



## Garces Memorial High School

*Excellence in Catholic Education*



### Junior Summer Reading List AY 2025-26

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.

#### 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.

#### Circe by Madeline Miller

Circe is the bewitching nymph from Homer’s *Odyssey*, but she is also so much more than that. She is the daughter of Helios but lacks his strength and power. She is a sorceress who has been cast aside and banished to a remote island, turning instead to mortals to comfort, control, and confine. But most importantly, she might be the celebration of indomitable female strength in a man’s world.

#### 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.