

# Seniors – Class of 2010

## ALL SENIORS MUST READ:

### *What's So Great About Christianity?* Dinesh D'Souza

“Is Christianity obsolete? Can an intelligent, educated person really believe the Bible? Or do the atheists have it right? Has Christianity been disproved by science, debunked as a force for good, and discredited as a guide to morality? Bestselling author Dinesh D'Souza looks at Christianity with a questioning eye, but treats atheists with equal skepticism. The result is a book that will challenge the assumptions of both believers and doubters and affirm that there really is, indeed, something great about Christianity. (B&N)”

**This selection will be assessed in religion class – ALL seniors will need to bring this text to religion class**

**Seniors must then select an additional two (2) books from the following list.**

### *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution - and How It Can Renew America* Thomas Friedman

“The litany of dangers has been told many times before, but Mr. Friedman's voice is compelling and will be widely heard...Heads will be nodding across airport lounges, as readers absorb Mr. Friedman's common sense about how America and the world are dangerously addicted to cheap fossil fuels while we recklessly use the atmosphere as a dumping ground for carbon dioxide. (*New York Times*)

### *Gods, Graves and Scholars: The Story of Archaeology* C.W. Ceram

“C.W. Ceram visualized archeology as a wonderful combination of high adventure, romance, history and scholarship, and this book, a chronicle of man's search for his past, reads like a dramatic narrative. We travel with Heinrich Schliemann as, defying the ridicule of the learned world, he actually unearths the remains of the ancient city of Troy. We share the excitement of Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter as they first glimpse the riches of Tutankhamen's tomb, of George Smith when he found the ancient clay tablets that contained the records of the Biblical Flood. We rediscover the ruined splendors of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the wonders of the ancient world; of Chichen Itza, the abandoned pyramids of the Maya; and the legendary Labyrinth of tile Minotaur in Crete. Here is much of the history of civilization and the stories of the men who rediscovered it. (B&N)”

### *The Code Book: The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography* Simon Singh

“In his first book since the bestselling *Fermat's Enigma*, Simon Singh offers the first sweeping history of encryption, tracing its evolution and revealing the dramatic effects codes have had on wars, nations, and individual lives. From Mary, Queen of Scots, trapped by her own code, to the Navajo Code Talkers who helped the Allies win World War II, to the incredible (and incredibly simple) logistical breakthrough that made Internet commerce secure, *The Code Book* tells the story of the most powerful intellectual weapon ever known: secrecy. (B&N)”

### *Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10* Marcus Luttrell

“Four US Navy SEALs departed one clear night in early July, 2005 for the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border for a reconnaissance mission. Their task was to document the activity of an al Qaeda leader rumored to have a small army in a Taliban stronghold. Five days later, only one of those Navy SEALs made it out alive. This is the story of the only survivor of Operation Redwing, fire team leader Marcus Luttrell, and the extraordinary firefight that led to the largest loss of life in American Navy SEAL history. (B&N)”

*Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* Eric Schlosser

“Journalist Schlosser argues that the fast food industry has triggered the growth of malls in America’s landscape, widened the gap between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism abroad. He discusses facts about food production and preparation, the ingredients and taste-enhancers in the food, the chains’ efforts to reel in young, susceptible consumers, and other unsettling facts. (B&N)”

*The Lazarus Project* Aleksandar Hemon

“The Lazarus who lends his name to the title of Aleksandar Hemon’s third work of fiction was killed as a young man and mourned by his sister. And yes, this Lazarus did sort of rise weeks after his death (in a gruesome sense) and maintained an afterlife a century later as the inspiration for this novel. But don’t expect reverence or piety. Narrated by an avowed atheist who refers to a certain historical figure as “Mr. Christ” and “the crucified gymnast,” Hemon delivers a fractured, furiously comic tale about the capacity for xenophobia to resurrect itself across multiple continents throughout the 20th century by people who believe they have divine permission to do so. (B&N)”

*Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing* Ted Conover

“Stymied by both the union and prison brass in his effort to report on correctional officers, Conover instead applied for a job, and spent nearly a year in the system, mostly at Sing Sing, the storied prison in the New York City suburbs. Fascinated and fearful, the author in training grasps some troubling truths: ‘we rule with the inmates’ consent,’ says one instructor, while another acknowledges that ‘rehabilitation is not our job.’ (B&N)”

