



Garces Memorial High School

Excellence in Catholic Education



Junior Summer Reading List AY 2024-25

All students enrolled in English 11 (AP) **MUST** read **The Catcher in the Rye** by J.D. Salinger **PLUS** two books of their choosing from the selection below.

Choose **TWO** of the following books to read over summer. Come prepared to take the reading tests on the first day back to school.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury †

In this world firemen start fires rather than put them out, books are illegal, and no one questions anything – that is until a simple girl asks the fireman Montag a simple question. After that, everything changes, and books are not the only thing that will burn.

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Henry Fleming, a young Union soldier fighting in the Civil War, finds himself in a battle experiencing, not heroism and bravery like he expected, but fear and cowardice instead. His flight from this battle will haunt him until he can fight again and wear his bloody war wound like a “red badge of courage.”

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. Eventually they call themselves the “Joy Luck Club” and their stories of unspeakable loss and of enduring hope explore the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters.

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Told in language of great simplicity and power, this is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal – a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Billy Pilgrim is unstuck in time, and we travel with him from the firebombing of Dresden, Germany in 1945 to the alien planet of Tralfamadore. This anti-war novel is an eloquent and absurdly funny plea against butchery in the service of authority.

An Abundance of Katherines by John Green

When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton’s type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact. This comic novel is about love and friendship (and a little math), but mostly it is about how everyone’s story counts.

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver †

Taylor leaves home in a beat-up '55 Volkswagen bug, on her way to nowhere in particular, savoring her freedom. But when a forlorn Cherokee woman drops a baby in Taylor’s passenger seat and asks her to take it, she does. This funny, inspiring book is a marvelous affirmation of risk-taking, commitment, and everyday miracles.

The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien

As a collection of short stories about the Vietnam War, it is a snapshot of soldiers who carry with them all the emotional baggage of men who might die. As a novel, it is a powerful meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. One thing is certain, after reading it, you will never be the same.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

When Lily’s fierce-hearted black “stand-in mother,” Rosaleen, insults three of the town’s most vicious racists, Lily decides they should escape to Tiburon, South Carolina – a town that holds the secret to her mother’s past. There she learns about bees, honey, and the transforming power of love.

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

A simple act of opening a parasol causes Henry Lee to remember the 1940s at the height of the war, his nationalistic father, and his love for Keiko, who was rounded up and sent to an internment camp. Now Henry is foraging a hotel basement for a lost object whose value he cannot begin to measure – something bitter and sweet.