

McGill-Toolen Catholic High School
English Summer Reading for Seniors–2010/11

In conjunction with the History department's required reading, all students can expect a writing assessment based on reading Three Cups of Tea.

Required for Advanced Placement Literature and Composition:

All seniors enrolled in AP Senior English should read *Ethan Frome* (\$5.00) by Edith Wharton. They should complete a Major Works Data Sheet . The MWDS can be accessed on the school's website. AP Seniors will also read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines* (\$14.00) by Thomas C. Foster. The assessment will be given when students report to class.

Required for Honors World Literature:

All seniors enrolled in Honors World Literature must read *The Stranger* (\$12.00) by Albert Camus and be able to contribute to discussion of the major **themes** of this Existentialist novel.

Recommended

All seniors are urged to read as much background information as possible on the works of Homer, Shakespeare, Dante, Goethe, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Cervantes, Mann, and Kafka since these authors' works will also comprise a significant portion of the senior curriculum.

The English Department also recommends that students **read** as much as possible. From this belief in the power of reading, the English Department offers the following extra credit reading selections.

Extra Credit

Students can earn up to 10 points extra credit per book by reading and writing an essay on each of the following books. The essay topic is "What can the reader learn from the struggle of the main character(s) against his or her or their situation?" Name the lesson(s) the reader learns and describe the struggles in your essay.

***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan (\$15.00)**

This book spans two countries and two generations following a group of Chinese women who meet to play mah jong, invest money, and tell the secret stories of their lives.

***Johnny Got His Gun* by Dalton Trumbo (\$7.50)**

This book chronicles the intermittent dreams and growing consciousness of a young man who wakes up in an army hospital and gradually becomes conscious enough to realize that he's been ripped apart by a bomb. Yet he lives, and the only thing left is his mind. This story is powerful, moving, thought-provoking and utterly painful.

***Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton (\$15.00)**

In South Africa during the 1940s, a minister and his family struggle to maintain their self-respect when faced with racial injustice.

***The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas (\$7.00)**

One of the greatest thrillers of all time, this book tells the tale of young Edmond Dantes, who, falsely accused of treason and arrested on his wedding day, escapes from prison to seek revenge on his enemies. The story is an intricate web of what the word *vengeance* really means.

***The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis (\$14.00)**

Using a series of letters from a senior devil to a junior tempter, this story provides a series of lessons in the importance of the Christian life and Christian morality by portraying a typical human life as seen from the devil's viewpoint.

***The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* by Jean-Dominique Bauby (\$13.00)**

Bauby, a 44-year-old man known and loved for his wit, his style, and his impassioned approach to life, was the victim of a rare kind of stroke to the brainstem. After 20 days in a coma, Bauby awoke to find his body paralyzed; only his left eye functioned, allowing him to see and, by blinking it, to make clear that his mind was unimpaired. Almost miraculously, he was soon able to express himself by dictating a word at a time, blinking to select each letter as the alphabet was recited to him slowly, over and over again. In the same way, he was able eventually to compose this extraordinary book.