



# ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

## 2022 Summer Reading List

### LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

Teachers: Daniella Moshi, Chelsea Layton, TBD

#### ASSIGNMENT #1:

*Girlhood: Teens around the World in Their Own Voices* by Masuma Ahuja

What does a teenage girl dream about in Nigeria or New York? How does she spend her days in Mongolia, the Midwest (St. Louis!), and the Middle East?

All around the world, girls are going to school, working, dreaming up big futures - they are soccer players and surfers, ballerinas, and chess champions. Yet, we know so little about their daily lives. We often hear about challenges and catastrophes in the news, and about exceptional girls who make headlines. But even though the health, education, and success of girls so often determines the future of a community, we don't know more about what life is like for the ordinary girls, the ones living outside the headlines.

From the Americas to Europe to Africa to Asia to the South Pacific, the thirty teens from twenty-seven countries in *Girlhood* share their own stories of growing up through diary entries and photographs, and the girls' stories are put in context with reporting and research that helps us understand the circumstances and communities they live in. This full-color, exuberantly designed volume is a portrait of ordinary girlhood around the world, and of the world, as seen through girls' eyes. "Insightful and inclusive... These girls' heartfelt, hopeful, and inspiring narratives will resonate with teenage girls everywhere." – **Booklist**

- Purchase a new or **unmarked** used copy of the book.
- Read *Girlhood* by Masuma Ahuja.
- As you read, use Post-It notes to **label** stories/pages that enlightened you to something new, made you ask further questions, or shook your head in agreement.
- Your reading and labeling will be the foundational material for a future essay.
- Choose one girl's story that you found intriguing in *Girlhood*. For this girl's story, find an article that either: discusses a current event (something from 2021-present) in that country OR elaborates on a cultural aspect mentioned in the girl's story. Simply print out this article and bring it with you to class on the first day of school.
- On a map, be able to identify the country of your chosen *Girlhood* story (the same one that your article is about). You don't have to do anything extra for this part - simply come prepared to point out that country.

(continued)

# LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

## ASSIGNMENT #2:

*Book of Choice for the FIRST week of SJA English class, 2022*

We invite you to continue to love reading or begin to love reading as you enter St. Joseph's Academy this fall. The St. Joseph's Academy English department's foundation rests in teaching reading and writing skills. The practice of reading begins with the summer reading assignments and will continue with independent reading throughout the 9th and 10th grade English years. Although we will read some books as a class, we expect our students to always be reading outside of class with books they enjoy.

Reading makes a better writer, thinker, communicator, and well-rounded member of society, as well as helps improve standardized testing scores. Most importantly, finding that book that you just can't stop reading could very well happen during your time at SJA, and we hope it does!

In the first week of class, we would like you to bring a book of your choice that you have NOT read but that seems interesting or exciting to you. *This will be your first independent reading book of the year.* If you do not have a book of your choice, you will visit the SJA library and check out a book of your choosing during that first week of school.\* We want our girls reading, so if audio versions help you focus while reading, please use those ALONG with a paper copy of the book. Have the audio ready to go on either your phone or computer along with your earbuds/Air Pods.

\* NOTE: Some of the books may contain adult situations. We urge you to choose a book with a parent's or guardian's guidance. If a book makes you uncomfortable, abandon it and select another.

**1 The Names They Gave Us** by Emery Lord - 388 pages, (realistic fiction) What do you do when your summer falls apart and your faith is tested by your mom's cancer?

**2 Moxie** by Jennifer Mathieu - 336 pages, (realistic fiction) Humorous mixed media with print and magazine pages. Only girls get called out for uniform violations, boys can wear and do whatever they want!

**3 One of Us is Lying** by Karen M. McManus - 368 pages, (mystery/suspense) Four high school students go into a detention room, and only three students come out.

**4 Dear Martin** by Nic Stone - 224 pages, (realistic fiction) - Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates.

**5 Goodbye Days** by Jeff Zentner - 399 pages, (realistic fiction) - This story is about four boys in high school, told by only one of the boys—the only one still alive—and he gives “good-bye” days to the families, but he was texting and driving and may be charged with manslaughter.

**6 Deacon Locke Went to Prom** - 400 pages, (romance) - The love life of an awkward teen takes an unforgettable turn after he brings his grandmother to prom in this funny, offbeat, and smile-inducing contemporary romance.

(continued)

## LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

### ASSIGNMENT #2 (continued):

**7 The Naturals** by Jennifer Lynn Barnes - 336 pages (mystery) Seventeen-year-old Cassie is a natural at reading people. Piecing together the tiniest details, she can tell you who you are and what you want. But, it's not a skill that she's ever taken seriously. That is, until the FBI comes knocking: they've begun a classified program that uses exceptional teenagers to crack infamous cold cases, and they need Cassie.

