

Saint Francis High School
English Department
12th Grade English
Summer Reading 2016

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

***Their Eyes Were Watching God** (ISBN: 0061120065)**
Zora Neale Hurston

In addition to reading *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, all seniors in a non-AP English course must read **ONE** additional “choice” novel from any of the lists below. You are welcome to choose one of the books from the academic year book list of a course ***other than*** the course in which you are enrolled. For example, a student taking Literature & Film could read any book from the Heroes & Villains book list as her “choice” novel.

Below are the book lists for each of the three non-AP courses; these books are read during the academic year. ISBNs are provided in parentheses — please ensure that you purchase the correct edition of each text.

Heroes & Villains

Jane Eyre (0141441143)
1984 (0451524934)
Beowulf (0451530969)
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (0451531191)
A Streetcar Named Desire (0811216020)
Othello (0743482824)

Literature & Film

The Maltese Falcon (0679722645)
To Kill a Mockingbird (0060935464)
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (0143105027)
Fried Green Tomatoes (0449911357)

Writing from Literature

Winesburg, Ohio (0451529952)
A Raisin in the Sun (0679755330)
Points of View (0451628721)
The Making of a Poem (0393321789)
Reading Lolita in Tehran (0812979303)
The Giver (0440237688)

If you do not select a book from the choices above, your choice book will be selected from the list below.

Summer Reading “Choice” Novel List

**Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

A classic of dystopian literature, Huxley’s novel was ranked as 5th on the list of Modern Library’s 100 Best Novels of the 20th century. Written in 1931, the novel speaks powerfully to many modern ethical debates about science and technology.

**The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

This work is a collection of short stories based on the author’s experience in Vietnam. O’Brien writes from a semi-autobiographical perspective, and in so doing, provides an honest, unfiltered look at the lives of soldiers during and after the Vietnam War.

The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins

Considered the first detective novel, this tells the story of Rachel Verinder, a young woman in Victorian England who receives a magnificent diamond for her eighteenth birthday. When the stone goes missing the night after her birthday ball, the detective story ensues.

Emma by Jane Austen

Emma Woodhouse is determined to remain single even though she delights in interfering in the romantic lives of others. However, her meddling has consequences she couldn’t have anticipated.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

This is the gothic romance of brooding orphan Heathcliff and fiery Catherine Earnshaw, whose stubborn personalities keep them from being honest with one another.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

The story of an orphan boy’s sudden, mysterious inheritance and rise into the upper class in 19th century London, his lifelong desire to court the beautiful Estella, and the dangerous lessons he learns about grudges and obsession.

**Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

Another class of dystopian literature, Golding’s novel imagines the consequences of a group of British schoolboys trying to live together on an uninhabited island.

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Through his signature style of magical realism, Marquez writes of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the family.

**Beloved* by Toni Morrison

Sethe escapes from slavery with her children and begins a new life. When an eerie young woman enters Sethe’s life and begins harming Sethe’s relationships, she believes it to be the ghost of her daughter who died horrifically years earlier.

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

This novel takes the reader down the Congo River deep into Central Africa. It is a powerful story about European imperialism and the disastrous consequences that sometimes resulted from it.

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie by Muriel Spark

Unorthodox schoolteacher Jean Brodie chooses six girls to take special interest in, hoping to turn them into well-rounded women by sharing anecdotes from her personal and romantic life. Over the course of seven years, Brodie has a profound--and sometimes dangerous--influence on the young women.

**Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden

Chiyo, the daughter of poor Japanese fishermen, is sold to a geisha house when she is nine. She spends her life navigating the delicate (and dangerous) political and social world of Japanese courtesans in the years leading into World War II.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrow

At the end of World War II, writer Juliet Ashton finds her next book subject in a letter from a man from the island of Guernsey. Juliet gets to know the island, its people and the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society at first through letters and then through her own experience.

**The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold

The Lovely Bones is a story told from the perspective of Susie Salmon, a young girl who is murdered. From Heaven, Susie watches her devastated family and describes her murder, hoping that someone can piece together the crime and catch and punish her murderer.

**The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

This is the story, told through letters, of Celie, a poor black woman who has endured abuse, rape, oppression, and terror. The story traces Celie's struggles and growth and her desire to love herself and explore her creativity.

Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende

This is the story of a young woman's search for self in a male dominated world. Set in the 19th century, Eliza Sommers is an orphan raised in Chile who travels to California during the Gold Rush to follow her love.

**In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote

Truman Capote created a new genre combining fact and fiction in this true crime tale of the horrific murder of four members of the Clutter family in the tiny town of Holcomb, Kansas.

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

This book was published and won the Pulitzer Prize in 2014. The novel details the intersecting stories of two young people during World War II.

**The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

Detailing the harsh life of an enslaved family, this novel was a New York Times bestseller in 2015.

**On Writing* by Stephen King

This work on non-fiction illuminates King's life while detailing his writing career.

**Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott

Anne Lamott offers suggestions for developing writers and discusses memorable moments from her life.

**Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee

In this modern play, relationships are tested due to miscommunication and misunderstanding.

**Me Before You* -- JoJo Moyes

A young woman finds that work and life collide in interesting ways.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

A boy, a boat, and a bunch of animals. This book asks the reader to determine the truth of a colorful situation.

**Atonement* by Ian McEwan

McEwan brings together interlocking stories about relatives that are both provocative and reflective. His prose style is well known for its lyrical qualities.

**Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov

This somewhat dark novel challenges the reader's notion of love.

***Advisory:** contains mature content (content may be sexual or violent in nature)