

Saint Francis High School
English Department
12th Grade - Summer Reading 2020

The four (non-AP) senior English courses all share the following **required** summer reading novel:

***Life of Pi* by Yann Martel (ISBN: 9780156027328)**

In addition to reading *Life of Pi*, all seniors in a non-AP English course must purchase and read ONE additional “choice” summer reading novel from the appropriate course list below. Some books have mature content and themes; students should consult a parent/guardian when making their selections.

Writing from Literature

1984 by George Orwell

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston*

On Writing by Stephen King

How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Heroes and Villains

Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston*

Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

Grendel by John Gardner

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Chronicle of a Death Foretold by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Philosophy in Literature

Blindness by José Saramago

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston*

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

Atonement by Ian McEwan

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

100 Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Literature and Film

Read one of the following novels, watch its film adaptation, and then follow the directions below.

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote [films: *Capote* (2005) **OR** *In Cold Blood* (1967)]

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan [film: *The Joy Luck Club* (1993)]

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky [film: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012)]

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly [film: *Hidden Figures* (2016)]

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold [film: *The Lovely Bones* (2009)]

True Grit by Charles Portis [films: *True Grit* (1969) **OR** *True Grit* (2010)]

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson [film: *Just Mercy* (2019)]

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel [film: *Like Water for Chocolate* (1992)]

The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams [film: *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* (2005)]

Misery by Stephen King [film: *Misery* (1990)]

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi [film: *Persepolis* (2007)]

Choose one specific scene or element (character, tone, symbol, etc.) from your choice novel (1-3 paragraphs) that you thought was adapted well in your film. Then, do the opposite: choose a specific scene or element from the novel (1-3 paragraphs) that you thought was poorly adapted, or changed in a way that was disappointing. When you come to the first day of class, please have both specific passages ready to cite as well as your film observations written in short paragraph or bullet-point form (aim for 50 words for each example). We will use both of these during the first week of school

*We recommend the use of an audiobook to help with dialect in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.