*Velocity* Dean Koontz

“Dean Koontz’s unique talent for writing terrifying thrillers with a heart and soul is nowhere more evident than in this latest suspense masterpiece that pits one man against the ultimate deadline. If there were speed limits for the sheer pulse-racing excitement allowed in one novel, *Velocity* would break them all. Get ready for the ride of your life. (B&N)”

*Breaking Free: My Life with Dissociative Identity Disorder* Herschel Walker

“Herschel Walker is widely regarded as one of football’s greatest running backs. But despite the acclaim he won as a football legend, track star, Olympic competitor, and later a successful businessman, Herschel realized that his life, at times, was simply out of control. Drawing on his deep faith, Herschel turned to professionals for help and was ultimately diagnosed with dissociative identity disorder, formerly known as multiple personality disorder. In *Breaking Free*, Herschel tells his story — from the joys and hardships of childhood to his explosive impact on college football to his remarkable professional career. (B&N)”

*The Pale Blue Eye: A Novel* Louis Bayard

“At West Point Academy in 1830, the calm of an October evening is shattered by the discovery of a young cadet’s body swinging from a rope. The next morning, an even greater horror comes to light. Someone has removed the dead man’s heart. Augustus Landor—who acquired some renown in his years as a New York City police detective—is called in to discreetly investigate. It’s a baffling case Landor must pursue in secret, for the scandal could do irreparable damage to the fledgling institution. But he finds help from an unexpected ally—a moody, young cadet with a penchant for drink, two volumes of poetry to his name, and a murky past that changes from telling to telling. The strange and haunted Southern poet for whom Landor develops a fatherly affection, is named Edgar Allan Poe. (B&N)”

*The Ruins* Scott Smith

“In the wild interior of the Yucatán, far from the lazy beaches of Cancún, two young couples and some new-found friends venture to the site of an ancient Mayan temple, in pursuit of another in their group. What started out as a day trip spirals into a nightmare when they reach the ruins . . . and discover the terrifying presence that lurks there. (B&N)”

### *The Last Juror* John Grisham

“In 1970, Willie Traynor came to Clanton, Mississippi, in a Triumph Spitfire and a fog of vague ambitions. Within a year, the twenty-three-year-old found himself the owner of Ford County’s only newspaper, famous for its well-crafted obituaries. While the rest of America was in the grips of turmoil, Clanton lived on the edge of another age—until the brutal murder of a young mother rocked the town and thrust Willie into the center of a storm. Daring to report the true horrors of the crime, Willie made as many friends as enemies in Clanton, and over the next decade he would sometimes wonder how he had gotten there in the first place. But he could never escape the crime that had shattered his innocence or the criminal whose evil had left an indelible stain. Because as the ghosts of the South’s past gather around Willie, as tension swirls around Clanton, men and women who served on a jury nine years ago are starting to die one by one—as a killer exacts the ultimate revenge. . . . (B&N)”

### *The Dead Hour* Denise Mina

“When journalist Paddy Meehan investigates a domestic dispute, the well-dressed man who answers the door assures her the blonde in the shadows behind him is fine, and slips her money before he closes the door. In fact, the woman was tortured and left to die later that night, and Paddy has only days to uncover the truth before the newspaper learns of her bribe and the police close the case for reasons of their own. Only Paddy cares enough to pursue a dark and brutal story that could make her career—or kill her, in a novel that proves why Denise Mina is ‘some kind of magnificent’ (*Wall Street Journal*). (B&N)”

### *The Road* Cormac McCarthy

“The searing, postapocalyptic novel destined to become Cormac McCarthy’s masterpiece. A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don’t know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other. (B&N)”

### *The Shining* Stephen King

“Terrible events occur at the isolated Overlook Hotel. It’s a place where the guests are deceased but not necessarily departed, high in the wintry Rocky Mountains in the off season. A family checks in so the father can write, and terror lurks behind every door. Their son, who has psychic powers but does not know he has them and does not know how to use them, struggles to hold his own against the forces of evil that are driving his father insane. (B&N)”

### *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* Barack Obama

“Years before becoming the 44th President-elect of the United States, Barack Obama published this lyrical, unsentimental, and powerfully affecting memoir, which became a #1 New York Times bestseller when it was reissued in 2004. *Dreams from My Father* tells the story of Obama’s struggle to understand the forces that shaped him as the son of a black African father and white American mother—a struggle that takes him from the American heartland to the ancestral home of his great-aunt in the tiny African village of Alego. (B&N)”

