

The MacDuffie School Summer Reading 2023

The English Department is pleased to present its summer reading program for the 2023-24 academic year.

Each Middle School student (6-8) must read one mandatory summer reading before the school year begins.

Each Upper School student (9-12) must read one mandatory summer reading book. The exceptions are honors and AP courses, which have additional reading.

Summer reading thought questions for the mandatory books are available through the school's website. **Answers to these questions do not have to be written unless otherwise noted.**

Students should annotate their selected books as they read. Students should be prepared to write about their selections **once they return in the fall**; they will also be asked to discuss these books in class.

Any questions should be directed to department chairperson Carol Tomkiel at: ctomkiel@macduffie.org. We wish you an enjoyable summer of reading, and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Students are required to buy their own books.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are studying online and live outside of the United States, Amazon.com may not ship some or possibly any of your books internationally. You will find out when you go to check out whether the items will ship or not. If they do not, you have some options:

- i. Search for the textbooks on **Bookdepository.com**. They offer free shipping worldwide. Use the ISBN numbers listed beneath each book to do your search.
2. Search for the books locally or within your country. For example, in the People's Republic of China, you might try Amazon.cn, Taobao, Dangdang, Jingdong, or other retailers that sell books.
3. Use a U.S. Shipping Forwarder. This option tends to be a little more expensive but it enables you to buy any product that Amazon.com won't ship directly to your country. Our recommendation is **MyUS.com** because it has the lowest rates, ships worldwide, is tax-free, and is the most popular U.S. shipping forwarder by far. Create an account on MyUS.com first to get a U.S. based mailing address that you can use on Amazon.com to send your order to and then MyUS.com will ship the order to your home address.
4. If you exhausted all of the above options and are unable to obtain the books for a class please contact the instructor and see what alternatives they can provide.

A Note on Sensitive Topics

Our summer reading program is designed, in part, to help students understand the world in which they live. Some selections, as a result, deal with sensitive topics like abuse, violence, discrimination, and mental/emotional health. Although the selections are designed to be instructionally and developmentally appropriate, we understand that some content could be triggering for students who have experienced trauma. If you/your child finds a particular text to be challenging (triggering, emotionally/psychologically), please email English Department Chair Carol Tomkiel at ctomkiel@macduffie.org. She will be happy to help you navigate the text in question or to suggest an appropriate alternative.

(Please note that summaries are intended as “teasers,” not as trigger warnings.)

Foundations in English: Grade 6/7

Mandatory: *The Lightning Thief*, Rick Riordan

English 6

Mandatory: *The Lightning Thief*, Rick Riordan

English 7

Mandatory: *The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd

ENGLISH 8

Mandatory: *Untouchable* by Mulk Raj Anand

9th Grade: WESTERN LITERATURE

Mandatory: *Purple Hibiscus*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

10th Grade: BRITISH LITERATURE

Mandatory: *Annie John*, Jamaica Kincaid

11th Grade: AMERICAN CULTURE:

Mandatory: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie

11th Grade: AMERICAN LITERATURE: (COLLEGE PLACEMENT)

Mandatory: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie

11th Grade: AMERICAN LITERATURE (HONORS)

Mandatory: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

AND

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

ENGLISH 11: AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Mandatory: *The Great Gatsby*, F.Scott Fitzgerald
AND
The Other Wes Moore, by Wes Moore
AND
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

12th Grade: WORLD LITERATURE (ACROSS CULTURES)

Mandatory: *Joy Luck Club*, by Amy Tan

ENGLISH 12: WORLD LITERATURE (COLLEGE PLACEMENT)

Mandatory: *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan

ENGLISH 12: WORLD LITERATURE (HONORS)

Mandatory: *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan

AND

How to Read Literature Like a Professor, Thomas Foster

- This text is a lively and entertaining guide that will introduce you to the basics of literary analysis as well as how to make reading literature more rewarding and fun. Please take careful notes on the various strategies for literary analysis presented in the book, and be prepared to apply one or more of these strategies to our study of *The Joy Luck Club*.

ENGLISH 12: AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Mandatory: *Picnic Lightning*, Billy Collins
A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Hosseini
The Kitchen God's Wife, by Amy Tan