

World Literature Summer Reading 2022–2023

(For GHCDS students entering the 10th grade)



“Stories offer patterns of sound and association, of event and image. Suspended as listeners and readers in these patterns, we might reimagine our lives...”

–Barry Lopez

The novelist Henry James famously observed that “*summer*” and “*afternoon*” are two of the most beautiful words in the English language. As you embark upon your summer adventures, I hope that your enjoyment of many a “*summer afternoon*” will be fortified and amplified by the power of great literature. To ensure that this happens, members of the Upper Division English Department have carefully chosen summer reading books that you are likely to enjoy and respond well to while also being pushed and challenged.

As you embark upon your summer reading journey, please keep in mind that to read a work of literature is to actively engage in a kind of imaginative collaboration with its author. Indeed, a text ultimately derives whatever “*meaning*” it might come to possess through the mysterious exchange that occurs between its author and its reader. It is when the reader’s creative intelligence engages with that of the writer’s, *effectively closing the imaginative circuit*, that a text’s meaning is disclosed. To open the pages of a great novel and begin reading is to enter into a creative partnership with its author. In the end, great literature has the power to impact the quality of your perception and to shape the way you see the world.

Literature can enhance and nourish your natural sensibilities in surprising and profound ways.

Finally, I would like you to consider what **Life of Pi** author Yann Martel has to say about the art of reading:

“Books make us climb higher, and I always have my hand on a book, as if on a banister. But unlike some readers I know who effortlessly bound up stairs four steps at a time, floor after floor, never stopping to catch their breath, I creep up slowly. If there is an autobiographical character in my novel Life of Pi, it’s not Pi, it’s the sloth. To me a good book is like a rich lode of leaves and I can read only so many pages before my tummy gets full and I nod off. My banister is more of a branch and from it I hang up- side down, nursing the book that is feeding my dreams. I read it slowly, but continuously. Otherwise I would starve.”

So, go off and find a proverbial branch from which to “hang upside-down” and spend your *summer afternoons* letting the nourishing lode of these great books feed your dreams. Have a great summer!

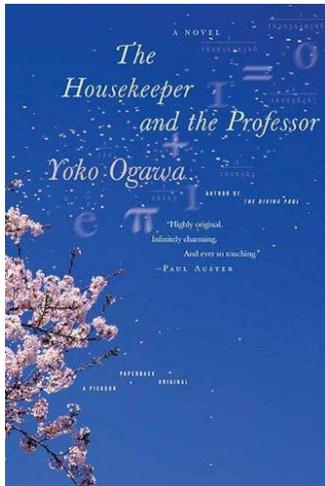
Sincerely,
Mr. Canning

PS: If you have any questions about completing your summer reading assignments, feel free to email me at anytime over the summer months:

JCanning@GHCDS.org

World Literature Summer Reading List 2022-2023

	Choose ONE novel from the list below
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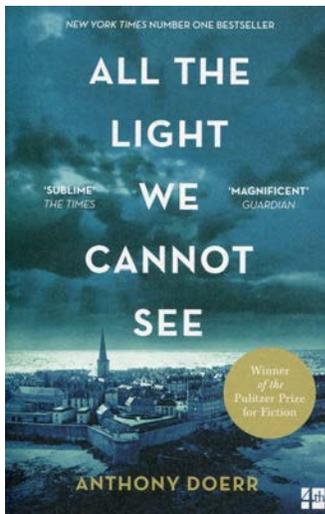


The Housekeeper and the Professor (Yoko Ogawa)

JAPAN

He is a brilliant math Professor with a peculiar problem—ever since a traumatic head injury, he has lived with only eighty minutes of short-term memory. She is an astute young Housekeeper—with a ten-year-old son—who is hired to care for the Professor.

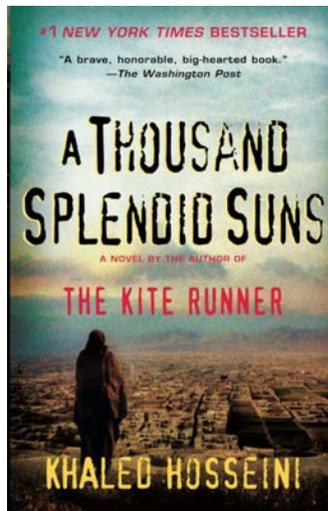
And every morning, as the Professor and the Housekeeper are introduced to each other anew, a strange and beautiful relationship blossoms between them. Though he cannot hold memories for long (his brain is like a tape that begins to erase itself every eighty minutes), the Professor's mind is still alive with elegant equations from the past. And the numbers, in all of their articulate order, reveal a sheltering and poetic world to both the Housekeeper and her young son. The Professor is capable of discovering connections between the simplest of quantities—like the Housekeeper's shoe size—and the universe at large, drawing their lives ever closer and more profoundly together, even as his memory slips away.



All The Light We Cannot See (Anthony Doerr)

EUROPE

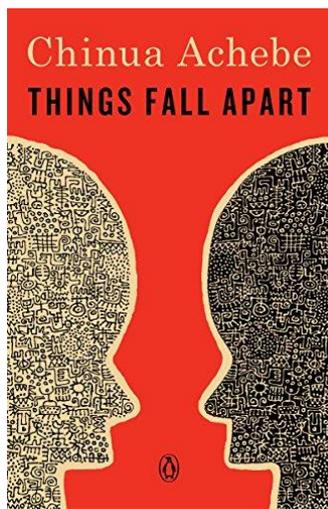
When Marie Laure goes blind, aged six, her father builds her a model of their Paris neighborhood, so she can memorize it with her fingers and then navigate the real streets. But when the Germans occupy Paris, father and daughter flee to Saint-Malo on the Brittany coast, where Marie-Laure's agoraphobic great uncle lives in a tall, narrow house by the sea wall. In another world in Germany, an orphan boy, Werner, is enchanted by a crude radio. He becomes a master at building and fixing radios, a talent ultimately makes him a highly specialized tracker of the Resistance. Werner travels through the heart of Hitler Youth to the far-flung outskirts of Russia, and finally into Saint-Malo, where his path converges with Marie-Laure. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another. Ten years in the writing, ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE is his most ambitious and dazzling work.



A Thousand Splendid Suns (Khaled Hosseini)

AFGHANISTAN

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them-in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul-they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.

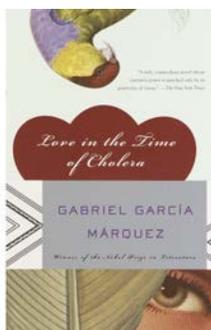


Things Fall Apart (*Chinua Achebe*)

NIGERIA

Things Fall Apart is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, Things Fall Apart explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order.

With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, Things Fall Apart provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.



Love in the Time of Cholera (Gabriel Garcia Marquez) **COLOMBIA**

In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is devastated, but he is a romantic. As he rises in his business career he whiles away the years in 622 affairs--yet he reserves his heart for Fermina. Her husband dies at last, and Florentino purposefully attends the funeral. Fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again.

