred-point, five-paragraph essay. Students must illustrate an understanding of the structure of a five-paragraph essay by developing a central idea and thesis statement, by creating fully developed body paragraphs with specific examples from the books, and by including an introduction and conclusion. To aid you in completing your essay, you may use any **original, handwritten** notes you collect over the summer. We look forward to reading your responses to the books in September.

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Africa

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart.*

Fiction

Although taking place in an African village, the novel explores the effects of ambition and inflexibility on the life of a driven and "successful" man. The novel captures the feeling of village life and dramatizes without sentimentalizing the struggles of one man to succeed.

Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier.*

Non-Fiction

The true story of an innocent boy impressed into becoming a cog in a ruthless military machine. The book depicts graphic violence, and although enlightening, is painful to read.

Paton, Alan. *Cry the Beloved Country.*

Fiction

This novel provides a sensitive look at apartheid and its effects on black and whites who share a country and community. An act of violence causes the characters to reveal their true natures and values.

Europe

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Crime and Punishment.*

Fiction

Classic in every sense of the word, this novel investigates the effect of crime on the psyche of the criminal. Because it deals so intimately with criminal behavior and its impact on a man with a conscience, the novel contains some violence.

Kafka, Franz. *Metamorphosis.*

Fiction

What effect do families have on their children? Do we sometimes stifle our offspring to the point that they completely disintegrate? Kafka poses these questions and many others concerning personal development and the individual's need for independent thought.

Kostova, Elizabeth. *The Historian.*

Fiction

A novel for strong readers, *The Historian* examines Dracula as both an historic and a mythic figure. At times violent, but always intriguing, this is a modern version of the ongoing struggle between good and evil. The battle is anything but decided.

Far East

Burdett, John. *Bangkok 8.*

Fiction

Burdett, John. *Bangkok Tattoo.*

Fiction

Both *Bangkok* novels feature a Taiwanese detective dealing with crime in a country teeming with life, lust, and lore. The setting is modern as are the behaviors and language of the characters. Violent, graphic, intriguing, and adult, the novels are entertaining from start to finish.

Clavell, James. *Shogun.*

Fiction

"History made intriguing" describes *Shogun*. The attitudes and politics of the first Europeans to reach Japan and their Japanese counterparts are exposed in this novel. The book is a fun read. Although never graphic, the characters are adults in high stress situations and behave as such.

Clavell, James. *Tai Pan.*

Fiction

Tai Pan continues the saga begun in *Shogun*. Anyone interested in the history of Euro/Japanese relations will enjoy this novel. The characters and situations are, however, probable, but not factual.

Ravina, Mark. *The Last Samurai : The Life and Battles of Saigo Takamori.*

Nonfiction

The Last Samurai provides a feast for the history buff. The book traces the life of Saigo Takamori who lived for honor and died a samurai.

Greco/Roman

Everitt, Anthony. *Cicero*.

Everitt, Anthony. *Augustus*.

Cicero and *Augustus* are scholarly works that look at Roman history from the perspective of the title characters. Due to the availability of material, *Cicero* is definitely the more academic of the two. Both give insight into the development of the Roman Empire and shed light on the characters of those who guided it.

Non-Fiction

Non-Fiction

Homer. *The Odyssey*.

Odysseus after leaving Troy must travel for ten years to reach home and rescue his family and estate from unscrupulous suitors who want his wife almost as much as they want his property. Heroic, violent, and timeless, *The Odyssey* still stands as both epic and entertainment.

Fiction

India/Pakistan/Afghanistan

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*.

This novel gives insight into life in modern Afghanistan. Sad and moving, it aptly portrays the struggles of those for whom violence and abuse have become the norm. In addition, the characters are real, flawed, and engaging. This is not a novel for those with weak stomachs.

Fiction

Martel, Yann. *The Life of Pi*.

One of the few modern allegories, the novel asks the reader to look at modern man in an unusual light. Are we truly civilized or does the beast still lurk within us? The novel contains some graphic descriptions of violence and, for the astute reader, some painful realizations.

Fiction

Middle East

Clavell, James. *Whirlwind*.

Whirlwind describes the Iranian revolution from the fictional views of characters with many different backgrounds. The author blends a variety of cultures and motivations in a cast of engaging characters. The novel reflects of violence of the time in which it takes place.

Fiction

Nafisi, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran*.

Told by a college professor who experienced the Iranian revolution, this book blends the author's love of Iran with her need for intellectual freedom. The book is structured around a series of novels that she presents to her "secret" class. The problems and personalities of the young women whom she teaches provide a cross-section of views on the political situation.

Non-fiction

Noor, Queen. *Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life*.

Queen Noor was a young American who married the King of Jordan – but a fairy tale this is not. She reveals the stresses and joys of her private and public lives while married to Jordan's king. This is a worthwhile read for anyone interested in modern Middle Eastern politics.

