**English Department - Summer Reading 2020**

CSW's English department is requiring that all students read at least one work prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Please note that AP students (both AP English Language and AP English Literature) will have additional readings in preparation for the rigors of an AP course. These additional readings will be communicated directly from the AP teacher to student via email.

Hopefully the selections below will be both enjoyable and interesting. CSW's English department has continued to develop the summer reading options to better reflect our diverse community, as well as CSW's mission to create global citizens. We are continually seeking a balance between classic and contemporary works by distinct voices. As always, the summer reading program is a work in progress. Currently we are featuring:

* a lauded autobiography by a Chinese-American woman

* a classic microcosm of man's base nature paired with a primer for literary analysis

* another contemporary autobiography by a young man with a white fat her and a black mother growing up under apartheid South Africa

* a short story collection that includes works by: an African-American poet and cultural critic, contemporary America's queen of gothic tales, a Pulitzer Prize winning Indian-American, a Latinx author who focused on the marginality of the working class, and Nigeria's premier novelist.

We encourage parents and the rest of the CSW community to explore these works, as well.

While we are requiring only a small amount of summer reading, we do hope that students take advantage of summer break to delve into reading by exploring the classics and discovering freshly published works. If you would like some guidance, please contact your English teacher, the English chair, or Ms. Becker, the school librarian.

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Please have the book-in-hand for the first day of class. In addition, the English department recommends annotating the book to promote active reading.

Before you read:


While reading:

2. Highlight a section that helps you identify the setting. Comment on the setting. Use an adjective to describe the setting: joyous, morose, dangerous, bucolic, urban...

3. Highlight each main character's name. Highlight a significant adjective or activity that defines that character.

4. Highlight two elements in the work that seem to function as symbols or as metaphors. What do you think each element symbolizes or represents?

5. Highlight a section that best encapsulates the conflict of the story. Label it as the conflict. Can you define the conflict as man versus man? Man versus nature? Man versus ???

6. Highlight your favorite passage or sentence or clause or phrase. Think about why you like this piece. Jot down a few notes.

After you have read the work:

7. Now that you have finished the work, comment on the title again. Does the title have a deeper meaning or an ironic meaning?
Rising 9th graders

- *Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter* by Adeline Yen Mah

"A riveting memoir of a girl's painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s.

A Chinese proverb says, "Falling leaves return to their roots." In *Chinese Cinderella*, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family."

- Amazon Review

Nonfiction
Rising 10th graders

- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

“William Golding’s classic tale about a group of English schoolboys who are plane-wrecked on a deserted island is just as chilling and relevant today as when it was first published in 1954. At first, the stranded boys cooperate, attempting to gather food, make shelters, and maintain signal fires. The situation deteriorates as the trappings of civilization continue to fall away, until the hunters have become the hunted: "He forgot his words, his hunger and thirst, and became fear; hopeless fear on flying feet." Golding’s gripping novel explores the boundary between human reason and animal instinct, all on the brutal playing field of adolescent competition.”

- Amazon Review

- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, revised edition by Thomas C. Foster

“How does it mean when a fictional hero takes a journey? Shares a meal? Gets drenched in a sudden rain shower? Often, there is much more going on in a novel or poem than is readily visible on the surface -- a symbol, maybe, that remains elusive, or an unexpected twist on a character -- and there’s that sneaking suspicion that the deeper meaning of a literary text keeps escaping you.

In this practical and amusing guide to literature, Thomas C. Foster shows how easy and gratifying it is to unlock those hidden truths, and to discover a world where a road leads to a quest; a shared meal may signify a communion; and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just rain. Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* is the perfect companion for making your reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.”

- Good Reads Review

Here is a free PDF of the book: [How to Read Literature Like a Professor](#)
Rising 11th graders

- *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah

“Trevor Noah’s unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents’ indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa’s tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother’s unconventional, unconditional love.

- Amazon Review

Nonfiction
Rising 12th graders

- A Short Story Collection

  The senior English teachers have curated a collection of short stories for the summer reading assignment. A downloadable PDF and hard copies will be available. In addition, we will provide a guide for annotating.

  “It Rained in Ohio on the Night
      Allen Iverson Hit Michael Jordan with a Crossover”
    by Hanif Abdurraqib

  “A Dead Men’s Path” by Chinua Achebe

  “A Temporary Matter” by Jhumpa Lahiri

  “Arm Wrestling with My Father” by Brad Manning

  “Small Avalanches” by Joyce Carol Oates

  “The Glass of Milk” by Manuel Rojas

  Fiction