

CBHS Senior Summer Reading Program, 2008

(If you are enrolling in AP, see the alternative instructions)

1. Read at least **THREE TO FIVE BOOKS**

All CBHS Seniors are required to read at least three books this summer.

2. One book you choose to read must be off of the provided list of titles.

3. Complete Summer Books Read Chart

Keep track of what you are reading and be prepared to hand in the Summer Books Read Chart on Monday, September 10, 2007. Note that this requires a parent signature.

4. Write Book Recommendations and Analysis in September

When you return to school in September, you will be asked to write a Book Recommendation and Analysis on the book you read from our list.

5. Exceeds Option

In order to exceed, you should read two or more of the titles on the prepared list. You should then also write analysis papers for each of them.

6. AP (Advanced Placement) Option

If you are enrolling in the AP program, see the specific summer reading requirements for that course.

7. Enjoy!!! Immerse into the wild world of books!

8. Keep Enjoying!! Remember, summer is a glorious time for sitting in the sun with a good book... any book you choose....

CBHS Senior Class Summer Reading List

Reminder, you are required to read at least three books and one of them should be from this list.

***The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd**

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in-mother", Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free from jail. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina -- a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Mary (Black Madonna)

***Slaughterhouse 5* by Kurt Vonnegut**

One of his most popular works and widely regarded as a classic, it combines science fiction elements with an analysis of the human condition from an uncommon perspective, using time travel as a plot device. The bombing of Dresden in World War II, the aftermath of which Vonnegut witnessed, is the starting point.

Wuthering Heights

***A Good Man is Hard to Find*, by Flannery O'Connor**

is a collection of short stories by American author Flannery O'Connor. The collection was first published in 1955. The subjects of the short stories range from baptism ("The River") to serial killers ("A Good Man is Hard to Find") to human greed and exploitation ("The Life You Save May Be Your Own").

A collection of poems, by Rita Dove

***Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe**

It is a staple book in schools throughout Africa and widely read and studied in English-speaking countries around the world. It is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, and one of the first African novels written in English to receive global critical acclaim. The novel concerns the life of Okonkwo, a leader and local wrestling champion throughout the nine villages of the Igbo ethnic group of Umuofia in Nigeria, his three wives, his children (mainly concerning his oldest son Nwoye and his favorite daughter Ezinma), and the influences of British colonialism and Christian missionaries on his traditional Igbo (archaically spelled "Ibo") community during an unspecified time in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

***Balzac and The Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie**

“This is the story of three young men who, as suspect sons of bourgeois professionals, are sent into the Chinese countryside during the Cultural Revolution to be re-educated by peasants. One of them (whose mother is a poet) has a secret suitcase that is full of objects that puts them all in jeopardy: Chinese translations of forbidden Western classics, including the works of Balzac. The book’s success is, however, a triumph of tone, atmosphere, and charm over structure. Or, perhaps, the structure of the book is itself a revolt against the structure of the Western novel.”

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte**

Wuthering Heights is Emily Brontë's only novel. It was first published in 1847 under the pseudonym Ellis Bell. The name of the novel comes from the Yorkshire manor on the moors on which the story centres (as an adjective, wuthering is a Yorkshire word referring to turbulent weather). The narrative tells the tale of the all-encompassing and passionate, yet thwarted, love between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw, and how this unresolved passion eventually destroys both themselves and many around them.

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**

Huck Finn is commonly accounted as one of the first Great American Novels. It is also one of the first major American novels ever written using Local Color Regionalism, or vernacular, told in the first person by the eponymous Huckleberry "Huck" Finn, best friend of Tom Sawyer and hero of three other Mark Twain books.

***Collections of Poetry* by Rita Frances Dove**

In 1987, Rita Dove became the second African American poet to win the Pulitzer Prize (after Gwendolyn Brooks in 1950). From 1993 to 1995, she served as the second Black and the youngest Poet Laureate of the United States and Poetry Consultant to the Library of Congress.

CBHS Senior Advanced Placement Summer Reading

You are required to read at least three of the following titles, and then to write one literary analysis paper before arriving in September.

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Beloved is a 1987 Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Nobel laureate Toni Morrison. The novel is loosely based on the life and legal case of the slave Margaret Garner, about whom Morrison later wrote in the opera Margaret Garner (2005). The Book's Epigraph says: "Sixty Million and more." Morrison is referring to the estimated number of slaves who died in the slave trade. More specifically, she is referring to the Middle Passage. A survey of eminent authors and critics conducted by The New York Times found Beloved the best work of American fiction of the past 25 years.

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Crime and Punishment focuses on the mental anguish and moral dilemmas of Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov, an impoverished St. Petersburg ex-student who formulates and executes a plan to kill a hated, unscrupulous pawnbroker seemingly for her money, thereby solving his financial problems and at the same time, he argues, ridding the world of an evil worthless parasite. Raskolnikov also strives to be an extraordinary being, similar to Napoleon, who can murder without repercussions.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley.

Shelley wrote the novel when she was 19-20 years old. The first edition was published anonymously in London in 1818. Shelley's name appears on the revised third edition, published in 1831. The title of the novel refers to a scientist, Victor Frankenstein, who learns how to create life and creates a being in the likeness of man, but larger than average and more powerful. In modern popular culture, people have tended to refer to the Creature as "Frankenstein" (especially in films since 1931), despite this being the name of the scientist. Frankenstein is a novel infused with some elements of the Gothic novel and the Romantic movement. It was also a warning against the "over-reaching" of modern man and the Industrial Revolution, alluded to in the novel's subtitle, The Modern Prometheus. The story has had an influence across literature and popular culture and spawned a complete genre of horror stories and films. It is arguably considered the first fully realized science fiction novel. The novel raises many issues that can be linked to today's society.

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

First published in 1915, the story begins with a traveling salesman, Gregor Samsa, waking to find himself transformed into a "monstrous vermin".