



Summer Reading List 2007

- **Something New! CGS Summer 2007 Read-In!**
 - ⇒ All CGS students (this includes AP English 12 students) and faculty will read *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel.

- In addition, all World Literature students are required to read the title listed by grade level below.

⇒ **Students Entering Grade 9:** *Chinese Cinderella*, by Adeline Yen Mah
In *Chinese Cinderella*, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood in China and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair.

⇒ **Students Entering Grade 10:** *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho
Narrator Yareli Arizmendi spins this marvelous tale of exotic adventure. The tale ranges from the countryside of Spain to the glittering oasis of the Egyptian desert. Arizmendi makes us feel the pain and joy of Santiago, the poor shepherd boy, as he tries to decide whether to seek a larger fortune or stay in the security of his job.

⇒ **Students Entering Grade 11:** *Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini
"I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975." So begins *The Kite Runner*, a poignant tale of two motherless boys growing up in Kabul, a city teetering on the brink of destruction at the dawn of the Soviet invasion.

⇒ **Students Entering Grade 12:** *Ishmael*, by Daniel Quinn
"Teacher seeks pupil. Must have an earnest desire to save the world. Apply in person."
Thus begins the relationship between the narrator and Ishmael, a highly evolved gorilla, who provides profound life changing lessons.

- **Honors World Literature II, III, IV students take note:**
Honors students are required to read a third book, Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* and must complete an essay which will be handed in on the first day of class. This essay will reflect the students' commitment to an honors-level program.

Essay topic: *The Namesake* has been described in this way: "Lahiri's novel ultimately dramatizes a common experience shared by all people: The search for identity." In what way(s) were you able to identify with a common experience, conflict, or situation in the novel? If you were unable to relate to the novel, explain why not.

Write a 2-3 page essay in answer to this question. Essays should be in standard format (typed, size 12 Times Roman font, double spaced).

<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Book Type</u>	<u>Summary</u>
Sandy Lepine	<i>She's Come Undone</i>	Wally Lamb	fiction	In this extraordinary coming-of-age odyssey, Wally Lamb invites us to hitch a wild ride on a journey of love, pain, and renewal with the most heartbreakingly comical heroine to come along in years.
Sandy Lepine	<i>White Teeth</i>	Zadie Smith	fiction	In this remarkable novel set in postwar London, 24-year-old Smith has cleverly created an unlikely friendship between Archie Jones, a simple working-class Brit, and Samad Iqbal, a Muslim Bengali waiter in an Indian restaurant, who meet in the English army in WWII.
Angie Catalano	<i>Fingersmith</i>	Sarah Watters	fiction	From the author of the New York Times Notable Book <i>Tipping the Velvet</i> and the award-winning <i>Affinity</i> : a spellbinding, twisting tale of a great swindle, of fortunes and hearts won and lost, set in Victorian London among a family of thieves.
Angie Catalano	<i>Dust Tracks on a Road</i>	Zora Neale Hurston	autobiography	First published in 1942 at the height of her popularity, <i>Dust Tracks on a Road</i> is Zora Neale Hurston's candid, funny, bold, and poignant autobiography, an imaginative and exuberant account of her rise from childhood poverty in the rural South to a prominent place among the leading artists and intellectuals of the Harlem Renaissance.
John Epifanio	<i>Iron and Silk</i>	Mark Salzman	nonfiction	The author, who grew up in Fairfield County, travels to China to teach English and pursue his interest in Chinese martial arts. It is at a time when China was reluctantly opening to the West, and Salzman is there with wonderful observations and interactions with his students, as well as a journey towards martial art mastery.
John Epifanio	<i>Shogun</i>	James Clavell	historical fiction	The novel fictionalizes the rise of the Tokugawa government (1571 - 1867), from Japan's period of civil war to its 300 years of purposeful isolation from the rest of the world on the Tokugawa shogunate. Buddhism, Bushido, and the Japanese aesthetic was shaped and refined during this time, and still resonates today.
Keiko Sigmund	<i>Moby Dick</i>	Herman Melville	fiction	On a previous voyage, a mysterious white whale had ripped off the leg of a sea captain named Ahab. Now the crew of the Pequod, on a pursuit that features constant adventure and horrendous mishaps, must follow the mad Ahab into the abyss to satisfy his unshakeable thirst for vengeance.
Sean Driscoll	<i>Frannie and Zooey</i>	J.D. Salinger	fiction	Volume containing two interrelated stories by J.D. Salinger, published in book form in 1961. The stories, originally published in The New Yorker magazine, concern Franny and Zooey Glass, two members of the family that was the subject of most of Salinger's short fiction.
Qi Li	<i>The Kitchen God's Wife</i>	Amy Tan	fiction	Tan creates an absorbing story about the lives of a Chinese mother and her adult American-born daughter. Pressured to reveal to the young woman her secret past in war-torn China in the 1940s, Winnie weaves an unbelievable account of a childhood of loneliness and abandonment and a young adulthood marred by a nightmarish arranged marriage.
Qi Li	<i>My Country and My People</i>	Yu Tang Lin	non-fiction	Lin Yutang (1895-1976) was a Chinese writer whose original works and translations of classic Chinese texts were important in popularizing Chinese literature and understanding of Chinese culture in the West. He also created a new method of Romanizing the Chinese language. His work was an effort to bridge the cultural gap between East and West.
Sadhana Bilodeau	<i>Red Azalea</i>	Anchee Min	fiction	Anchee Min recounts her suppressed life growing up in Shanghai during the late fifties and sixties. Her autobiography is not just a coming-of-age story or history lesson; it is a tale of inner strength and courage that transcends time and place.