### *Faith of My Fathers: A Family Memoir* John McCain

“John McCain is one of the most admired leaders in the United States government, but his deeply felt memoir of family and war is not a political one and ends before his election to Congress. With candor and ennobling power, McCain tells a story that, in the words of Newsweek, ‘makes the other presidential candidates look like pygmies.’ (B&N)”

*A People's History of Sports in the United States: From Bull-Baiting to Barry Bonds . . .  
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“Dave Zirin offers a riotously entertaining chronicle of larger-than-life sporting characters and dramatic contests and what amounts to an alternative history of the United States as seen through the games its people played. Through Zirin's eyes, sports are never mere games, but a reflection of and spur toward the political conflicts that shape American society. (B&N)”

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*Islam: A Short History* Karen Armstrong

“*Islam, A Short History* is the concise summation of years of thinking and writing about the world's fastest growing religion, by Karen Armstrong, one of the foremost international scholars on religious affairs. Best-selling author of *The Battle for God*, Karen Armstrong writes about Islam with a deep understanding of the external history of the Muslim people, and the symbolic relationship between history and religion. (B&N)”

# Juniors – Class of 2011

**All Juniors MUST select three of the following titles. ALL AP American History students MUST also read *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph J. Ellis as one of their three selections.**

*A Beautiful Mind: A Biography of John Foster Nash* Sylvia Nasar

“How could you, a mathematician, believe that extraterrestrials were sending you messages?” the visitor from Harvard asked the West Virginian with the movie-star looks and Olympian manner. ‘Because the ideas I had about supernatural beings came to me the same way my mathematical ideas did,’ came the answer. ‘So I took them seriously.’ Thus begins the true story of John Nash, the mathematical genius who was a legend by age thirty when he slipped into madness, and who -- thanks to the selflessness of a beautiful woman and the loyalty of the mathematics community -- emerged after decades of ghostlike existence to win a Nobel Prize and world acclaim. Sylvia Nasar’s award-winning biography is a drama about the mystery of the human mind, triumph over incredible adversity, and the healing power of love. (B&N)”

*We Were Soldiers Once...and Young: Ia Drang - the Battle That Changed the War in Vietnam (Paperback)* Harold G. Moore Joseph L. Galloway

“In November 1965, some 450 men of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, under the command of Lt. Col. Hal Moore, were dropped by helicopter into a small clearing in the Ia Drang Valley. They were immediately surrounded by 2,000 North Vietnamese soldiers. Three days later, only two and a half miles away, a sister battalion was chopped to pieces. Together these actions constituted one of the most savage and significant battles of the Vietnam War. (B&N)”

*Stealing Lincoln’s Body* Thomas J. Craughwell

“On the night of the presidential election in 1876, a gang of counterfeiters out of Chicago attempted to steal the entombed embalmed body of Abraham Lincoln and hold it for ransom. The custodian of the tomb was so shaken by the incident that he willingly dedicated the rest of his life to protecting the president’s corpse. Along the way, Craughwell offers entertaining sidelights on the rise of counterfeiting in America and the establishment of the Secret Service to combat it; the prevalence of grave robberies; the art of nineteenth-century embalming; and the emergence among Irish immigrants of an ambitious middle class—and a criminal underclass. (B&N)”

*Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln’s Killer* James L. Swanson

“The murder of Abraham Lincoln set off the greatest manhunt in American history -- the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth. From April 14 to April 26, 1865, the assassin led Union cavalry troops on a wild, twelve-day chase from the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.

At the very center of this story is John Wilkes Booth, America’s notorious villain. A confederate sympathizer and member of a celebrated acting family, Booth threw away his fame, wealth, and promise for a chance to avenge the South’s defeat. For almost two weeks, he confounded the manhunters, slipping away from their every move and denying the justice they sought. (B&N)”

*The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression* Amity Shlaes

“It’s difficult today to imagine how America survived the Great Depression. Only through the stories of the common people who struggled during that era can we really understand how the nation endured. These are the people at the heart of Amity Shlaes’s insightful and inspiring history of one of the most crucial events of the twentieth century. (B&N)”

### *A Prayer for Owen Meany* John Irving

"Owen Meany, the only child of a New Hampshire granite quarrier, believes he is God's instrument; he is. This is John Irving's most comic novel, yet Owen Meany is Mr. Irving's most heartbreaking character. In the summer of 1953, during a Little League baseball game, 11-year-old Owen Meany hits a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother. What happens to him after that fateful day makes *A Prayer for Owen Meany* extraordinary, terrifying, and unforgettable. (B &N)"

