

12th Grade and PG Summer Reading

Reading remains one of life's great pleasures and an important means of broadening our horizons of knowledge and experience. This list includes books of diverse cultural perspectives for readers with varying interests and abilities. Enjoy your reading discoveries.

All students must read **FOUR** books, some of which are specified for particular classes and grades. Other choices are left to you ,but be ready to discuss your reading early in the fall. **Bring the required reading book(s) with you when you return.** If you cannot obtain a book from your local bookstore, please call the Deerfield Academy Bookstore at (413) 774-1513 to arrange a shipment.

ENGLISH IV required book(s):

Determined by your scheduled elective

Creative Writing Workshop:	TBA	
Desire and the Marketplace:	Golden, Arthur.	Memoirs of a Geisha
Fifty/Fifty:	Yates, Richard.	Revolutionary Road
Future Shock:	Bradbury, Ray.	Fahrenheit 451
Honors Literature:	Barker, Pat.	Regeneration
Post-Colonials:	TBA	
Reading Insanity: Am I Crazy?:	Bohjalian, Chris.	Double Bind
The Jazz Age and the Lost Generation:	Remarque, Erich Maria.	All Quiet on the Western Front
The Shape of What Returns:	Schlink, <i>Bernhard</i> .	<i>The Reader</i>
Walking Shadows:	Updike, John.	Gertrude and Claudius

Adiche, Chimamanda. **Half of a Yellow Sun**

In post-colonial Nigeria, three children of different backgrounds experience the ravages of civil war and relief of union.

Adiga, Aravind. **White Tiger**

Ride along with Indian taxi driver becoming a "social entrepreneur."

Alexie, Sherman. **Indian Killer**

An Indian serial killer seeking retribution for the white man's crimes against his people also must come to terms with his own past.

Best, Joel. **Damned Lies and Statistics: Untangling Numbers from the Media, Politicians, and Activists**

Resist the spin doctors. (Recommended for statisticians)

Bowen, Jack. **If You Can Read This**

Are there big ideas behind those bumper stickers?

Brooks, Geraldine. **The Book of the People.**

Follow the fascinating tale of a book that preserves a cultural history under threats.

Burgess, Anthony. **A Clockwork Orange**

Alex, the teenager from Hell, having committed unspeakable mayhem in a bleak, futuristic England, is 'programmed' by the state to sin no more.

Camus, Albert. **The Plague**

Still timely, this existential novel studies the human condition and its meaning in the face of a deadly virus that sweeps through Algiers.

Carter, Angela. **Bloody Chamber**

In refreshing new language and with a clearly modern point of view, Carter retells traditional fairy tales, such as Little Red Riding Hood and Blackbeard the Pirate.

Coetzee, J.M. **Disgrace**

This searing novel follows a white South African professor's descent into disgrace in a country he seemingly no longer understands.

Coffin, Jaed. **A Chant to Soothe Wild Elephants**

The son of an interracial couple seeks a deeper self-awareness in a Buddhist monastery.

Cole, K.C. **The Universe and The Teacup: The Mathematics of Truth and Beauty**

Explore links between mathematics and a variety of social, political, and scientific issues. (Recommended for FST)

Danticat, Edwidge. **The Dew Breaker**

A Haitian woman traveling to Florida from New York with her father learns the truth about his life and work in Haiti under the Duvalier dictatorship.

Dawkins, Richard **The Blind Watchmaker**

Examine the intricacies of evolution.

DeLillo, Don. **White Noise**

One day the Gladneys are living an ordinary suburban life and then a toxic cloud descends, awakening them to the dangers pulsing through the American atmosphere and culture.

Ellison, Ralph. **Invisible Man**

Nameless, yet real, Ellison's African-American protagonist journeys from the rural South to Harlem, discovering himself and his invisibility.

Fadiman, Anne. **The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down**

Explore the limits and power of healing in this account about Hmong immigrants in California. (Recommended by Round Square committee)

Finkel, David. **The Good Soldiers**

An embedded reporter recounts a heartbreaking year in the life of American battalion fighting in post-surge Iraq.

Flaubert, Gustave. **Madame Bovary**

Practioner of *le mot juste*, "the exact word," Flaubert examines the hypocrisies and small-mindedness of the French bourgeoisie, its conformities and spatial limits.

