



Class of 2027 Summer Reading Assignment

Rationale for Summer Reading:

Welcome, St. X Juniors! 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. 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!

Directions/ English Department Expectations:

Required text:

1. Required text: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro.
2. Purchase a **physical copy** of your choice; a digital copy **is not** permitted (audio books may be used in conjunction with a hard copy). We have provided links to Joseph Beth Bookstore, but you may use the retailer of your choice. **Please be sure to use the provided ISBN identification code**, so that you obtain the correct edition of your book.
3. Read your novel. (Annotation is recommended. See the notes below for annotation tips.)
4. Bring your novel on the first day of school. Be prepared for assessments (for example, a test and/or essay) on your novel when the school year begins.

Choice text:

5. Choose ONE novel from the list below.
 - *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel **OR**
 - *How to Say Babylon: A Memoir* by Safiya Sinclair **OR**
 - *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
6. Purchase a **physical copy** of your choice; a digital copy **is not** permitted (audio books may be used in conjunction with a hard copy). We have provided links to Joseph Beth Bookstore, but you may use the retailer of your choice. **Please be sure to use the provided ISBN identification code**, so that you obtain the correct edition of your book.

7. Read your novel. (Annotation is recommended. See the notes below for annotation tips.)
8. Bring your novel on the first day of school. Be prepared for assessments (for example, a test and/or essay) on your novel when the school year begins.

Annotations

Annotations reflect your personal conversation with the book. Effective annotations...

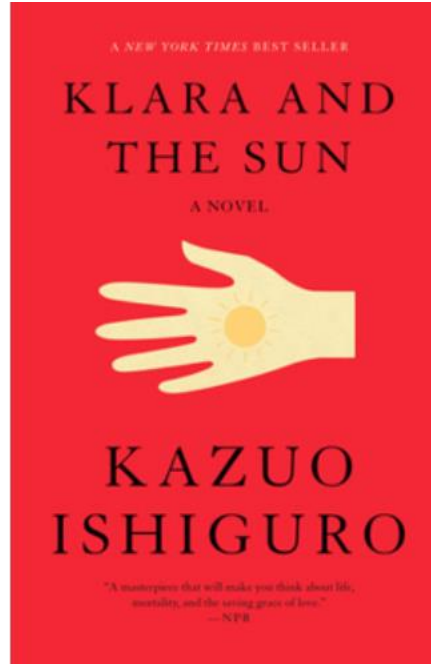
- ❑ Cover the entirety of the reading and are well dispersed, ***but not so numerous as to become a burden to your reading***
- ❑ Contain words and phrases in the margins (not just underlining or highlighting); unfamiliar vocabulary is defined
- ❑ Vary in type and purpose (ex: personal response, summary, questions, predictions, connections within or outside the text, observations about literary elements/patterns, etc.)
- ❑ Demonstrate deep thinking about the selected reading, going beyond the surface of the text [Click Here For More Annotating Ideas](#)

A Note to Students and Parents: The reading choices may include sensitive topics, or content that may be considered sensitive. However, we have chosen these novels because they allow us to have meaningful discussions on the Four Apostolic Preferences: (1) showing the way to God, (2) walking with the excluded, (3) journeying with youth, and (4) caring for our common home. These Preferences, presented to Pope Francis in 2019 by representatives for the Society of Jesus after a period of discernment, will be a particular focus of the Jesuit Mission until 2029.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Klara and the Sun

by Kazuo Ishiguro



<https://www.josephbeth.com/book/9780593311295>

ISBN # 9780593311295

Description

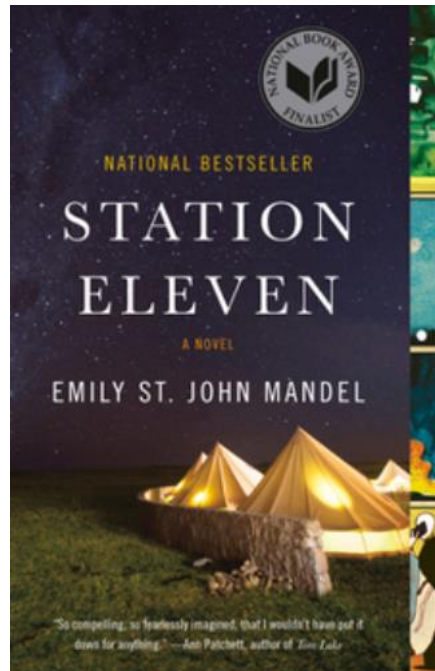
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Once in a great while, a book comes along that changes our view of the world. This magnificent novel from the Nobel laureate and author of *Never Let Me Go* is “an intriguing take on how artificial intelligence might play a role in our futures ... a poignant meditation on love and loneliness” (*The Associated Press*).

Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. *Klara and the Sun* is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

CHOICE TEXTS:

Station Eleven

by Emily St. John Mandel



<https://www.josephbeth.com/book/9780804172448>

ISBN # 9780804172448

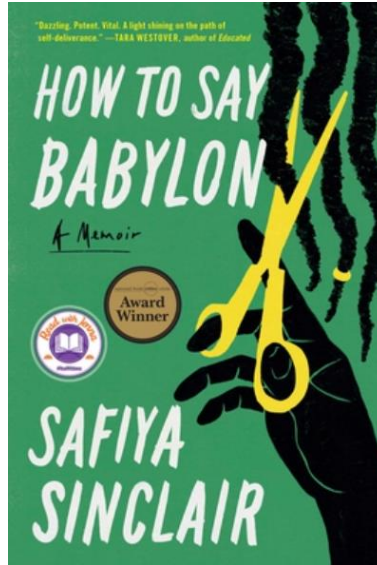
Description

An audacious, darkly glittering novel set in the eerie days following civilization's collapse, *Station Eleven* tells the spellbinding story of a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.

It is fifteen years after a flu pandemic wiped out most of the world's population. Kirsten is an actress with the Traveling Symphony, a small troupe moving over the gutted landscape, performing Shakespeare and music for scattered communities of survivors. But when they arrive in the outpost of St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who digs graves for anyone who dares to leave. Spanning decades, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the disaster brought everyone here, this suspenseful, elegiac novel is rife with beauty, telling a story about the relationships that sustain us.

How to Say Babylon: A Memoir

by Safiya Sinclair



<https://www.josephbeth.com/book/9781982132347>

ISBN # 9781982132347

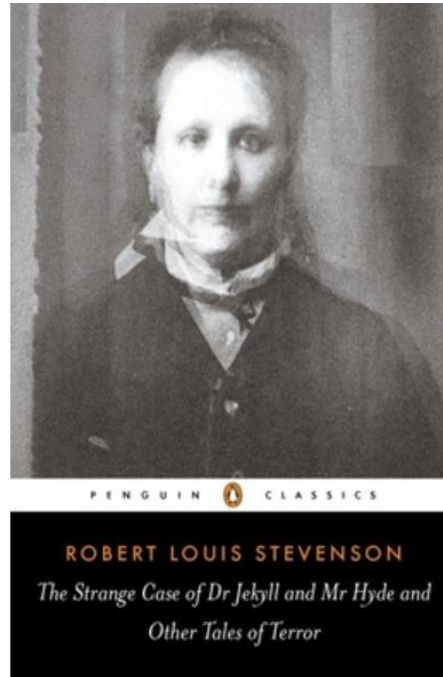
Description

Throughout her childhood, Safiya Sinclair's father, a volatile reggae musician and a militant adherent to a strict sect of Rastafari, was obsessed with the ever-present threat of the corrupting evils of the Western world outside their home, and worried that womanhood would make Safiya and her sisters morally weak and impure. For him, a woman's highest virtue was her obedience.

Safiya's extraordinary mother, though loyal to her father, gave her the one gift she knew would take Safiya beyond the stretch of beach and mountains in Jamaica their family called home: a world of books, knowledge, and education she conjured almost out of thin air. When she introduced Safiya to poetry, Safiya's voice awakened. As she watched her mother struggle voicelessly for years under relentless domesticity, Safiya's rebellion against her father's rules set her on an inevitable collision course with him. Her education became the sharp tool to hone her own poetic voice and carve her path to liberation. Rich in emotion and page-turning drama, *How to Say Babylon* is "a melodious wave of memories" of a woman finding her own power (NPR).

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

by Robert Louis Stevenson



<https://www.josephbeth.com/book/9780141439730>

ISBN # 9780141439730

Description

What a study in contrasts is the friendship between Henry Jekyll and his boon companion, Edward Hyde. Where Jekyll is a handsome and respected man of science, Hyde is a surly and brutish misanthrope. Nevertheless, Jekyll has allowed Hyde free access to his home and laboratory and, surprisingly, made him the sole beneficiary of his will. Given the closeness of their bond, it seems peculiar that no one has ever seen the two men together in public. And yet they share a remarkable chemistry . . .

First published in 1886, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale of the duality of human nature and his iconic presentation of what would come to be referred to as the "split personality."