### *Things They Carried* Tim O'Brien

"*The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and of course, the character Tim O'Brien who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. They battle the enemy (or maybe more the idea of the enemy), and occasionally each other. In their relationships we see their isolation and loneliness, their rage and fear. They miss their families, their girlfriends and buddies; they miss the lives they left back home. Yet they find sympathy and kindness for strangers (the old man who leads them unscathed through the mine field, the girl who grieves while she dances), and love for each other, because in Vietnam they are the only family they have. We hear the voices of the men and build images upon their dialogue. The way they tell stories about others, we hear them telling stories about themselves. (B&N)"

### *Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens* Jeremy Schaap

"The story of Jesse Owens, the African-American son of sharecroppers who won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games held in Nazi Germany, is that of a high-profile athlete giving a performance that transcends sports. It is also the intimate and complex tale of the courage of one remarkable man. (B&N)"

### *My Ismael: A Sequel* Daniel Quinn

"When Ishmael places an advertisement for pupils with "an earnest desire to save the world," he does not expect a child to answer him. But twelve-year-old Julie Gerchak is undaunted by Ishmael's reluctance to teach someone so young, and convinces him to take her on as his next student. Ishmael knows he can't apply the same strategies with Julie that he used with his first pupil, Alan Lomax--nor can he hope for the same outcome. But young Julie proves that she is ready to forge her own spiritual path--and arrive at her own destination. And when the time comes to choose a pupil to carry out his greatest mission yet, Ishmael makes a daring decision--a choice that just might change the world. (B&N)"

### *The Book Thief* Markus Zusak

"Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist--books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. (B&N)"

### *Tallgrass* Sandra Dallas

"An ugly murder is central to this compelling historical, but the focus is on one appealing family, the Strouds, in the backwater town of Ellis, Colo. Soon after Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government rounded up all the Japanese residents of the West Coast and shipped them off to "internment camps" for the duration of the war. One of the camps is Tallgrass, based on an actual Colorado camp, as Dallas (*The Chili Queen*) explains in her acknowledgments. The major discomforts and petty indignities these (mostly) American citizens had to endure are viewed through the clear eyes of a young girl who lives on a nearby farm, Rennie Stroud. Rennie's obvious love of family slowly extends itself to the Japanese house and field helpers the Strouds receive permission to hire. The final surprise is the who and why of the murder itself. Dallas's terrific characters, unerring ear for regional dialects and ability to evoke the sights and sounds of the 1940s make this a special treat. (*Publishers Weekly*)

*Johnny Got His Gun* Dalton Trumbo

“This work continues to rivet readers with its story of an American youth who survives World War I as an armless, legless, and faceless basket case with his mind intact. (B&N)”

*Killer Angels* Michael Shaara

“In the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation's history (Gettysburg), two armies fought for two dreams. One dreamed of freedom, the other of a way of life. Far more than rifles and bullets were carried into battle. There were memories. There were promises. There was love. And far more than men fell on those Pennsylvania fields. Shattered futures, forgotten innocence, and crippled beauty were also the casualties of war. The *Killer Angels* is unique, sweeping, unforgettable--a dramatic re-creation of the battleground for America's destiny. (B&N)”

*The March* E.L. Doctorow

“In 1864, after Union general William Tecumseh Sherman burned Atlanta, he marched his sixty thousand troops east through Georgia to the sea, and then up into the Carolinas. The army fought off Confederate forces and lived off the land, pillaging the Southern plantations, taking cattle and crops for their own, demolishing cities, and accumulating a borne-along population of freed blacks and white refugees until all that remained was the dangerous transient life of the uprooted, the dispossessed, and the triumphant. Only a master novelist could so powerfully and compassionately render the lives of those who marched. (B&N)”

*Bag of Bones* Stephen King

“Here it is...the book you've been waiting for. King returns with a terrifying, yet ultimately touching novel. At the heart of *Bag of Bones* is an author grieving for his late wife who becomes involved in a custody case that is potentially the breeding grounds for a lethal battle between good and evil. (B&N)”

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*Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* Joseph J. Ellis

“In this landmark work of history, the National Book Award—winning author of *American Sphinx* explores how a group of greatly gifted but deeply flawed individuals—Hamilton, Burr, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, Adams, and Madison—confronted the overwhelming challenges before them to set the course for our nation. (B&N)”

## Sophomores – Class of 2012

**Sophomores MUST selection any three of the following books. ALL AP World History students MUST chose *Islam: A Short History* by Karen Armstrong as one of their three selections.**

*Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood* Richard E. Kim

“In this classic tale, Richard Kim paints seven vivid scenes from a boyhood and early adolescence in Korea at the height of the Japanese occupation, 1932 to 1945. Taking its title from the grim fact that the occupiers forced the Koreans to renounce their own names and adopt Japanese names instead, the book follows one Korean family through the Japanese occupation to the surrender of the Japanese empire. *Lost Names* is at once a loving memory of family and a vivid portrayal of life in a time of anguish. (B&N)”

*Choosing to Dream: My Lifelong Journey to the World Series* Joe Torre

“‘Maybe the good Lord was just waiting for me to put on the pinstripes.’  
When Joe Torre was fired as manager of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1995, he thought his career in baseball was over. After more than three decades and 4,200 games as a player and manager, one thing had always eluded him—winning a World Series. He had all but given up his dream when the New York Yankees made him an offer to manage their 1996 club. Encouraged by his wife and others, he accepted, and so began one of the greatest seasons in the fabled history of the New York Yankee franchise and one of the most inspiring, heartwarming stories in all of baseball. (B&N)”

*The Glory Field* Walter Dean Myers

“‘Those shackles didn't rob us of being black, son, they robbed us of being human.’  
This is the story of one family. A family whose history saw its first ancestor captured, shackled, and brought to this country from Africa. A family who can still see remnants of the shackles that held some of its members captive -- even today. It is a story of pride, determination, struggle, and love. And of the piece of the land that holds them together throughout it all. (B&N)”

*Snow in August* Pete Hamill

“Set in a working-class Brooklyn neighborhood in 1947, this poignant tale revolves around two of the most endearing characters in recent fiction: an eleven-year-old Irish Catholic boy named Michael Devlin and Rabbi Judah Hirsch, a refugee from Prague. From their initial chance encounter in a swirling blizzard one Saturday morning to the mute awe they share at first setting eyes on the hallowed grounds of Ebbets Field, Hamill brings to life the richness and complexity of this most remarkable friendship. For Michael, the rabbi's stories of ancient magic and wisdom captivate his imagination and transport him to times and places even his beloved comic book heroes have never visited. For the rabbi, Michael's patient instruction on the language of baseball and American culture opens up an equally strange and magical world. (B&N)”

*Something Wicked This Way Comes* Ray Bradbury

“Few American novels written this century have endured in the heart and mind as has this one-Ray Bradbury's incomparable masterwork of the dark fantastic. A carnival rolls in sometime after the midnight hour on a chill Midwestern October eve, ushering in Halloween a week before its time. A calliope's shrill siren song beckons to all with a seductive promise of dreams and youth regained. In this season of dying, Cooger & Dark's Pandemonium Shadow Show has come to Green Town, Illinois, to destroy every life touched by its strange and sinister mystery. And two inquisitive boys standing precariously on the brink of adulthood will soon discover the secret of the satanic rareeshow's smoke, mazes, and mirrors, as they learn all too well the heavy cost of wishes -- and the stuff of nightmare. (B&N)”

*Death of a Red Heroine: An Inspector Chen Investigation* Qiu Xiaolong

“In this Anthony Award-winning debut, Inspector Chen of the Shanghai Police must find the murderer of a National Model worker, and then risk his own life and career to see that justice is done. *A Loyal Character Dancer* is the latest in Qiu's Shanghai series featuring Inspector Chen. (B&N)”

*Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*  
Greg Mortenson

“One day in 1993, high up in the world's most inhospitable mountains, Greg Mortenson wandered lost and alone, broken in body and spirit, after a failed attempt to climb K2, the world's deadliest peak. When the people of an impoverished village in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya took him in and nursed him back to health, Mortenson made an impulsive promise: He would return one day and build them a school. *Three Cups of Tea* traces Mortenson's decade-long odyssey to build schools, especially for girls, throughout the region that gave birth to the Taliban and sanctuary to Al Qaeda. While he wages war with the root causes of terrorism - poverty and ignorance - by providing both girls and boys with a balanced, nonextremist education. Mortenson must survive a kidnapping, fatwas issued by enraged mullahs, death threats from Americans who consider him a traitor, and wrenching separations from his family. Today, as the director of the Central Asia Institute, Mortenson has built fifty-five schools serving Pakistan and Afghanistan's poorest communities. And as this real-life Indiana Jones from Montana crisscrosses the Himalaya and the Hindu Kush fighting to keep these schools functioning, he provides not only hope to tens of thousands of children, but living proof that one passionately dedicated person truly can change the world. (B&N)”