Forster, E.M. **Room with a View**

Follow British travelers as they move between repressive England and the more permissive Continent.

Friedman, Thomas. **The Lexus and the Olive Tree**

A writer for *The New York Times* explains the far-reaching effects of globalization.

Gaarder, Joestein. **Sophie's World**

Chart the history of philosophy with a young woman and her mysterious mentor. (Recommended for Political Philosophy)

Ishiguro, Kazuo. **Remains of the Day**

A beautifully realized chronicle of the decline of the British class system in the late twentieth century, as seen through the eyes of a loyal butler.

Kafka, Franz. **The Metamorphosis**

"As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect." How can you resist?

Khadra, Yasmina. **The Sirens of Baghdad**

Experience how terrorism often finds its origins in war.

Kidder, Tracy. **Mountains Beyond Mountains**

If you don't believe a single person can make a difference, you have to meet Paul Farmer, a physician who "would cure the world."

Kolbert, Elizabeth. **Field Notes from a Catastrophe**

Take field trips with Kolbert to the places where the effects of global warming are already alarmingly evident.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. **Unaccustomed Earth**

Lahiri's immigrants struggle with cultural values as they test love, familial bonds, and friendship.

Lee, Chang-Rae. **A Gesture Life**

A culturally alienated businessman confronts his Japanese and Korean heritage by exploring his role as a Japanese Army officer during the Korean occupation in WW II.

Levy, Andrea. **Small Island**

In the wake of World War II, Jamaicans immigrate to Great Britain only to find the empire for which they fought does not easily embrace newcomers.

Lynch, Jim. **Border Songs**

Witness the challenges and delights of patrolling the American-Canadian border.

Mason, Daniel. **The Piano Tuner**

Seeking adventure and perhaps finding more than he bargained for, a British piano tuner travels upriver in colonial Burma to tune a rare grand piano.

McCann, Colum. **Let the Great World Spin**

Philippe Petit's high-wire walk between the Twin Towers binds the lives of an unlikely set of New Yorkers.

McEwan, Ian. **Saturday**

On an ordinary Saturday in London, surgeon Henry Perowne discovers how terror and terrorism can overlap and transform the way he sees his world and life.

McPhee, John. **The Control of Nature**

Can engineering overcome nature?

Murakami, Haruki. **A Wild Sheep Chase**

A Holden Caulfield- like yuppie turns his back on Japanese culture and seeks the lost sheep that might provide the mythic keys to a meaningful life.

O'Neill, Joseph. **Netherland**

A financier estranged from his family finds a Gatsby-like dreamer on the cricket fields of New York.

Patchett, Ann. **Bel Canto**

Terrorists interrupt a posh party in an unnamed South American country, and captors and prisoners alike discover new allegiances and passions.

Pessl, Marisha. **Special Topics in Calamity Physics**

Pessl delves into the literary and social bonds between a charismatic teacher and a group of boarding students who aren't eager to conform.

Shamsie, Kamila **Burnt Shadows**

The effects of the partition of India reverberate around the world and climax in the aftermath of 9/11.

Shepard, Jim. **Like You'd Understand, Anyway**

Encounter a dazzling array of stories and places.

Smith, Zadie. **On Beauty**

Race, class, and gender clash on a college campus where life's complications-and beauty-ultimately emerge. A nice companion to E.M. Forster's **Howards End**.

Sofer, Dalia. **The Septembers of the Shiraz**

Escape post-revolutionary Iran with the Sofer family in this semi-autobiographical novel.

Unsworth, Barry. **Sacred Hunger**

The horrors and inhumanity of the slave trade come alive in this epic about an attempt by escaped slaves to form a new society.

Wilde, Oscar. **The Picture of Dorian Gray**

Dorian, a fashionable young man, sells his soul for eternal youth, and finds decadence instead of delight.

Winton, Tim. **Dirt Music**

Rescued by a simple form of music, Georgie Jutland and Luther Fox lose and find each other along the remote coastline of Western Australia.

Woolf, Virginia. **To The Lighthouse**

Suppose the mind were time and time were water. If you can't, take this book to a spot where you can hear the waves and read aloud.