

The Putney School

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May 2008

Dear Parents and Student,

I am writing about the required summer reading for all students. Again this year we are requiring that all students, regardless of grade, read the same book, which is available through your local bookstore.

The required book for all grades is:

The Storyteller's Daughter: One Woman's Return to Her Lost Homeland
by Saira Shah (Random House, ISBN-13 #978-1-4000-3147-4)

Listed below are a few suggestions for additional reading that will be either fun (and still challenging) or good background for high school English. Obviously a student may read any, all, or none from this brief and arbitrary list, but to read at least five or six works of literary merit in the summer is essential for satisfaction and success in English courses at this level.

9th Grade: *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver
 Black Boy by Richard Wright
 Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
 The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
 The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
 Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
 The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
 Life of Pi by Yann Martel
 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
 Any short story collection
 Any poetry collection

10th Grade: *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez
 The Professor and the Madman by Simon Winchester
 Hunger for Memory by Richard Rodriguez
 The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
 The Color of Water by James McBride
 Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
 Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
 Mountains beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder
 Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut
 The Dispossessed by Ursula Le Guin
 Any short story collection
 Any poetry collection

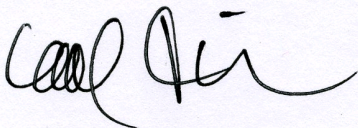
11th Grade: *The Women of Brewster Place* by Gloria Naylor
Seize the Day by Saul Bellow
The Liars' Club by Mary Karr
Three by Flannery O'Connor by Flannery O'Connor
Tell Me a Riddle, Stories by Tillie Olsen
On the Road by Jack Kerouac
The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin
Blue Highways by William Least Heat-Moon
As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
The Shipping News by Annie Proulx
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
Any short story collection
Any poetry collection

12th Grade: *Henderson the Rain King* by Saul Bellow
The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro
White Noise by Don DeLillo
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Death in Venice by Thomas Mann
Sula by Toni Morrison
The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat by Oliver Sacks
The Country of Marriage by Wendell Berry
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Marcia Marquez
Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri
Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides
Any short story collection
Any poetry collection

Finally—and this is especially important for students new to Putney—please plan on arriving at school knowing how to type and use a computer; the English department requires all papers to be typed.

Please feel free to write a note to Karla Baldwin, Academic Dean (email address: kbaldwin@putneyschool.org) this summer with comments or questions.

Sincerely,



Carol Dickson
English Department Chair