

## UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH SUMMER READING 2023

**Students entering Grade 9 should read [I Am Malala](#) by Malala Yousafzai**

**\*\*Please be sure to buy this edition and NOT the young readers edition.**

This memoir tells the story of Malala Yousafzai, who campaigned for girls' schooling in Pakistan and overcame an assassination attempt in the process. As Yousafzai's book shows us, education allows us to choose our own paths in life, and it can provide us with the motivation to face adversity and advocate for others. Malala's story sets the stage for our main theme in English 9, *Finding Your Voice*, and each of the books we'll read in the coming year will feature characters and narrators learning to use their voice to express themselves and help others.

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**Students entering Grade 10 should read [Southernmost](#) by Kentucky poet laureate and Lexington resident Silas House.**

This novel has a straightforward narrative structure and relatable, realistic characters that should make it accessible and engaging for a summer read. The main character's conflict between his family bonds and his religious commitment motivates the plot, allowing us to notice how major narrative elements influence one another and to reflect on how individual internal struggles manifest outwardly and affect others.

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**Students entering the 11/12 English Seminar should read [The Shell Collector](#) by Anthony Doerr.**

Doerr's beautiful collection of short stories touches on the themes of both 11/12 English seminars for the 2023-24 school year, Ms. Ewing's on Transformation and Dr. Clausen's on Nature & Self. The characters in these stories interact with nature in such profound ways that they and the people around them are transformed literally and figuratively. The collection demonstrates how the traditional third person short story and the finely crafted sentence can both delight a reader and open up space for deeper reflection.

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**Students entering AP English Language & Composition should read a book-length memoir of their choice.**

Memoirs can show us how personal narrative is often not an end in itself but a method of developing writing with a specific purpose. By choosing a book for yourself, you will continue pursuing your individual reading interests after the independent reading we did in English 10. If you need some help deciding, you can consult Dr. O'Connor's recommendations and recommendations from several other sources [here](#). Please email Dr. O'Connor ([loconnor@sayreschool.org](mailto:loconnor@sayreschool.org)) with the title of the book you plan to read by Wednesday, June 7.

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**Students entering AP English Literature & Composition should read [Rebecca](#) by Daphne du Maurier.**

Du Maurier's classic novel takes us to the mysterious and beautiful setting of Manderley, where our narrator must deal with her new husband Maxim de Winter's previous life. Although a year has passed since his wife's death, Rebecca de Winter's presence has never left Manderley. Who was the previous Mrs. de Winter, what happened to her, and why does her power remain? What does all of this mean for the new Mrs. de Winter, Maxim, and their life together? In illustrating how the past still reverberates in the present and maybe even into the future, this novel introduces our course theme: the Past, the Present, and the Future in Literature.