Dear Students,

Welcome to the Upper School Summer Reading Guide 2014. Here, you will find a list of the required and choice books for English and AP US History, with links to Amazon so you can find out more about them, read reviews, make informed choices based on your interests and worldview, and, if you would like, order them right away. You will also find instructions and expectations for the activities/projects we would like you to complete for the beginning of next school year.

Please acquire your summer reading choices on your own, from wherever you like, at whatever price point you like (new or used, purchased or borrowed from a friend or the good ol’ public library), in whatever medium you like (traditional paperback, online, iBook, Kindle, or book on tape). Unless a particular edition or translation is indicated, any copy will suffice. The Amazon links are just for your reference.

Please read the instructions for each class carefully. In general, you will choose two books to read and respond to this summer--and most of you will use our Ning website. As with last year, there is a diversity of choices, reading level, and subject matter, both in fiction and nonfiction, . We hope you are all able to find something on your list that attracts you in some way.

Initiated by the English Department in 1975, required summer reading has long been a tradition at The Prairie School. The Department believes that reading and learning should end neither in June nor with the curriculum, and strongly encourages students to take advantage of the time to read literature of their choosing--even above and beyond what we ask them to read for school. No matter the grade, required and independent reading helps students practice and improve their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Your teachers are thankful to have the opportunity to share in reading experiences with you even during the summer, and we hope that you are thankful, as well, for the right and opportunity that you have to read, to write, and to think.

Have a wonderful summer of reading!

Sincerely,

Susan Holum, Chair, Grades K-6
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Dominic Inouye, Chair, Grades 7-12
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“Nurture your mind with great thoughts; to believe in the heroic makes heroes.”
-- Benjamin Disraeli

Please read the following NON-FICTION book:

- This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men & Women (2007) (NPR)

In addition, please choose ONE MORE book to read:

- Briar Rose (Jane Yolen)
- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian (Sherman Alexie)
- Big Fish: A Novel of Mythical Proportions (Daniel Wallace)
- The Book Thief (Markus Zusak)
- Anansi Boys (Neil Gaiman)
- Whale Rider (Witi Ihimaera)
- In Darkness (Nick Lake)
- Life of Pi (Yann Martel)

Requirements:

- Minimum of 3 substantial responses per book in the Discussion Forums of the Ning website.
- See Introduction to the Ning and Requirements for more detail.
“Nobody can teach me who I am. You can describe parts of me, but who I am--and what I need--is something that I have to find out myself.”

-- Chinua Achebe

Please read the following PLAY:

- *Master Harold...And the Boys* (Athol Fugard)

In addition, please choose ONE MORE book to read:

- *The Drowned Cities* (Paolo Bacigalupi)
- *Parable of the Sower* (Octavia Butler)
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope* (William Kamkwamba) *(nonfiction)*
- *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* (Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb) *(nonfiction)*
- *Purple Hibiscus: A Novel* (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)

Requirements:

- **Minimum of 3 substantial responses per book** in the Discussion Forums of the Ning website.
- See **Introduction to the Ning** and **Requirements** for more detail.
"I celebrate myself, and sing myself, And what I assume you shall assume, For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you."
-- Walt Whitman

Please choose ONE FICTION and ONE NONFICTION book to read:

FICTION CHOICES:
- The Lone Ranger & Tonto Fistfight in Heaven (Sherman Alexie) (short stories)
- To Kill A Mockingbird (Harper Lee)
- A Raisin in the Sun (Lorraine Hansberry) (play)
- The Catcher in the Rye (J.D. Salinger)
- Americanah (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)

NONFICTION CHOICES:
- Indian Creek Chronicles: A Winter Alone in the Wilderness (Pete Fromm)
- A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail (Bill Bryson)
- Enrique’s Journey (Sonia Nazario)
- What is the What (Dave Eggers)
- The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to His White Mother (James McBride)
- The American Way of Eating: Undercover at Walmart, Applebee’s, Farm Fields and the Dinner Table (Tracie McMillan)
- Buffalo for the Broken Heart: Restoring Life to a Black Hills Ranch (Dan O’Brien)

Requirements:
- Minimum of 3 substantial responses per book in the Discussion Forums of the Ning website.
- See Introduction to the Ning and Requirements for more detail.

