

Orangeburg Preparatory Schools, Inc.

"A School of Tradition with a Vision for the Future."

Dear Parents and Friends of OPS,

On behalf of the English Department, faculty, and administration, I would like to thank you for your support of our summer reading program these past few years. Our students have benefited greatly from it, and therefore I am confident you will continue to support our newly revised program.

Yes, we have increased our requirements to two books for grades seven through ten. Eleventh grade honors students will now read three books while AP students will read four. These increases are by no means excessive or unusual—most independent schools (as well as many public ones) have instituted similar summer reading requirements. Furthermore, given the increased emphasis of reading and writing skills on the new SAT, along with declining test scores across the nation in those areas, it makes sense to afford our children as many reading opportunities as possible. Of course, the experience that reading acclaimed literature can provide the mind and spirit is at least as important as standardized test scores.

In some courses (particularly Honors and AP), some writing, journal keeping, or other activity may accompany the reading in order to meet those above-stated goals. Be certain to check with the grade level teacher if you have any questions about such assignments. As in the past, students should expect a test (or similar evaluation) on their summer reading during the first week of school in August.

I again invite you to read along with your children and share your insights, thoughts, and memories with them. When young people see they are members of a reading community, and that reading is crucial to linking one to our culture and history, they are more likely to become competent, interested readers. Encourage your children by setting a good reading example.

Thank you again for your dedication to OPS.

Sincerely,
Mark C. Van Gunten, Ph.D.
English Department Chair



**Study questions for summer reading for 10th grade Honors English and AP English 12 are available in the Business Office. (These are mandatory.)*

Course	Required 2009 Summer Reading	
English 6—1 requirement	• Peck, <i>A Long Way From Chicago</i>	
English 7—2 requirements	• Smith, <i>Peak</i>	• Hinton, <i>The Outsiders</i>
English 8—2 requirements	• Hinton, <i>Rumblefish</i>	• Hinton, <i>That Was Then, This Is Now</i>
Literature & Composition (9th) 2 requirements	• Hemingway, <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>	• Albom, <i>Tuesdays With Morrie</i>
Honors Literature & Composition (9th) 2 requirements	• Hemingway, <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>	• Knowles, <i>A Separate Peace</i>
American Literature (10th) 2 requirements	• Lee, <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>	• Wharton, <i>Ethan Frome</i>
Honors American Literature (10th) 2 requirements	• Malamud, <i>The Natural</i>	• Masters, <i>Spoon River Anthology</i>
British Literature (11th) 2 requirements	• Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	• Paton, <i>Cry, The Beloved Country</i>
Honors British Literature (11th) 3 requirements	• Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> • Hardy, <i>The Mayor of Casterbridge</i>	• Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i>
World Literature (12th) 2 requirements	• Camus, <i>The Stranger</i>	• Guène, <i>Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow</i>
AP English (12th) 4 requirements	• Camus, <i>The Plague</i> • Haddon, <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	• Hesse, <i>Siddhartha</i> • Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i>