

SUMMER READING LIST

SUMMER 2011

GUERIN COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Because Guerin College Prep is a college preparatory school and because we strongly believe that reading has strong educational value, the English Department has instituted a summer reading program. We have endeavored to choose books that are not only educational and relevant, but also enjoyable. Below is the reading list for each class for the summer of 2011. The Summer Reading test is August 26th. All students including transfer students must take the test at that time.

Course Number	Course Name	Summer Reading Requirement
1101	Freshman English	<i>Speak</i> by Laurie Anderson
1102	Freshman Literature and Composition	Select one book from the list below for freshmen and sophomores
1103	Freshman English Honors	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini Or <i>The Kite Runner</i> By Khaled Hosseini Plus One selected book from the list below for freshmen and sophomores
1232	US. Studies--Literature	<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i> by James L. Swanson
1212	Great American Writers	Select one book from the list below for freshmen and sophomores
1203	American Literature Honors	<i>Catcher in the Rye</i> by J.D. Salinger Plus One selected book from the list below for freshmen and

		sophomores
1302	Studies in British Literature	Select one book from the list below for juniors and seniors
1312	Great British Writers	Select one book from the list below for juniors and seniors
1303	British Literature Honors	<i>Jane Eyre</i> by Charlotte Bronte Plus One selected book from the list below for juniors and seniors
1142	Senior Studies	Select one book from the list below for juniors and seniors
1432	Senior Seminar	Select one book from the list below for juniors and seniors
1403	World Literature Honors	<i>No Exit</i> by Jean Paul Sartre Plus One selected book from the list below for juniors and seniors
1404	Advanced Placement English	<i>Sister Carrie</i> by Theodore Dreiser Plus One selected book from the list below for juniors and seniors

*Junior and Senior Selections:

1. *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson

“Author Erik Larson imbues the incredible events surrounding the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with such drama that readers may find themselves checking the book's categorization to be sure that *The Devil in the White City* is not, in fact, a highly imaginative novel. Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor. Burnham's challenge was immense. In a short period of time, he was forced to overcome the death of his partner and numerous other obstacles to construct the famous "White City" around which the fair was built. His efforts to complete the project, and the fair's incredible success, are skillfully related along with entertaining appearances by such notables as Buffalo Bill Cody, Susan B. Anthony, and Thomas Edison. The activities of the sinister Dr. Holmes, who is believed to be responsible for scores of murders around the time of the fair, are equally remarkable. He devised and erected the World's Fair Hotel, complete with crematorium and gas chamber, near the fairgrounds and used the event as well as his own charismatic personality to lure victims. Combining the stories of an architect and a killer in one book, mostly in alternating chapters, seems like an odd choice but it works. The magical appeal and horrifying dark side of 19th-century Chicago are both revealed through Larson's skillful writing.”

2. *In Harm's Way* Doug Stanton

“On July 26, 1945, the heavy cruiser *Indianapolis* steamed into port at the Pacific island of Tinian, carrying a cargo that would end World War II: the uranium that would be dropped on Hiroshima just three weeks later. Having delivered its load without incident, *Indianapolis* moved on toward the Philippines to join the great armada moving in on Japan. Though intelligence reports assured Captain Charles McVay that the route from Guam to Leyte was safe, there were Japanese submarines active in the area. On the night of July 29, having detected with sonar the clinking of dishes aboard the *Indianapolis* from a distance of more than a dozen miles, the submarine *I-58* sank the American ship, killing nearly 900 sailors in the explosion and its terrible aftermath.

Captain McVay was quickly court-martialed for having failed to follow evasive maneuvers, "the first captain in the history of the U.S. Navy," Doug Stanton observes, "to be court-martialed subsequent to losing his ship in an act of war." Although the sailors under his command would insist that McVay had been scapegoated, and although *I-58*'s commander testified before the court that "he would have sunk the *Indianapolis* no matter what course she was on," McVay was never able to clear his name. He committed suicide in 1968.”

3. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey

“Boisterous, ribald, and ultimately shattering, Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is the seminal novel of the 1960s that has left an indelible mark on the literature of our time. Here is the unforgettable story of a mental ward and its inhabitants, especially the tyrannical Big Nurse Ratched and Randle Patrick McMurphy, the brawling, fun-loving new inmate who resolves to oppose her. We see the struggle through the eyes of Chief Bromden, the seemingly mute half-Indian

patient who witnesses and understands McMurphy's heroic attempt to do battle with the awesome powers that keep them all imprisoned."