**8 Annexed** by Sharon Dogar - 352 pages, (fiction) Everyone knows about Anne Frank and her life hidden in the secret annex – but what about the boy who was also trapped there with her? In this powerful and gripping novel, Sharon Dogar explores what this might have been like from Peter's point of view.

**9 Dear Evan Hansen** by Val Emmich (4 authors total wrote this) - 368 pages, (realistic fiction) The main character writes a letter to his therapist about issues in his life, but someone finds it on the printer at school and...

**10 People Like Us** by Dana Mele - 384 pages, (mystery) Gossip, cheating, mean girls, and murder at an all-girls boarding school...plot twists you will wake up in the middle of the night to keep reading.

**11 The Selection** by Kiera Cass - 352 pages, (romance) For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape a rigid caste system, live in a palace, and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon.

**12 A Street Cat Named Bob** by James Bowen - 320 pages, (non-fiction) James is a street musician struggling to make ends meet. Bob is a stray cat looking for somewhere warm to sleep. When James and Bob meet, they forge a never-to-be-forgotten friendship.

**13 Does My Head Look Big in This?** by Randa Abdel Fattah - 368 pages, (non-fiction) Sixteen-year-old Amal makes the decision to start wearing the hijab full-time and everyone has a reaction. Her parents, her teachers, her friends, people on the street. But she stands by her decision to embrace her faith and all that it is, even if it does make her a little different from everyone else.

**14 Same Kind of Different as Me** by Ron Hall - 245 pages, (non-fiction) A dangerous, homeless drifter who grew up picking cotton in virtual slavery. An upscale art dealer accustomed to the world of Armani and Chanel. A gutsy woman with a stubborn dream. A story so incredible no novelist would dare dream it.

**15 The Dinner** by Herman Koch - 320 pages, (psychological fiction) One evening in Amsterdam, two couples meet for dinner. They need to discuss their teenage sons. The boys have committed a horrifying act that was caught on TV. They remain unidentified—except by their parents. How far will each couple go to protect their child? This is a gripping psychological tale of grief, shame, blame, doubt, and pride passed on from one generation to the next.

**16 We Were Liars** by E. Lockhart - 320 pages, (suspense) A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth.

(continued)

## LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

### ASSIGNMENT #2 (continued):

**17 The Energy Bus** by *Jon Gordon* - 164 pages (inspirational) The author takes readers on an enlightening and inspiring ride that reveals 10 secrets for approaching life, school, and work with the kind of positive, forward thinking that leads to true accomplishment at work, school, and at home.

**18 Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee** by *Charles J. Shields* - 288 pages - (non-fiction) *To Kill a Mockingbird* - the twentieth century's most widely read American novel - has sold thirty million copies and still sells a million yearly. But despite the book's popularity, its author Harper Lee has always been a mysterious figure. In this in-depth biography, first published in 2006, Charles J. Shields finally brings to life the woman who gave us two of American literature's most unforgettable characters, Atticus Finch and his daughter, Scout.

**19 A Night to Remember** by *Walter Lord* - 160 pages - (historical recreation) The classic minute-by-minute re-creation is as vivid now as it was upon first publication sixty-five years ago. From the initial distress flares to the struggles of those left adrift for hours in freezing waters, this novel brings that moonlit night in 1912 to life.

**20 Dreamland Burning** by *Jennifer Latham* - 400 pages, (mystery/historical fiction/realistic fiction) When seventeen-year-old Rowan Chase finds a skeleton on her family's property, she has no idea that investigating the brutal century-old murder will lead to a summer of painful discoveries about the present and the past. A story told by two narrators, one black, one white.

**21 Girl at War** by *Sara Novic* - 316 pages - (fiction) Zagreb, 1991. Ana Jurić is a carefree ten-year-old, living with her family in a small apartment in Croatia's capital. But that year, civil war breaks out across Yugoslavia, splintering Ana's idyllic childhood. Daily life is altered by food rations and air raid drills, and soccer matches are replaced by sniper fire. Moving back and forth through time, *Girl at War* is an honest, generous, brilliantly written novel that illuminates how history shapes the individual.

### (OPTIONAL!) ENRICHMENT BOOK OF CHOICE

Choose ANY of the selections from the list below. These selections are often referenced in ACT/SAT questions and prompts of the AP testing. In addition, the more you read, the more you acquire reading comprehension and vocabulary skills. If you would like to further your literary knowledge, please choose and read any of the selections from the list.

- **Of Mice and Men** by *John Steinbeck*
- **Fahrenheit 451** by *Ray Bradbury*
- **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by *Maya Angelou*
- **The Alchemist** by *Paulo Coelho*
- **Animal Farm** by *George Orwell*
- **The Secret Lives of Bees** by *Sue Monk Kidd*

NOTE: Some of the books may contain adult situations. We urge you to choose a book with a parent or guardian's guidance. If a book makes you uncomfortable, abandon it and select another.