



BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

Summer Reading List 2020: 12th Grade Literature and Composition (Standard)

"Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man."
-Francis Bacon

A Rationale for Summer Reading

- To generate interest and pleasure that enriches literary and philosophical experience.
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy.
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class.
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Required Text *Note: It is important that you purchase the edition indicated by the ISBN.*

- *Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe ISBN: 0-385-474547

Set in Nigeria at the dawn of the colonial era, *Things Fall Apart* portrays the fall of a tribal leader who is unable to resolve the conflict between his desires and those of his society. Written in 1958, *Things Fall Apart* is one of the most popular novels to come out of Africa, with over twenty million copies in print and translated into fifty-seven languages.

Choice Text (Select ONE book that you have not read previously.)

- *A Long Way Gone* Ishmael Beah

This non-fiction memoir was written by a boy soldier in the Sierra Leone region of Africa and is a raw and compelling story of death, violence, war and redemption. Unfortunately, this type of fighting continues today, and this memoir will open your eyes to the atrocities faced by children around the world.

- *Wherever I Wind Up* R.A. Dickey

As a Mets starter and the only knuckleball pitcher currently in the major leagues, Dickey's autobiography explores his struggles with an alcoholic family, childhood abuse, an up-and-down career, and his faith. Dickey's honesty separates this book from the usual sports autobiography.

- *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America* Firoozeh Dumas

This delightful and funny story tells about an Iranian girl's immigration experience in the United States. Dumas shares her stories of struggling with the language and customs in an honest and witty way. The stories of her family and their fascination of all things American give the reader new insight on what it means to be an immigrant.

- *Unbroken* Laura Hillenbrand

In late May 1943, the B-24 with the 26-year-old Zamperini went down over the Pacific. For nearly seven weeks, he and his pilot somehow survived on a fragile raft. They traveled 2,000 miles, only to land in a series of Japanese prison camps, where, for the next two years, he underwent a whole new set of tortures. His story is one of tragedy and redemption and is an unforgettable story by the author of *Seabiscuit*.

- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* Zora Neale Hurston

This novel brings to life the Southern love story of a strong woman with wit and pathos. The novel follows the fortunes of Janie Crawford, a woman living in the black town of Eaton, Florida. Renaissance during the 1930s,

author Zora Neale Hurston was the preeminent black woman writer in the United States and a collaborator with Langston Hughes.

General Instructions/Evaluations

1. Students will take a test over the required book the first week of school.
2. Students will be assigned journal entries, the first essay of the school year, and participate in seminar over *Things Fall Apart* during the first weeks of the school year.
3. Students will be grouped by the choice book that they read. The specific evaluation method(s) will be discussed the first day of class.
4. Students must have both summer reading books the first day of school.
5. Annotation (highlighting, margin notes, summaries) of the reading is a beneficial tool for comprehension, retention and application.

***Please remember the BA English Department policy:
Do not consult internet novel guides, any other electronic or printed summaries, or movies;
read the texts themselves.***