



BALMORAL HALL SCHOOL

SUMMER READING LIST FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 10 SEPTEMBER, 2010

FROM THE FOLLOWING SUMMER READING LIST, PLEASE READ THE **REQUIRED TITLE** AS LISTED PLUS TWO ADDITIONAL WORKS. BE PREPARED TO OFFER ORAL OR WRITTEN RESPONSES WHEN SCHOOL RESUMES IN THE FALL.

REQUIRED READING ENGLISH 20F LITERARY FOCUS:

SATRAPI, MARJANE. **PERSEPOLIS 1 and 2: THE STORY OF A CHILDHOOD**

Marji tells of her life in Iran from the age of 10, when the Islamic revolution of 1979 reintroduced a religious state, through the age of 14 when the Iran-Iraq war forced her parents to send her to Europe for safety. This story, told in graphic format with simple, but expressive, black-and-white illustrations, combines the normal rebelliousness of an intelligent adolescent with the horrors of war and totalitarianism. Marji's parents, especially her freethinking mother, modeled a strong belief in freedom and equality, while her French education gave her a strong faith in God. Her Marxist-inclined family initially favored the overthrow of the Shah, but soon realized that the new regime was more restrictive and unfair than the last. The girl's independence, which made her parents both proud and fearful, caused them to send her to Austria. With bold lines and deceptively uncomplicated scenes, Satrapi conveys her story. From it, teens will learn much of the history of this important area and will identify with young Marji and her friends. These are graphic novels of immense power and importance for Westerners of all ages.

ADDITIONAL CHOICES. READ **TWO BOOKS**.

FICTION

AUSTEN, JANE. **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

The Dashwood sisters, sensible Eleanor and passionate Marianne, find their chances at marriage seemingly doomed by their family sudden loss of fortune.

BRAY, LIBBA. **A GREAT AND TERRIBLE BEAUTY**.

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

BROOKS, MARTHA. **TRUE CONFESSIONS OF A HEARTLESS GIRL** *GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD

Set against the vast skies of a prairie landscape, with a rich cast of unforgettable characters and an unlikely heroine as endearing as she is tough, this affecting novel reminds readers that it is never too late for forgiveness- and that sometimes the most unlikely messenger can deliver a small miracle.

CORMIER, ROBERT. **RAG AND BONE SHOP**

Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Massachusetts.

CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER PAUL. **BUCKING THE SARGE**

The narrator of this hilarious novel is smart, desperate 15-year-old Luther (*not* Loser, as some call him) Farrell, who speaks with wit, wisdom, and heartbreaking realism about family, work, school, friends, and enemies. He deals with his callous mom (the "Sarge"), who has made herself rich by milking the system, including evicting poor families from slum housing. Luther's job is to care for four men in Sarge's Adult Rehab Center, another scam. At school he wants to win the science fair medal again, even if his rival is the girl he has loved since kindergarten. Bits of philosophy from Luther's various mentors, who range from Socrates to Judge Judy, blend with the comedy and sorrow. There are some real surprises in plot and character, including a substitute parent Luther finds in an unexpected place and a science project that does change the world.

DICKENS, CHARLES. **TALE OF TWO CITIES**

The immortal novel of the French Revolution tells the story of the courageous Sydney Carton, a man ready to give his life for a woman who will never be his.

GIBSON, WILLIAM. **NEUROMANCER**

Case was the best interface cowboy who even ran in earth's computer matrix. Then he double-crossed the wrong people.

HUXLEY, ALDOUS. **BRAVE NEW WORLD**

A satire of a technocratic future society in which people are rigidly classified and kept happy by a drug distributed by the government.

ORWELL, GEORGE. **ANIMAL FARM**

This remarkable allegory of a downtrodden society of overworked, mistreated animals, and their quest to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality is one of the most scathing satires ever published. As we witness the rise and bloody fall of the revolutionary animals, we begin to recognize the seeds of totalitarianism in the most idealistic organization; and in our most charismatic leaders, the souls of our cruelest oppressors.

ORWELL, GEORGE. **1984**

This is a novel which depicts man's plight under totalitarianism. It has been described as one of the most powerful commentaries on what life is like without freedom.

STEWART, MARY. THE IVY TREE

Mary Grey has nothing to look forward to except a future as colorless as her name. So if she looks, walks, and smiles so much like the glamorous missing heiress Annabel Winslow, why not be her for a little while? Because fairy tales do not come true...and someone wants Annabel to stay missing.

TAN, AMY. JOY LUCK CLUB

The stories of four native-born Chinese women and their American-born daughters, showing the influence each has on the others lives, and how they are the same and different.

TWAIN, MARK. THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

The adventures of a boy and a runaway slave as they travel down the Mississippi River on a raft.

SHORT STORY ANTHOLOGIES

MUNROE, ALICE. LIVES OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

Having grown up in the small Canadian town of Jubilee during the 1940s, Del Jordan, young, bright, and impressionable, narrates the heartache, agony, and dreams of the inhabitants, including her own.

ROSS, SINCLAIR. THE LAMP AT NOON AND OTHER STORIES

Short stories including The Lamp at Noon – The Outlaw – The Cornet at Night – Not by Rain Alone – Circus in Town – A Field of Wheat – The Runaway – The Painted Door – One’s a Heifer.

STEVENSON, R.L. DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE AND OTHER STORIES

A kind and well-respected doctor can turn himself into a murderous madman by taking a secret drug he’s created.

NONFICTION

GIBSON, WILLIAM. THE MIRACLE WORKER

The story about the struggle of a Boston teacher, Annie Sullivan, to communicate with and teach the deaf, blind, and mute child, Helen Keller.

HALEY, ALEX. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X

A definitive account of this complex, controversial, and charismatic leader of the sixties’ black revolution

WOOLF, VIRGINIA. A ROOM OF ONE’S OWN

Eloquently states Woolf’s conviction that in order to create works of genius, women must be freed from financial obligations and social restrictions.