Emad Eldigwy	<i>Man From the East</i>	Dr. Mohsen El-Guindy	fiction	Man From the East is a novel describing the everlasting difference between East and West in regard to religion, dealings, economics, and relations within groups of mankind. From a Muslim Egyptian writer, this fascinating drama of true love, agony and power plays out in the sophisticated American business and political landscape.
Laurie Cawley	<i>Rocket Boys</i>	Homer Hickam	autobiography	14-year-old Homer Hickam decided in 1957 to build his own rockets. They were his ticket out of Coalwood, West Virginia, a mining town that everyone knew was dying--everyone except Sonny's father, the mine superintendent and a company man so dedicated that his family rarely saw him. With the help of a dedicated teacher, Homer attempts his dream.
Laurie Cawley	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Jane Austen	fiction	Few have failed to be charmed by the witty and independent spirit of Elizabeth Bennet. Her early determination to dislike Mr. Darcy is a prejudice only matched by the folly of his arrogant pride. Their first impressions give way to true feelings in a comedy profoundly concerned with happiness and how it might be achieved.
Brian Fagan	<i>The Once and Future King</i>	T.H. White	fiction	It chronicles the life of King Arthur from his boyhood as "The Wart" to his reign as king, and finally to the downfall of Camelot. Along the way, he encounters many remarkable characters such as Merlyn, learns valuable lessons, and discovers the fallacies of knighthood and perfection.
Martha Murray	<i>Martha Quest</i>	Doris Lessing	fiction	The story of a young girl's come of age in South Africa, this is the first book in her Children of Violence series--held by many to be Lessing's most important body of work.
Martha Murray	<i>Life and Death in Shanghai</i>	Nien Cheng	non-fiction	Cheng's widely acclaimed book recounts in compelling specifics her persecution and imprisonment at the hands of Mao Zedong's "Cultural Revolution" (1966-1976).
Required Summer Reading				
Grade 9	<i>Chinese Cinderella</i>	Adeline Yen Mah	fictional autobiography	In <i>Chinese Cinderella</i> , Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood in China and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair.
Grade 10	<i>The Alchemist</i>	Paulo Coelho	fiction	Narrator Yareli Arizmendi spins this marvelous tale of exotic adventure. The tale ranges from the countryside of Spain to the glittering oasis of the Egyptian desert. Arizmendi makes us feel the pain and joy of Santiago, the poor shepherd boy, as he tries to decide whether to seek a larger fortune or stay in the security of his job.
Grade 11	<i>Kite Runner</i>	Khaled Hosseini	fiction	"I became what I am today at the age of twelve, on a frigid overcast day in the winter of 1975." So begins <i>The Kite Runner</i> , a poignant tale of two motherless boys growing up in Kabul, a city teetering on the brink of destruction at the dawn of the Soviet invasion.
Grade 12	<i>Ishmael</i>	Daniel Quinn	fiction	The newspaper ad reads, "Teacher seeks pupil. Must have an earnest desire to save the world. Apply in Person." Thus begins the relationship between the narrator and Ishmael, a highly evolved gorilla, who provides profound life changing lessons.
ALL CGS STUDENTS	<i>Life of Pi</i>	Yann Martel	fiction	Drawing parallels between zoology and theology, Martel's novel is by turns amusing, intellectually astute, and poignant. And his Kiplingesque adventure tale will cause readers to reexamine beliefs of all kinds.
ALL CGS HONORS STUDENTS	<i>The Namesake</i>	Jhumpa Lahiri	fiction	In <i>The Namesake</i> , Lahiri enriches the themes that made her collection an international bestseller: the immigrant experience, the clash of cultures, the conflicts of assimilation, and, most poignantly, the tangled ties between generations.