

St. Xavier High School Summer Reading Class of 2026

Welcome, St. X Freshmen! Whether you're headed to the beach, the ball field, the lake, or your own backyard, we encourage you to carve out time to read. The act of reading has tremendous intellectual, emotional, and psychological benefits, and becoming a better reader will change your personal, educational, and work lives for the better. Author and literacy expert Kelly Gallagher makes this point powerfully in his infographic "[Why Read? Ten Reasons](#)". Also, reading can be just plain fun. Let this summer reading allow you to escape into your imagination—to “travel without moving your feet” (Jhumpa Lahiri). Happy reading!

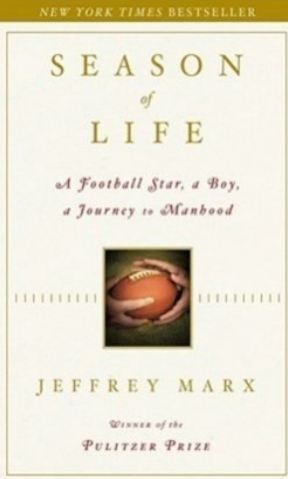
Each student will read two books:

1. One Required Text: *Season of Life*, the “All-Read” for the Class of 2026.
2. One Choice Text: Choose one book from the list of five selections given here.

English Department Expectations:

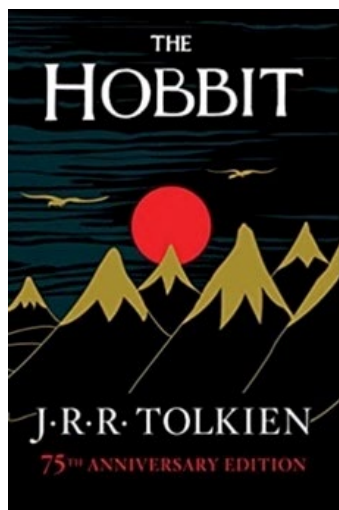
1. Students should read both books closely and authentically.
2. Students should bring both books to class on the first day of school.
3. Students should be able to summarize and develop questions about each text.
4. Students should be prepared to discuss both books in small group and whole class settings.
5. Students should be prepared to complete in-class writing on one or both books.

REQUIRED SUMMER READING FOR ALL:

	<p><i>SEASON OF LIFE: A Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood</i> Jeffrey Marx</p> <p>“Joe Ehrmann, a former NFL football star and volunteer coach for the Gilman high school football team, teaches his players the keys to successful defense: penetrate, pursue, punish, love. Love? A former captain of the Baltimore Colts and now an ordained minister, Ehrmann is serious about the game of football but even more serious about the purpose of life. <i>Season of Life</i> is his inspirational story as told by Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Jeffrey Marx, who was a ballboy for the Colts when he first met Ehrmann.” (Amazon)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 1416545409 ISBN-13: 978-1416545408</p>
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STUDENT CHOICE TEXTS (**CHOOSE ONE**):

Note to Students: Some titles in this list contain mature themes and content. We encourage students to research the novels and be informed about the text they have chosen. We also encourage students and parents/guardians to have thoughtful conversation with student(s) about appropriate selections. The ISBN numbers given correspond to the preferred version of the text.

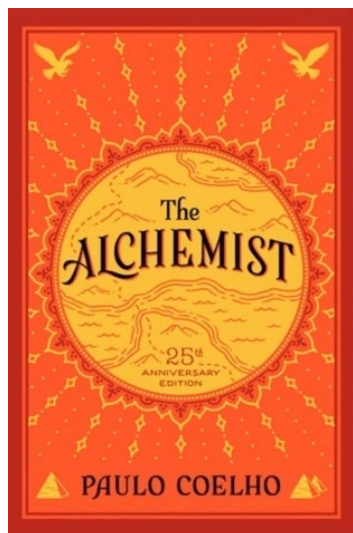


THE HOBBIT J. R. R. Tolkien

“Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.” (Amazon)

ISBN-10: 054792822X

ISBN-13: 978-0547928227

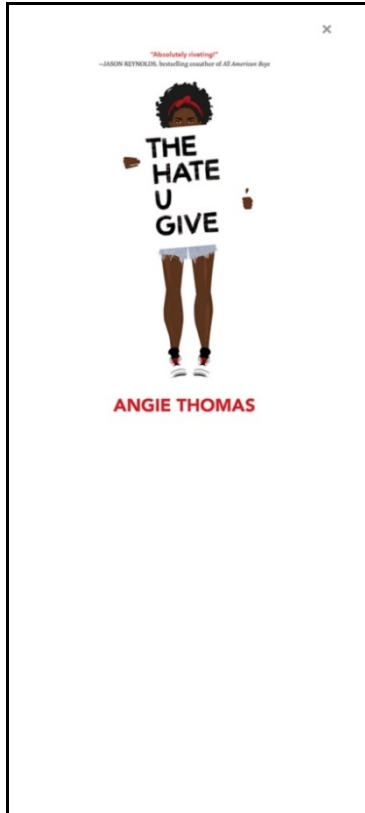


THE ALCHEMIST Paulo Coelho

“This story...is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago, who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Romany woman, a man who calls himself a king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the right direction for his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or whether Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles in his path; but what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of treasure within.” (Goodreads)

ISBN-10: 0062315005

ISBN-13: 978-0062315007



***THE HATE U GIVE* Angie Thomas**

“Wrenching, soul stirring, funny, endearing, painful, and frustratingly familiar, this novel offers a powerful look at a few weeks in a fairly typical teen girl's life -- with one horrific exception. Sure she worries about school, issues with friends, and her secret boyfriend, but she's also the sole witness to the fatal shooting of her best friend by a police officer. In *The Hate U Give*, author Angie Thomas manages to bring humanity -- deep, emotionally binding, full-bodied humanity -- to the victims of police brutality and the families and friends they leave behind. The scenarios that revolve around the shooting are achingly routine -- unarmed African-American, the media's push to blame the victim, a lax investigation, and a lack of charges or convictions. However, set against the backdrop of typical teen life, of community and family life, the consequences of the officer's actions and the actions others take after the tragedy take on a life and power beyond what any think piece or talking points on the subject could achieve.” (Common Sense Media)

ISBN-10: 0062498541

ISBN-13: 978-0062498540



***READY PLAYER ONE* Ernest Cline**

“IN THE YEAR 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines, puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.” (Goodreads)

ISBN-10: 0307887448

ISBN-13: 978-0307887443



CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE (Legacy of Orisha #1) Tomi Adeyemi

“Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie’s Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. Danger lurks in Orisha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for an enemy.” (Amazon)

ISBN-10: 1250294622

ISBN-13: 978-1250294623