*Life of Pi* Yann Martel

“An impassioned defense of zoos, a death-defying trans-Pacific sea adventure à la *Kon-Tiki*, and a hilarious shaggy-dog story starring a four-hundred-and-fifty-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker: this audacious novel manages to be all of these as it tells the improbable survivor's tale of Pi Patel, a young Indian fellow named for a swimming pool (his full first name is Piscine) who endures seven months in a lifeboat with only a hungry, outsized feline for company. This breezily aphoristic, unapologetically saga of man and cat is a convincing hands-on, how-to guide for dealing with what Pi calls, with typically understated brio, ‘major lifeboat pests.’ (B&N)”

*Ismael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit* Daniel Quinn

“The narrator of this extraordinary tale is a man in search for truth. He answers an ad in a local newspaper from a teacher looking for serious pupils, only to find himself alone in an abandoned office with a full-grown gorilla who is nibbling delicately on a slender branch. “You are the teacher?” he asks incredulously. “I am the teacher,” the gorilla replies. Ishmael is a creature of immense wisdom and he has a story to tell, one that no other human being has ever heard. It is a story that extends backward and forward over the lifespan of the earth from the birth of time to a future there is still time saved. Like all great teachers, Ishmael refuses to make the lesson easy; he demands the final illumination to come from within ourselves. Is it man's destiny to rule the world? Or is it a higher destiny possible for him-- one more wonderful than he has ever imagined? (B&N)”

*Jailbird* Kurt Vonnegut

“*Jailbird* takes us into a fractured and comic, pure Vonnegut world of high crimes and misdemeanors in government...and in the heart. This wry tale follows bumbling bureaucrat Walter F. Starbuck from Harvard to the Nixon White House to the penitentiary as Watergate's least known co-conspirator. But the humor turns dark when Vonnegut shines his spotlight on the cold hearts and calculated greed of the mighty, giving a razor-sharp edge to an unforgettable portrait of power and politics in our times. (B&N)”

*The Alchemist* Paulo Coelho

“Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its simplicity and wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of treasure buried in the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an Alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles along the way. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a meditation on the treasures found within. Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts. (B&N)”

*The Kitchen Boy: A Novel of the Last Tsar* Robert Alexander

“Drawing from decades of work, travel, and research in Russia, Robert Alexander re-creates the tragic, perennially fascinating story of the final days of Russian monarchs Nicholas and Alexandra as seen through the eyes of the Romanov's young kitchen boy, Leonka. (B&N)”

*School Days* Patrick Chamoiseau

“*School Days* (Chemin-d'Ecole) is a captivating narrative based on Patrick Chamoiseau's childhood in Fort-de-France, Martinique. It is a revelatory account of the colonial world that shaped one of the liveliest and most creative voices in French and Caribbean literature today. Through the eyes of the boy Chamoiseau, we meet his severe, Francophile teacher, a man intent upon banishing all remnants of Creole from his students' speech. This domineering man is succeeded by an equally autocratic teacher, an Africanist and proponent of “Negritude.” Along the way we are also introduced to Big Bellybutton, the class scapegoat, whose tales of Creole heroes and heroines, magic, zombies, and fantastic animals provide a fertile contrast to the imported French fairy tales told in school. In prose punctuated by Creolisms and ribald humor, Chamoiseau infuses the universal terrors, joys, and disappointments of a child's early school days with the unique experiences of a Creole boy forced to confront the dominant culture in a colonial school. *School Days* mixes understanding with laughter, knowledge with entertainment—in ways that will fascinate and delight readers of all ages. (B&N)”

*Dance Hall of the Dead* Tony Hillerman

“Tribal Policeman Joe Leaphorn tracks a brutal killer. The search is complicated by an archaeological dig, a steel hypodermic needle, and the strange laws of the Zuni. Tony Hillerman's experience as a journalist and a lover of Native American culture lent an unmistakable authenticity to his mysteries. (B&N)”

*Empire Falls* Richard Russo

“Empire Falls, Maine, has seen the inexorable failure of its logging and textile industries, the once mighty holdings of the Whiting clan, presided over by the last scion's widow, now mostly amount to decrepit real estate. Miles Roby gazes over this ruined kingdom from the Empire Grill, an opportunity that has become the albatross of his ambitions. Brought home from college by family obligations-- his mother ailing, his father in loose cannon -- Miles himself now has a divorce to contend with, but also a beloved daughter to guide gently through adolescence. Miles also proves an excellent guide to this hardscrabble, persistent community: fathers and sons and daughters, living and dead, rich and poor. Shot through with mysteries of generations and the shattering visitations of the nation at large -- *Empire Falls* is a social novel of stunning ambition, and a master storyteller's magnum opus. (B&N)”

*Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* Doris Kearns Goodwin

“More books about Abraham Lincoln line the shelves of libraries than about any other American. Can there be anything new to say about our 16th president? Surprisingly, the answer is yes. Having previously offered fresh insights into Lyndon Johnson, the Kennedys and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Doris Kearns Goodwin has written an elegant, incisive study of Lincoln and leading members of his cabinet that will appeal to experts as well as to those whose knowledge of Lincoln is an amalgam of high school history and popular mythology. (*New York Times Sunday Book Review*)”

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\*\*\*presently – this is available only in hardcover\*\*\*

*Islam: A Short History* Karen Armstrong

**\*required for ALL AP World History students**

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# Freshmen – Class of 2013

## REQUIRED:

**ALL incoming freshmen MUST read two short works examining the Lasallian foundations of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute as well as the history of the school. These requirements are thin booklets that have to be special ordered and may not be available in bookstores until the end of June. They are best read closer to the start of the school year.**

*Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future: The History of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Buffalo, New York* compiled by F.J. Kramer

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute is the oldest Catholic high school for young men in Western New York. From its founding in 1861 to the modern age, learn about the history of this fascinating institution.

*I, John Baptist De LaSalle* Brother Leo Kirby, FSC

St. John Baptist De LaSalle founded the community of the Christian Brothers during the reign of France's Louis XIV. From that time to today, Lasallian schools have been built throughout the world. St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute is a proud member that world-wide Lasallian community.

**Freshmen must then select any two (2) from the following selections. ALL AP World History students must include *Islam: A Short History* by Karen Armstrong as one of their two additional selections.**

*House on Mango Street* Sandra Cisneros

"Here is Sandra Cisneros's greatly admired and best-selling novel of a young girl growing up in the Latino section of Chicago. Acclaimed by critics, beloved by children and their parents and grandparents, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, *The House on Mango Street* has entered the canon of coming-of-age classics even as it depicts a new American landscape. Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous, *The House on Mango Street* tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong - not to her run-down neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power, and inventing for herself what she will become. *The San Francisco Chronicle* has called *The House on Mango Street* "marvelous... spare yet luminous. The subtle power of Cisneros's storytelling is evident. She communicates all the rapture and rage of growing up in a modern world." It is an extraordinary achievement that will live on for years to come. (B&N)"

*Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* Mark Haddon

"Christopher Boone is a fifteen and has Asperger's, a form of autism. He knows a great deal about math and very little about human beings. When he finds his neighbors' dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his world upside down. (B&N)"

*Monster* Walter Dean Myers

"Sometimes I feel like I have walked into the middle of a movie. Maybe I can make my own movie. The film will be the story of my life. No, not my life, but of this experience. I'll call it what the lady who is the prosecutor called me. – *MONSTER* (B&N)"

*America* E.R. Frank

“You try not to think. You try not to imagine, but then those cracks pop up, and these flashes squeeze right through. At first, some of it's not too bad, and you get stupid, maybe even wanting a little more, but then you pull yourself together, knowing what all is likely going to ooze out if you're not careful....

Fifteen-year-old America has been nowhere, has been nobody. Separated from his foster mother. A runaway. A patient. Without love. Without hope. And, eventually, without the will to live. Until Dr. B. steps in. To listen. To explore. And to find within America both the story and the boy who are lost. (B&N)”

*A Lesson Before Dying* Ernest Gaines

“From the author of *A Gathering of Old Men* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* comes a deep and compassionate novel. A young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting. (B&N)”

*Hole in My Life* Jack Gantry

“In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was an aspiring author desperate for adventure, college cash, and a way out of a dead-end job. For ten thousand dollars, he recklessly agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with hashish from the Virgin Islands to New York City, where he and his partners sold the drug until federal agents finally caught up with them in a bust at the Chelsea Hotel. For his part in the conspiracy, the twenty-year-old Gantos was sentenced to serve up to six years in a federal prison. (B&N)”

*Dreaming Water* Gail Sukiyama

“Hana is suffering from Werner's syndrome, a disease that makes a person age at twice the rate of a healthy individual: at thirty-eight Hana has the appearance of an eighty-year-old. Cate, her mother, is caring for her while struggling with her grief at losing her husband, Max, and with the knowledge that Hana's disease is getting worse by the day. (B&N)”