Non-fiction

South America

Allende, Isabel. *The Stories of Eva Luna*.

These stories are Isabel Allende's Latino answer to *1001 Nights*. Each tale is a complete story connected to the others in the book by the narrator, Eva Luna. Funny, sad, violent, romantic, the tales run the gamut of emotions and situations.

Fiction

Borges, Jorge Luis. *Borges: Selected Poems*.

Borges was an Argentinean fluent in both Spanish and English. His poetry reflects his personal views and his cultural affiliations. He also writes about very intimate feelings and very public situations. Borges' writing deserves study if only for his mastery of the poetic art form.

Poetry

Note for 2007-2008 -- Alive and Well in Pakistan and Who Killed Palomino Molero have been removed from the list due to their unavailability at this time. Other books will be replacing them for the summer of 2008.

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2 – The Emmaus High School Library has purchased copies of all books on the list and they are available to borrow free of charge. Your local public library also has copies of most of them. Note: If you wait until the last minute, your selection will likely be limited.

3 - There are a number of websites where new or used copies of books can be purchased at up to a 90% discount. Hundreds such sites are available on the web. A few sites we have used and can recommend are listed below:

- Ebay (www.ebay.com) - Type in the title of your book and bid on copies available from individual sellers around the country.
- Half.com (<http://www.half.ebay.com/>) - Type in the title of your book and directly purchase new or used copies directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings. No bidding required
- Amazon.com marketplace (www.amazon.com) - Select 'books' in the menu and type in the title of your book. You can purchase the book new from amazon.com or click on 'buy used and new' and purchase a copy directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings. No bidding required.

Incoming 12th Grade Summer Reading List for ENGLISH/READING Emmaus High School 2008-2009

Dear English/Reading Students,

You must choose to read (1) book from the list of books in the grade level you will be entering in the fall. The summer reading book will serve as a basis for an in-class, one-hundred point, five-paragraph essay. The mode of writing will be persuasive, and you will be asked to assess your book based on the quality. Please consider character development, plot, setting, and theme in fictional works and comparative themes relating to twenty-first century issues that students face today in non-fictional works. It would be helpful to keep a journal while you read to summarize key points after every chapter.

Students must illustrate an understanding of the five-paragraph essay by developing a hook, central idea, and thesis statement, by creating fully-developed body paragraphs with specific examples from the book, and a conclusion with convincing summary statements. To aid you in completing your essay, you may use any **original, handwritten** notes you collect over the summer.

Please Note: In the English Department's attempt to provide rich and varied reading experiences for our students, we have selected titles for the summer reading lists written mostly by contemporary authors. Some selections are focused toward mature readers. We encourage parents to read the book descriptions carefully with their children and assist them in selecting interesting, appropriate titles for their summer reading.

Santiago, Esmeralda. *When I Was Puerto Rican.*

Esmeralda and her seven siblings live in a corrugated metal shack in Puerto Rico. She is uprooted as a result of poverty and her parents' quarreling, and she suffers blows to her own ego because of the expectations put upon her. The girl travels to New York where her grandmother lives and she must rely on her intelligence and talents to survive in the alien world. Her story rings true and is an inspiration to those who have to find their own way in a hostile environment. *Peabody Award for screen adaptation of one of her novels*

Pelzer, David. *A Child Called It.*

David J. Pelzer's mother, Catherine Roerva, was a devoted den mother to the Cub Scouts in her care, and somewhat nurturing to her children – but not to David, whom she referred to as "an It." This book is a brief, horrifying account of the bizarre tortures she inflicted on him, told from the point of view of the author as a young boy being starved, stabbed, smashed face-first in mirrors, forced to eat the contents of his siblings' diapers and a spoonful of ammonia, and burned over a gas stove by a maniacal, alcoholic mom. Sometimes she claimed he had violated some rule – no walking on the grass at school, but mostly, it was pure sadism. Inexplicably, his father did not protect him; only an alert schoolteacher saved David.

John Grisham. *Bleachers.*

The story centers on the impending death of the Messina Spartans' football coach Eddie Rake. One of the most victorious coaches in high school football history, Rake is a man both loved and feared by his players and by a town that relishes his 13 state titles. The hero of the novel is Neely Crenshaw, a former Rake All-American whose NFL prospects ended abruptly after a cheap shot to the knees. Neely has returned home for the first time in years to join a nightly vigil for Rake at the Messina stadium. Having wandered through life with little focus since his college days, he struggles to reconcile his conflicted feelings towards his former coach, and he assays to rekindle love in the ex-girlfriend he abandoned long ago. For Messina and for Neely, the homecoming offers the prospect of building a life after Rake.—amazon.com review

Note: Students scheduled for ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE & COMPOSITION (Grade 12) will receive their summer reading assignment directly from the instructor prior to the end of the 2007-2008 school year.