



Garces Memorial High School

Excellence in Catholic Education



Sophomore Summer Reading List AY2020-21

All students enrolled in English 10 (Honors) **MUST** read Night by Elie Wiesel

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

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho †

Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of worldly treasure, undertakes a quest that will lead him to riches far different – and far more satisfying – than he ever imagined.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak †

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. Death has never been busier, but it is through the eyes of Death that we encounter a young foster girl named Liesel, who learns to read and savor the power of words. Soon she is rescuing books from burnings and stealing them whenever she can. But when the family decides to hide a Jewish man in their basement, the true nature of “rescuing” unfolds.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation, decides to take his future into his own hands and leave his troubled school on the rez in order to attend an all-white farm town high school, where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

The classic tale of a reluctant Hobbit who accompanies a wizard and a band of dwarves on a magical quest, encountering goblins, giant spiders, a riddle-asking and ring-hungry creature, and a treasure hoarding dragon named Smaug.

Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse

Siddhartha leaves his home in ancient India in order to find spiritual illumination, but along the way he becomes restless and turns to the world of greed and gain. See if Siddhartha ever finds what he is looking for.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

Paul Baumer enthusiastically joins the German army during WW I, but as horrible war plods on year after year, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principles of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other – if only he can come out of the war alive.

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

A riveting memoir of a girl’s painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s has startling similarities to the Cinderella fairytale, complete with a wicked stepmother and spoiled stepsisters. Ultimately, however, it is a stirring testimony to the strength of human character and the power of education.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and it is also an exploration of the power of fathers over sons – their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

A Bengali couple immigrates to the United States, but such transformation is difficult; even the act of naming their son is fraught with the desire to assimilate and the longing to stay true to their heritage. This is a novel about the defining power of names and the means by which we ultimately define ourselves.

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

This is a heart-wrenching story of a condemned man learning to read from a young teacher. Together they learn about education, racism, punishment, and in the end, the heroism of resisting – but most importantly, they are lessons learned together.