

## WILBRAHAM & MONSON ACADEMY

423 Main Street Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095 Phone 413.596.6811 Fax 413.596.2448 Web site: www.WMA.us

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### WILBRAHAM & MONSON ACADEMY SUMMER READING

#### New International Students

If you expect to enter the English as a Second Language program, you should read the following: *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More* by Roald Dahl.

If you expect to enter standard/grade-level English classes, you should read both of the following: *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More* by Roald Dahl.  
*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

#### **ALL OTHER STUDENTS – returning international students and new and returning domestic students – in Grades 9-postgraduate should follow these guidelines:**

In the summer of 2010, all upper-school students will read at least two books.  
*A limited number of copies of the required reading is available in the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Campus Store.*

#### **BOOK 1**

This year for summer reading, the faculty has decided to take a thematic approach that addresses some of the issues raised by the disturbing story of Phoebe Prince in nearby South Hadley, Massachusetts. Humans are, above all else, social animals. We need to belong, and that is especially true of young people whose primary occupation in their high school years is figuring out who they are. Defining one's identity – especially within the context of a community – is a crucial stage we all go through. But what happens when the community rejects us, or we do not feel a connection? What is the impact on the individual? What is the community responsibility?

The novels below are narratives that address that situation. They are grouped by reading level and age appropriateness. Students should choose a book recommended for their grade or higher.

### **SUMMER 2010: THE OUTSIDER VS. SOCIETY**

#### **Grade 9 reading level**

Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*. ISBN: 978-0142407332

Publisher's review: The ruthlessly realistic and violent story of the Greasers and the Socs, rival gangs from very different sides of the railroad tracks, is narrated by Ponyboy Curtis, a smart, sensitive kid who has grown to become one of the most recognizable figures in the history of young adult literature.

Zusak, Markus. *I am the Messenger*. ISBN: 9780375836671

Nineteen-year-old cabbie Ed Kennedy has little in life to be proud of: his dad died of alcoholism, and he and his mom have few prospects for success. He has little to do except share a run-down apartment with his faithful yet smelly dog, drive his taxi, and play cards and drink with his amiable yet similarly washed-up friends. Then, after he stops a bank robbery, Ed begins receiving

anonymous messages marked in code on playing cards in the mail, and almost immediately his life begins to swerve off its beaten-down path.

– J. Martin, New York Public Library Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

Houston, Julian. *New Boy*. ISBN: 9780618432530

In the 1950s, Rob Garrett, 15, leaves Virginia for a prestigious Connecticut boarding school. His dentist father and schoolteacher mother are proud of their son's academic record and potential but anxious because he is the first African American to attend Draper. Rob quickly learns that bigotry takes many forms. He befriends Vinnie, whose acne, New York-Italian background, and vulnerability make him a target among the elitist students.

– Gerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NC Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

### **Grade 10 reading level**

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. ISBN: 9780140283334

The classic tale of a group of English schoolboys who are left stranded on an unpopulated island, and who must confront not only the defects of their society but the defects of their own natures. "*Lord of the Flies* [is my selection for The Book That Changed My Life] because it is both a story with a message and because it is a great tale of adventure. My advice about reading is to do a lot of it." – Stephen King, for the National Book Foundation, *The Book That Changed My Life*

Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye*. ISBN: 9780316769488

The hero-narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye* is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it.

Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis*. ISBN: 9780553213690

In some ways, there has never been a better time for Kafka's work than now. The last fifty years paved the way for [his] eerie beauty and seeming madness... 'The Metamorphosis,' 'In the Penal Colony,' and 'A Hunger Artist' are among the finest horror stories ever written. Seventy years after his death, art has finally begun to catch up with him. – Anne Rice

### **Grades 11 and 12 reading level**

Mccullers, Carson. *Member of the Wedding*. ISBN: 9780618492398

This novel depicts the inner life of 12-year-old Frankie Addams, a Georgia tomboy who imagines that she will be taken by the bride and groom (her brother) on their honeymoon. Frankie finds refuge in the company of two equally isolated characters, her ailing six-year-old cousin John Henry and her father's black housekeeper, Berenice, who serves as both mother figure and oracle.

