



BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

Summer Reading List 2021: 9th Literature and Composition (Honors)

For it is a curious characteristic of our unformed species that we live and model our lives through acts of make-believe.

- Joseph Campbell

A Rationale for Summer Reading

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

Required Texts

• *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* Robert Louis Stevenson ISBN-13: 978-0486266886
In this novel, set in Victorian England, Stevenson uses the framework of a mysterious thriller to explore the problem of evil and man's dualistic nature.

• *Educated* Tara Westover ISBN-13: 978-0399590504
Educated tells the story of Westover's ultra-religious upbringing and her struggle to resolve the tension between loyalty to family and her desire to reach her potential and find fulfillment as an academic and an intellectual.

• *Of Mice and Men* John Steinbeck ISBN-10 : 0140177396
Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* examines the complexities of friendship, labor, and ethics within the context of Depression era America. Although concise, the novel is profound and moving and provides a great introduction to the salient themes of Freshman Honors Literature and Composition.

General Instruction

1. Annotation of books is strongly encouraged; margin notes, highlighting, and summaries are valuable.
2. Students should bring all summer reading books the first day of class.
3. All writing assignments are due the first day of class.
4. Students will test over the works on the first day of class. Essays, seminars, and journals will focus on summer reading during the first few weeks of class.

Specific Writing Instructions

Write two thesis statements over each of the three books listed above.

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.