4. *The Cheating Culture* by David Callahan

"Free cable television. Imaginary tax deduction. Do you take your chance to cheat? David Callahan thinks many of us would; witness corporate scandals, doping athletes, plagiarizing journalists. Why all the cheating? Why now?"

Callahan blames the dog-eat-dog economic climate of the past twenty years: An unfettered market and unprecedented economic inequality have corroded our values and threaten to corrupt the equal opportunity we cherish. Callahan's "Winning Class" has created a separate moral reality where it cheats without consequences-while the "Anxious Class" believes choosing not to cheat could cancel its only shot at success in a winner-take-all world.

Updated with a new afterword analyzing the latest on cheating from the Martha Stewart trial to the Tyco and Enron sentencings, *The Cheating Culture* takes us on a gripping tour of cheating in America and makes a powerful case for why it matters."

5. *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

"Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone.

Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken.

Minnie, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets of her own.

Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed.

In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women-mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends-view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, *The Help* is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't."

***Freshman and Sophomore Selections:**

1. *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* by Nujood Ali

“Forced by her father to marry a man three times her age, young Nujood Ali was sent away from her parents and beloved sisters and made to live with her husband and his family in an isolated village in rural Yemen. There she suffered daily from physical and emotional abuse by her mother-in-law and nightly at the rough hands of her spouse. Flouting his oath to wait to have sexual relations with Nujood until she was no longer a child, he immediately broke his vow on their wedding night.. She was only ten years old.

Unable to endure the pain and distress any longer, Nujood fled—not for home, but to the courthouse of the capital, paying for a taxi ride with a few precious coins of bread money. When a renowned Yemeni lawyer heard about the young victim, she took on Nujood’s case and fought the archaic system in a country where almost half the girls are married while still under the legal age. Since their unprecedented victory in April 2008, Nujood’s courageous defiance of both Yemeni customs and her own family has attracted a storm of international attention. Her story even incited change in Yemen and other Middle Eastern countries, where underage marriage laws are being increasingly enforced and other child brides have been granted divorces.”

2. *I am Scout...A Biography of Harper* by Lee Charles J. Shields

“*To Kill a Mockingbird* is one of the most widely read novels in American literature. It’s also a perennial favorite in high school English classrooms across the nation. Yet onetime author Harper Lee is a mysterious figure who leads a very private life in her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, refusing to give interviews or talk about the novel that made her a household name. Lee’s life is as rich as her fiction, from her girlhood as a rebellious tomboy to her days at the University of Alabama and early years as a struggling writer in New York City.

Charles J. Shields is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee*, which he has adapted here for younger readers. What emerges in this riveting portrait is the story of an unconventional, high-spirited woman who drew on her love of writing and her Southern home to create a book that continues to speak to new generations of readers. Anyone who has enjoyed *To Kill a Mockingbird* will appreciate this glimpse into the life of its fascinating author.”

3. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah

“What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived.

In *A Long Way Gone*, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he’d been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

This is a rare and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.”

4. *The Pirate Hunter* by Richard Zacks

“Entertaining, richly detailed and authoritatively narrated, Zacks's account of the life of legendary seaman William Kidd delivers a first-rate story. Though Kidd, better known as Captain Kidd, was inextricably bound with piracy and has popularly gone down as a marauding buccaneer himself, Zacks (*An Underground Education*) argues that he was actually a mercenary backed by the English government and several New World investors to track down pirates and reclaim their stolen wares. The book is cogent and replete with supporting evidence without the heavy-handed feel of some scholarly work. What really sets the book apart is Zacks's gift as researcher and storyteller. He highlights the role of an undeniable pirate, Robert Culliford, in Kidd's tale and pits the two men against each other from the outset, constructing his book as an intriguing duel. Aside from the tightly constructed plot, Zacks also wonderfully evokes the social and political life of the 17th century at land and at sea, and he takes turns at debunking and validating pirate folklore: while it appears the dead giveaway of a skull and crossbones made it a rare flag choice, Zacks contends that pirates did often wear extravagant clothing and were as drunk, cursing, hungry, horny... and violent as myth would have them. Augmented by such details and driven by a conflict between Kidd and Culliford that keeps the pages flying, Zacks's book is a treasure, indeed.”

*Summaries and reviews of these works have been taken from Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com.