AP US HISTORY

"History is a set of lies agreed upon."
-- Napoleon Bonaparte

Everyone should read the following book:
- Lies My Teacher Told Me (Dr. James Loewen)

Requirements:
- See Special Instructions from Dr. French about the expectations for this reading.
Leaving the old, both worlds at once they view
That stand upon the threshold of the new.
-- Edmund Waller

Choose ONE FICTION book to read:

- Rule of the Bone: A Novel (Russell Banks)
- Specimen Days (Michael Cunningham)
- Kindred (Octavia Butler)
- The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts (Maxine Hong Kingston)
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest (Ken Kesey)
- My Antonia (Willa Cather)
- As I Lay Dying (William Faulkner)
- East of Eden (John Steinbeck)

In addition, please identify a subject area of interest (one, perhaps, that you’d like to pursue in college or life beyond college) that you would also like to research during the school year. Then, choose ONE NONFICTION BOOK in that area to read and get approval from Mr. Inouye.

NOTE: Mr. Inouye will send you links via email to book lists in as many subject areas as possible (like this one for Psychology), based on the survey you completed in May.

Requirements:

- Minimum of 3 substantial responses per book in the Discussion Forums of the Ning website. Special instructions for your nonfiction choice will be on the Ning.
- See Introduction to the Ning and Requirements for more detail.
“He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.”
-- George Orwell

Everyone should read BOTH required books:

- **Crime and Punishment** (Fyodor Dostoyevsky--Vintage Classics edition)
- **One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest** (Ken Kesey)

NOTE: The edition of *Crime & Punishment* listed above is the best translation and is worth seeking out. You are exempt from doing work on the Ning, as Ms. Davis will give you separate instructions, activities, and due dates before school’s end.
INTRODUCTION: 
THE NING, OUR ONLINE DISCUSSION TOOL

WHAT IS THE “NING”?

Your English teachers expect that you will read the summer reading selections and participate in online discussions on a website sponsored by Ning. You’ll come to know this website as “the Ning” soon enough.

After many years of students reading required books in isolation and then returning to school in August to a test or essay or short-lived discussion of the summer reading, the English Department introduced “the Ning” in 2009 as a way to encourage students to dialogue with one another about what they’re reading, to engage students on a platform similar to Facebook and other social media, and to foster reading, writing, thinking, and communication skills throughout the summer, bridging the gap between their years of study.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE?

We encourage you to begin reading and participating on the Ning well before school starts so that authentic conversations can occur. We understand, however, that family vacations and other obligations may be obstacles that you have to overcome. In the end, the final deadline is midnight of the day before we leave for Camp Manitowish.

HOW DO I JOIN (OR REJOIN) THE NING?

STEP 1.


STEP 2.

You should see this on your screen:

![Sign In to The Prairie School Online Classroom](image)

If you participated last year and remember what your username (email) and password were, then you’re still a member and can simply click SIGN IN.
If you can’t remember your username and/or password, you will need to join again. You may need to use a different email address (using your new Prairie gmail account would be a good idea).

If you are new to Prairie or are an incoming 9th grader, then click SIGN UP and follow the instructions. You’ll need a valid email address, a private password that you can remember, your birth date (which won’t be displayed), and a photo or avatar (a picture to represent you).

HOW DO I BEGIN DISCUSSING?

STEP 3.

On the main page, you will see a section called GROUPS:

![GROUPS](image)

STEP 4.

Find the appropriate GROUP (with your book’s name) and click it to join.

STEP 5.

On the group’s page, you may find helpful RESOURCES (biographical links, study guides, videos, etc.):
You can check these out. They won’t bite! And they might come in handy when creating your Discussion Forum responses.

**STEP 6.**

Scroll down below the resources and you’ll find the **DISCUSSION FORUM**:
We have chosen these books carefully to both attract your attention and serve as a starting point for the rest of your year in English. The selections are all connected enough to each other (usually thematically) that your English teachers will be creating a set of three engaging, debatable “essential questions” for you to consider to help you get your discussions started.

One of you will obviously have to start the responses, then wait for others to join in. Check back regularly!

STEP 7.

