2019 SUMMER READING

Incoming 10A Students

Each student enrolled in English 10A must read one book from this list during the summer. In September, each student will be evaluated on his/her thorough knowledge of the one book he/she has selected from the following list.

Since a few of the selections are modern novels, there may be certain mature references in the text. We advise students and families to review the selections carefully to ensure that students choose a book that is appropriate for them.

Gaynor Arnold  Girl in a Blue Dress
Pearl Buck  The Good Earth
Doris Lessing  The Fifth Child AND Ben, In the World

***Since both of these books are short, students need to read both books if they choose this selection
Charlotte Bronte  Jane Eyre
Susan Elia Macneal  Mr. Churchill’s Secretary: A Maggie Hope Mystery
Diane Setterfield  Thirteenth Tale
Helen Simonson  Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand
Daphne DuMaurier  Jamaica Inn
Daphne DuMaurier  Rebecca
Jane Austen  Northanger Abbey
Kazuo Ishiguro  When We Were Orphans
Malala Yousafzai  I am Malala
Kristin Hannah  The Nightingale

**Additionally, as an option, students may choose a mystery by P.D. James

**Girl in a Blue Dress** – Gaynor Arnold
This work of historical fiction is based upon Catherine Dickens’ letters which provide insight into what became her unhappy marriage to Charles Dickens. The novel also reflects intriguing aspects of English Victorian life.

**The Good Earth** – Pearl Buck
Wang Lung marries O-lan and together they cultivate the soil. As Wang Lung’s ambitions overtake him, his misguided life destroys not only his values but the lives of those around him. Through all of the plot lines in The Good Earth, readers gain valuable insights into Chinese culture and history.

**Mr. Churchill’s Secretary** – Maggie Hope
Set in England during World War II, the novel’s tone ranges from harshly realistic to entertaining as the characters attempt to survive this dangerous time in England’s history.

**The Fifth Child and Ben, In the World** – Doris Lessing
A socially awkward English couple, Harriet and David, meet at an office party in the ‘70s. They marry and set out to achieve their dream of creating a big, happy family of four model children. However, from early on in her fifth pregnancy, Harriet knows this child is different. Read this book to find out how his arrival changes the Lovatts’ lives forever. In the sequel, Ben, In the World, readers watch Ben try to acclimate into society.

**Jane Eyre** – Charlotte Bronte
A classic romantic novel of a young governess who falls in love with her employer, the mysterious Mr. Rochester.
**Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand** – Helen Simonson
In this 2010 novel, Simonson presents the challenges residents of a traditional English village experience as England becomes more culturally diverse and in light of younger generations’ changing values. The tone of the novel shifts from serious to suspenseful to clearly humorous as Major Pettigrew attempts to find happiness as he grows older.

**The Thirteenth Tale** – Diane Setterfield
Vida Winter calls a lowly biographer to her estate to document her strange family history. In this 2006 novel, Diane Setterfield creates a modern Gothic tale that engages mature readers to discover the truth behind Miss Winter’s past.

**Jamaica Inn** – Daphne DuMaurier
Danger and love converge on the British moors as the narrator discovers the truth of the activities of Jamaica Inn.

**Rebecca** – Daphne DuMaurier
Mrs. de Winter comes to understand that her new life is not as she thought it would be as Daphne DuMaurier develops the setting and unusual events at Manderley.

**Northanger Abbey** – Jane Austen
Austen creates memorable characters and relationships as readers also discover humor in Austen’s ridicule of the Gothic novels that were popular at the time.

**When We Were Orphans** – Kazuo Ishiguro
Set against the background of both London and Shanghai, Ishiguro’s novel is an engaging detective story that allows the reader to follow the narrator in his quest to locate his missing parents. The book reflects Christopher Banks’ memories which continue to surface as his internal and external worlds merge. This book is full of unexpected developments that sustain the reader’s interest throughout Banks’ journey.

**I am Malala** – Malala Yousafzai
Malala discusses her family’s experiences as supporters of education as well as the conflict in Pakistan that led up to her being shot by an extremist on a bus on her way home from school.

**The Nightingale** – Kristin Hannah
Kristin Hannah develops a moving plot around two sisters who survive in France during the German occupation of World War II. Given the nature of war, there are some mature references in the novel.

**P.D. James’ mysteries are well loved and acclaimed by those who enjoy the mystery genre.**