Doyle, Roddy. *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*. ISBN: 9780140233902

The 1993 Booker Prize winner. Paddy Clarke, a ten-year-old Dubliner, describes his world, a place full of warmth, cruelty, love, sardines, and slaps across the face. He's confused; he sees everything but he understands less and less.

Hamid, Moshin. *Moth Smoke*. ISBN: 9780312273231

Daru Shezad is fired from his banking job in Lahore and he begins a decline that plummets the length of this sharply drawn, subversive tale. Before long, he can't pay his bills, and he loses his toehold among Pakistan's cell-phone-toting elite. Daru descends into drugs and dissolution, and,

for good measure, he falls in love with the wife of his childhood friend and rival, Ozi – the beautiful, restless Mumtaz.

Knowles, John. *A Separate Peace*. ISBN: 9780743253970

Gene was a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas was a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happened between them at school one summer, during the early years of World War II is the subject of *A Separate Peace*. A bestseller for over twenty years, it is one of the most starkly moving parables ever written of the dark forces that brood over the tortured world of adolescence.

Grealy, Lucy. *Autobiography of a Face*. ISBN: 9780060569662

At age nine, Lucy Grealy was diagnosed with a potentially terminal cancer. When she returned to school with a third of her jaw removed, she faced the cruel taunts of classmates. In this strikingly candid memoir, Grealy tells her story of great suffering and remarkable strength without sentimentality and with considerable wit. Vividly portraying the pain of peer rejection and the guilty pleasures of wanting to be special, Grealy captures with unique insight what it is like as a child and young adult to be torn between two warring impulses: to feel that more than anything else we want to be loved for who we are, while wishing desperately and secretly to be perfect.

Nafisi, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*. ISBN: 9780812971064

Every Thursday morning for two years in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a bold and inspired teacher named Azar Nafisi secretly gathered seven of her most committed female students to read forbidden Western classics. As Islamic morality squads staged arbitrary raids in Tehran, fundamentalists seized hold of the universities, and a blind censor stifled artistic expression, the girls in Azar Nafisi's living room risked removing their veils and immersed themselves in the worlds of Jane Austen, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Henry James, and Vladimir Nabokov. In this extraordinary memoir, their stories become intertwined with the ones they are reading. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* is a remarkable exploration of resilience in the face of tyranny and a celebration of the liberating power of literature.

## Book 2

The second required book will be a book selected by the English Department for the English course in which students are enrolled next fall. Testing on this book will take place within the English course. These are the books that have been chosen:

Grade 9	Dahl, Roald. <i>The Wonderful World of Henry Sugar and Six More</i> . ISBN: 9780141304700
Grade 10	Bradbury, Ray. <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> . ISBN: 9780345410016
Grade 11	Hosseini, Khaled. <i>The Kite Runner</i> . ISBN: 9781594480003
Grade 11, AP	King, Stephen. <i>On Writing</i> . (Trade Edition) ISBN: 9789671024253
Grade 12	Glass, Ira, ed. <i>The New Kings of Nonfiction</i> . ISBN: 9781594482670
Grade 12 AP	Steinbeck, John. <i>East of Eden</i> . (Centennial Edition) ISBN: 978142000656

### **OTHER ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE READING**

Students taking the following Advanced Placement courses are assigned the following reading in addition to the two books above.

AP Biology	Rhodes, Richard. <i>Deadly Feasts: The “Prion” Controversy and the Public’s Health</i> .
AP U.S. History	Butler, Jon. <i>Becoming America: The Revolution Before 1776</i> .
AP European History	Palmer & Colton. <i>A History of the Modern World</i> (Preface and pages 1-48).
AP Economics	Levitt, Steven and Dubner, Stephen. <i>Freakonomics</i> .
AP French	“Les Trois Suspects” (pp. 65-76) from <i>Manigances</i> , a short story collection by Boileau-Narcejac. Note: New international students entering AP French should contact Mrs. Shults (cshults@WMA.us).