You can reply directly to a discussion question by typing into the box under REPLY TO THIS and making sure to click ADD REPLY:

You should think and write in paragraphs, which can be created by adding a space between them. You’ll get the hang of it!

To keep a discussion going, though, read each others’ responses and respond to specific things your classmates are saying. Respond to things you agree with or disagree with, add your own new ideas, post a picture, or post your own questions. Just don’t generically respond to the main question as if you were writing a short essay. Try to make these forums interesting dialogues, not boring monologues.

To reply to a particular student’s response, click REPLY under their response, type in the box, and make sure to click ADD REPLY:
STEP 8 (OPTIONAL).

You will also be able to **start your own discussions**, as well. We encourage this--and it will garner you extra credit!

To do this, click +ADD DISCUSSION, which you can find on the group’s main page, at the bottom of the DISCUSSION FORUMS:

![Add a Discussion](image)

STEP 9 (OPTIONAL).

You will notice that you can also **MESSAGE** the person directly and privately or **CHAT** with online members in the MAIN ROOM, which is always visible somewhere on the main page.

![Chat](image)
Except for AP US History and AP English—which have separate activities and instructions—you will discuss both books on the Ning. For each book, you will respond with a minimum of 3 substantial responses in the Discussion Forum.

In order to carry on a discussion, your responses will obviously take many forms and lengths: sometimes you’ll want to just send a sentence-long response, sometimes a much longer one. No matter how many times you send short or long posts, ultimately we will be looking for a minimum of 3 substantial responses to each of the two books.

**SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSES**

What will it take to create a “substantial response”?

- **Between 250-500 words**
  What can you say or explore of substance in less than this?

- **Details and support**
  Who? What? When? Where? How? Can you provide specific textual evidence (i.e., quotations from the book), formatted correctly¹, to support your response?

- **Explanations**
  You will be trying to uncover meaning(s) in the text. How can you develop your responses with your reasoning, your own experiences, your feelings, your personal research, or the world? Have you explained How? Why? So what? Now what?

- **Invitation**
  Your response should not claim to be the one and only answer, but should invite others to respond. It may even contain or end with another question.

This is how effective discussion happens: it’s propelled by detail, interpretation, personality, and, always, more questions.

Should you also consider correctness of grammar and mechanics? Simple answer: Yes. Remember that this may be the first view of your writing and thinking that your teacher sees. Put your best foot forward!

**SAMPLE DISCUSSION FORUM**

Here’s a sample discussion of a question in a Fahrenheit 451 Discussion Forum from the first year, 2009. We’ve changed the names to protect the innocent, but notice the different (and polite) ways the students start to respond to each other.

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¹ [Context of quotation], [speaker] says, “__________________” (page number if a paperback). Example: After he wrestles with the tiger and wins, Pi says, “I have bested you, you beast! Now sit down and grab an oar!” (235).
Discussion Forum question:

Beatty's history lesson for Montag runs from p. 54-61, beginning with "When did it all start, you ask, this job our ours...?" and ending with "We're the Happiness Boys." Read it again. React to it. Find something to agree with, question, disagree with, get angry at, relate to. This important passage packs a punch!

Sample responses:

Reply by James on July 23, 2009 at 3:37pm

It's true what Beatty is saying. In our modern world of television, cell phones and computers, books are in fact starting to lose their place. Why go through all the stress when you can easily do the same thing you would digitally, in a faster way? When I gave my second "Early Reading" response, that was what I was lacking in my answer, though it was what I was trying to say. Books don't appeal to as many people in this time and place, when there are so many electronics. It's also true that many people fail to see the logic behind extending their knowledge beyond what they will ultimately be doing in life anyway no matter how insufficient. I say that it's very important because you can always broaden your horizons and make a better life for yourself, and if not yourself, others around you.

Beatty, made his point, but I don't think that certain books offending certain people should be cause for the destruction of all books. They may have been making people happy, but the question is were they doing what was right? The right thing to do, won't always be the happiest at the moment, but it will pay off in the long run.

Reply by Teresa on August 3, 2009 at 7:28pm

After reading the conversation between Captain Beatty and Montag, I was surprised that Captain Beatty knew so much history about the world, before books were burned. At this part of the story Bradbury is making me wonder. Is there more to the Captain Beatty character? Did Bradbury leave out something important? What is it about Captain Beatty that seems to be missing? How much information does Captain Beatty know without reading any books?

