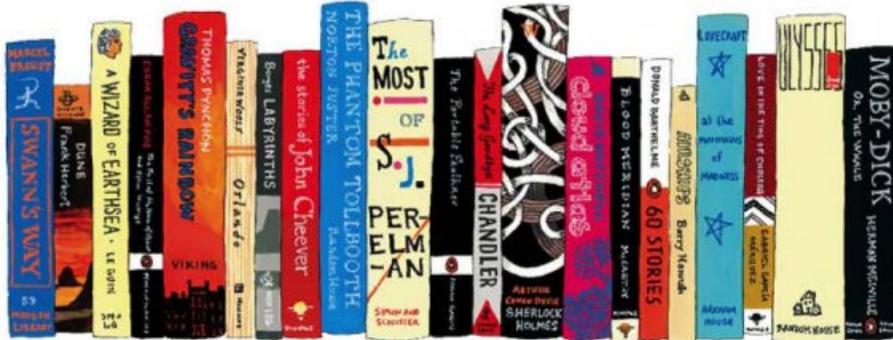


Senior Summer Reading 2022–2023 (For GHCDs students entering the 12th grade)



“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!

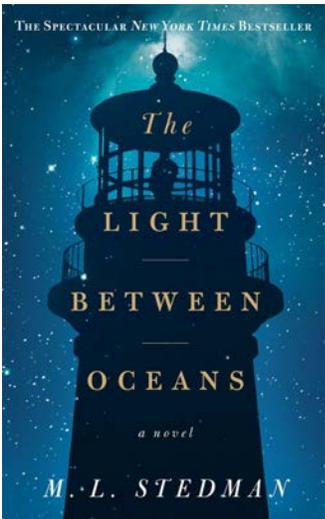
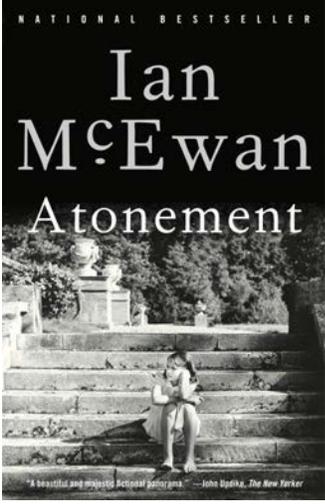
Sincerely,
Mr. Canning

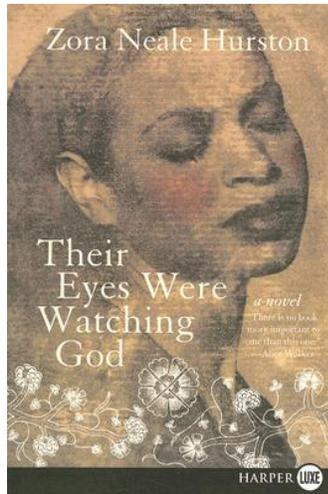
***Each student will complete an assessment and a project based upon these titles in the first week of the 2022 - 2023 school year.**

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

Senior Summer Reading List 2022-2023

	<p>All three of the following novels are required reading for all seniors..</p>
	<p>The Light Between Oceans (M.L. Stedman)</p> <p>After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby.</p> <p>Tom, who keeps meticulous records and whose moral principles have withstood a horrific war, wants to report the man and infant immediately. But Isabel insists the baby is a "gift from God," and against Tom's judgment, they claim her as their own and name her Lucy. When she is two, Tom and Isabel return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world. Their choice has devastated one of them.</p>
	<p>Atonement (Ian McEwan)</p> <p>On a hot summer day in 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis witnesses a moment's flirtation between her older sister, Cecilia, and Robbie Turner, the son of a servant and Cecilia's childhood friend. But Briony's incomplete grasp of adult motives—together with her precocious literary gifts—brings about a crime that will change all their lives.</p> <p>As it follows that crime's repercussions through the chaos and carnage of World War II and into the close of the twentieth century, <i>Atonement</i> engages the reader on every conceivable level, with an ease and authority that mark it as a genuine masterpiece.</p>



Their Eyes Were Watching God (Zora Neale Hurston)

One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston's classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.