*Nineteen Minutes* Jodi Picoult

“Sterling is a small, ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens -- until the day its complacency is shattered by a shocking act of violence. In the aftermath, the town's residents must not only seek justice in order to begin healing but also come to terms with the role they played in the tragedy. For them, the lines between truth and fiction, right and wrong, insider and outsider have been obscured forever. Josie Cormier, the teenage daughter of the judge sitting on the case, could be the state's best witness, but she can't remember what happened in front of her own eyes. And as the trial progresses, fault lines between the high school and the adult community begin to show, destroying the closest of friendships and families. (B&N)”

*Shoeless Joe* W.P. Kinsella

“He went to Canada in the 1960's to avoid the draft. Now, back in the USA, he has a vision: build a ballpark in an Iowa cornfield "if you build it they will come." Two who do are the tragic ballplayer, Joe Jackson and the lead's father. This affecting novel was the basis of the FIELD OF DREAMS, Kevin Costner's landmark 1980's film. (B&N)”

*Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod* Gary Paulsen

“In the tradition of Jack London, Gary Paulsen presents an unforgettable account of his participation in the 1,100-mile-long dogsled race called the "Iditarod." For 17 days, Paulsen and his team of dogs endured blinding wind, snowstorms, moose attacks, and more--yet relentlessly pushed on to the end. "The best author of man-against-nature adventures writing today."--Publishers Weekly.

*Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History* Erik Larson

“September 8, 1900, began innocently in the seaside town of Galveston, Texas. Even Isaac Cline, resident meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau failed to grasp the true meaning of the strange deep-sea swells and peculiar winds that greeted the city that morning. Mere hours later, Galveston found itself submerged in a monster hurricane that completely destroyed the town and killed over six thousand people in what remains the greatest natural disaster in American history—and Isaac Cline found himself the victim of a devastating personal tragedy. (B&N)”

*Rats Saw God* Rob Thomas

“For Steve York, life was good. He had a 4.0 GPA, friends he could trust, and a girl he loved. Now he spends his days smoked out, not so much living as simply existing. But his herbal endeavors — and personal demons — have lead to a severe lack of motivation. Steve's flunking out, but if he writes a one-hundred-page paper, he can graduate. Steve realizes he must write what he knows. And through telling the story of how he got to where he is, he discovers exactly where he wants to be.... (B&N)”

*Sport: A Novel* Mick Cochrane

“Sad and funny, warm and wise, the story of a boy's search for order and belonging in a world where the rules keep changing. Sport is a wise and wily kid with a passion for baseball. His world is suddenly, inexplicably shaken when his mother is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and his hard-drinking father abandons them. The family quickly descends into awkward suburban poverty. Sport responds by attempting to fix the broken machinery of the household—the unpaid bills, the deadbeat dad, the futility of his beloved Minnesota Twins. In his search for stability, Sport befriends his kind-hearted baseball coach, who offers him what appears to be a way out. Gradually, he comes to see the wisdom in his mother's advice to swing from the heels and hit away, to make his mistakes loud and large. (B&N)”

*Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* Edith Hamilton

“A keystone of our culture is the body of myth and legend of the ancient Western world--stories of gods and heroes that have inspired human creativity since time immemorial. Hamilton's renowned classic brings this legacy to life anew, with impeccably accurate and accessible retellings of eternally spellbinding tales. (B&N)”

*Deadline* Chris Crutcher

“Ben Wolf has big things planned for his senior year. *Had* big things planned. Now what he has is some very bad news and only one year left to make his mark on the world. How can a pint-sized, seventeen-year-old do *anything* significant in the nowheresville of Trout, Idaho? First, Ben makes sure that no one else knows what is going on—not his superstar quarterback brother, Cody, not his parents, not his coach, no one. Next, he decides to become the best 127-pound football player Trout High has ever seen; to give his close-minded civics teacher a daily migraine; and to help the local drunk clean up his act. And then there's Dallas Suzuki. Amazingly perfect, fascinating Dallas Suzuki, who may or may not give Ben the time of day. Really, she's first on the list. Living with a secret isn't easy, though, and Ben's resolve begins to crumble . . . especially when he realizes that he isn't the only person in Trout with secrets. (B&N)”

*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens: The Ultimate Teenage Success Guide*

Sean Covey

“Being a teenager is both wonderful and challenging. In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, author Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents, and much more. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* will engage teenagers unlike any other book. (B&N)”

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