I know that Captain Beatty has something against books, but I am questioning on how he knew some history if he has never read a book. Since the story takes place in the future, Captain Beatty could have known about the history though some high tech device such as the internet. But still I am wondering how he discovered the information on the nineteenth century, the twentieth century, and everything before and during those times. Has he ever learned to read when he was younger? I am guessing it depends on the date when people decided to burn books. In the conversation Captain Beatty says to Montag that the Civil War was the time when their job started. Was Captain Beatty born before the Civil War, when he could learn to read books? Or was he born after the Civil War when books were already in the process of being burned? If Captain Beatty did not know how to read, how is he supposed to read the information on the high tech device? Some one else could read it to him, but would he understand the material? My answer to Captain Beatty's reading is answered when he claims that he has “read a few books and has learned that they mean nothing” (62). Think about this. How could someone who claims to have read books become not only a fireman, but a fire chief? I think Bradbury made Captain Beatty a
strange character to have people really think about him.

Reply by James on August 6, 2009 at 1:04pm

Now that I've read Teresa's reply, it's got me thinking: Captain Beatty does know a lot of history. I'm wondering, does Captain Beatty's hatred of books have something to do with a book he once read? Did books hurt him in some way, turning him against them? Thanks Teresa, for bringing that up. I feel like there really is a whole other side of the Captain that we don't know about. I think that must have been part of Ray Bradbury's genius, to write in such a way that we have to think about it and put the pieces together. I mean, no wonder Captain Beatty's behavior struck me as somewhat shady. How could a guy who hates books sooo much know so much about them? This has opened up another pathway of thoughts for me.

Reply by Teresa on August 6, 2009 at 1:53pm

Your comment, James, has got me thinking. Ray Bradbury is purposely trying to make us flustered by making Captain Beatty a strange, mysterious character. I thought that Captain Beatty would be the last person to read even a sentence out of a book!! How long has Beatty known all this information? Did he read this information before or after he became a fire chief? Why is he all of the sudden giving this pep talk to Montag about all this history? Captain Beatty explains that fiction books are about nonexistent people, and figments of imagination (62). He also explains that nonfiction books are just one professor calling another an idiot, or one philosopher screaming down another's gullet. My thought about his "history lesson" is that he is just trying to lure his way into getting Montag to stay a fireman.

HOW WILL I BE GRADED?

Upon your return to school, your Discussion Forum participation will be graded as such:

- A+ More than 6 total substantial responses
- A 6 total substantial responses (3 each for each book)
- B+ 5 total
- B 4 total
- C 3 total
- D+ 2 total
- D 1 total
- F No responses

Partial responses (significantly below word minimum, insubstantial detail or interpretation, etc.) will typically count as 1/2 a substantial response.

Creating your own Discussion Forum question will garner you extra credit!

NETIQUETTE
Posting in Discussion Forums

DO:
- respond with insight, with detail, with specificity.
- respond with politeness, with constructive commentary, with positive debate.
- follow accepted rules of grammar and punctuation.
- represent The Prairie School honorably, with your ideas, writing, and behavior.
- maturely and tastefully address any controversial words, images, ideas, themes, etc. that occur in the books you are reading (be aware of your audience).

DO NOT:
- copy ideas from other students or other sources.
- ridicule other interpretations or get angry when someone disagrees with you.
- use foul language, racist or sexist or homophobic language, or any kind of language that could potentially hurt or harm.
- use inappropriate references to sex or drugs, whether in writing or in pictures.

Member Profiles & Comment Walls

DO:
- use a REAL PHOTO of yourself (preferred) or an AVATAR (a picture representing you, like an animal).
- post information about yourself, post photos of summer trips, post messages to friends, etc.
- post messages that compliment, ask questions, add constructive criticism, etc.
- write messages to teachers who are online, asking them questions about the reading or upcoming classes.

DO NOT:
- use someone else’s photo to represent you or an avatar that is inappropriate or offensive.
- post text or images with inappropriate language or nastiness or gossip.
- post words or images involving drugs, alcohol, or sex that do not apply to the texts.
- engage in discussion with teachers online of an inappropriate nature.