

Summer Reading for Senior Courses 2008

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

Two books required

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

An additional fictional text of your choice (to be purchased or borrowed from a library)

Long Island Studies

Two books required

Amagansett by Mark Mills

Maiden Voyage by Tania Aebi (This book was given to students in June)

American Culture Studies

Selected readings were distributed in June. Contact Curriculum Office for copy.

Quest

Two books required

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho (This book was given to students in June)

A full-length biography of your choice (to be purchased or borrowed from a library)

Generation Next

Selected readings were distributed in June. Contact Curriculum Office for copy.

Renaissance

Two books required. All students must read:

The Color of Water by James McBride

And read one book from the following list:

On the Road by Jack Kerouac – the classic road story that captures the spirit of the Beat Generation. The novel is about Kerouac's life and his trip across country with other "beat" characters who foreshadowed the cultural revolution that would soon take place.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey – is the story of a man named McMurphy who is committed to an insane asylum where he defies the rules and regimen. McMurphy teaches the inmates to stand up for themselves and face down the oppression of authority.

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On the Beach by Nevile Shute – Set in Australia, this is a novel about people who are waiting to die. The entire hemisphere has been destroyed by nuclear war and the fallout is drifting south. When it was written, the book's threat of total annihilation was stark and poignant. Contemporary readers still find it chilling.

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath – A loosely autobiographical novel about a gifted, young woman who suffers a mental breakdown. The real Plath committed suicide and this book like her poetry foreshadows the tragic events of her life.

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller – This is a classic satire on the insanity of war. Yossarian is a bombardier who is too smart to die but not smart enough to find a way out of his predicament.

Born on the Fourth of July by Ron Kovic – Ron Kovic tells his own story of how he was wounded in Vietnam. The horrors of war, however, continue as he must learn to live the rest of his life in a wheelchair. He takes courage in pursuing a cause that he believes in far more than the war itself.

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote – This journalistic account of a murder in the Midwest reveals the mentality of two killers. We are told, in painstaking detail, the events that lead to a horrendous crime.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston – The story of a young African-American girl who is pressured into an unhappy marriage. Eventually, she strikes out on her own to find her own identity and a man who respects her.