

GW Community School

Summer Reading List

2010

ENGLISH

Incoming Freshmen

World Literature I (3000B.C.E-1300A.D)

One Thousand and One Arabian Nights (Oxford Story Collections) Geraldine McCaughrean

This book contains some of the coolest stories ever committed to paper. An appreciation of the humor and moral lessons of these stories will be useful when you read Arabic and Indian stories in the first half of the year.

Rising Sophomores

World Literature II (1500-1960)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

An all-time favorite among GW students, this book is written from the perspective of Christopher John Francis Boone, a gifted autistic 15 year old who lives outside of London with his father. When his neighbor's dog is murdered, Christopher decides to use his powers of deduction to solve the crime, and along with way, uncovers deeper secrets than he ever bargained for.

Rising Juniors

American Literature

Middle Passage by Charles Johnson

This comic-satirical novel of piracy and the slave trade mixes a skewed and occasionally gross sense humor with profound meditations on the nature of race and power in America. Plus, Captain Falcon is the roughest, craftiest sailor this side of Long John Silver. Read it at the beach.

Rising Seniors

Senior Seminar in English

On Monsters: An Unnatural History of Our Worst Fears by Stephen T. Asma

A fantastic example of accessible, interesting scholarly writing, Asma traces how humans have thought about the concept of monsters from ancient magical beasts like the Chimera and Dragon to more modern monsters such as serial killers. Packed full of fascinating facts and strange theories, this book will make you about 20 times smarter than you were when you started reading it.



HISTORY

Incoming Freshmen (Required)

World Civ/World Geog I

A History of the World in Six Glasses by Tom Standage

“This is a good example of why history is fun. Tom Standage has investigated the origins of six beverages: beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea, and Coca-Cola and has found innumerable connections, interconnections, and insights into not only the histories of the drinks themselves but also their impacts on the larger human story. The links Standage finds, for example between coffee and the Enlightenment or tea and the Opium Wars or wine and beer and their effect on class and cultural tensions in Greece and Rome, just a few of the many insights you'll find in the book) are fascinating. Standage also provides one of the most succinct but thorough dissections of the globalization debate I have ever seen in his coverage of "Coca-Colonization."

A History of the World in Six Glasses is much more than just a history of six beverages. It is history as it should be written (and taught).” John D. Cofield (Amazon.com Reviewer)

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Rising Juniors (Required)

US History

Don't Know Much About History by Kenneth C. Davis

Finally, someone who tells history like it was, without the old textbook gloss that's put so many students into premature naptime and misinformed the few who stayed awake. Davis corrects the myths and misconceptions from Columbus up through the Clinton administration, and shows that truth is more entertaining than propaganda. This book is a great overview of American History and is a must read for any AP Student.

BOOK CLUB

All Who Are Interested

Summer SF Book Club

Do you like science fiction? Dr. Cox, Ms. Bowen, Mr. Hartman and Mr. Pereira are all hosting the summer SF book club. The book this summer will be: *Serenity: Better Days* by Brett Matthews and Joss Whedon. *Serenity: Better Days* follows everyone's favorite space cowboys in a thrilling, action-packed adventure, where Mal and his crew take on a heist that promises a big payoff.

Join the Facebook Group: GW Community School SF Book Club: What If...? Science Fiction Book Club discussion will be on Thursday, July 29, 2010 at 3:30 pm. Meet at GW!