



Independent Reading Assignment – Summer 2018

We have made some changes to make the Summer Reading more meaningful and enriching. Please see the requirements below and direct any questions to Ms. Kenyon or Mr. Thompson.

Independent Reading Course

This will be a new, graded course listed on students' transcripts. In addition to the summer reading, students will read and complete short assignments on independently chosen books throughout the school year. All of these will go into a folder that will be assessed at the end of the year.

Summer Independent Read

Each student will choose a book to read over the summer. After the start of school, students will be asked to write an essay in-class on a pre-determined prompt. The prompt will be given to the students with enough time for them to formulate ideas before writing.

Each grade will have a different directive for how to choose their book, and this directive will continue for each of the books selected throughout the year.

9th Grade: Pick a book considered to be an American classic

10th Grade: Pick a book within a literary genre of your choice

11th Grade: Pick a book by a reputable author who has written (4) or more books

12th Grade: Pick a book somehow related to your senior project

During the school year, 9th and 10th grade will read (2) more books as directed above, while 11th and 12th grade will read (3) more books.

All-School Read

All students and faculty are asked to read **Hans Rosling's *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*** before the first day of school. Students are asked to prepare a creative graph/chart about any set of statistics that is of interest to them (minimum of ten years represented) and submit it on the first day of school. These will be showcased during our all-school activity, and will be added to the Independent Reading folder as part of the course. (Look at gapminder.org for inspiration!)

Mid-Day English Primer

Instead of a third book, we are asking for students to read an article or part of a book that anticipates the new school year's curriculum. These are shorter readings, meant to stimulate thinking around a specific topic. **Links for these are on our website's Student Portal**

9th Grade: Goli Taraghi's "The Gentleman Thief"

10th Grade: Excerpt of Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* (Theseus→Fall of Troy)

11th Grade: Sam Leith's "A window on Chaucer's cramped, scary, smelly world" & John Dryden's "Chaucer"

12th Grade: Zadie Smith's "Fail Better" & Joan Didion's "On Keeping a Notebook"