

DEFINITIONS

Summer Reading: As a department, we have maintained summer reading for all our courses as an enrichment of our program. The texts selected act as an introduction to the material and reading level of our courses, and provide a thematic entry point for ideas in the course. Selection of these texts is treated no differently than others, and acts as the first core work of the course.

Core Works: Core works are taught by all teachers in the curriculum, and as such become important anchors for the curriculum. They help to maintain the level of reading expectation, and form the backbone of the curriculum. They offer an opportunity for faculty to work cooperatively as a committee around common assessments, and approaches to instruction.

Required Lists of Choice Works: In most courses, in addition to core works, there are short lists of required works, from which teachers may select one or two titles. All titles on those lists have been selected because they represent an approximately equal reading challenge and fit the thematic investigation of the course.

Shorter Works: As part of our book syllabus, we have included lists of short works (poetry, short stories, film clips, short nonfiction etc.) that are used within our courses and agreed to by the committee. Those lists are curated by the course committees and will include core, choice and select experiences for each committee. However, teachers also have the freedom to bring in relevant material to their classes to meet the challenges of contemporary issues, unique events, or immediate relevance. News or film clips, articles, poems, interviews, podcasts, or Op-Eds of the moment have always been a part of the immediacy and relevance of our work. Teachers will be expected to vet the text themselves for its suitability and will take responsibility for its inclusion in class.

Independent/Outside Reading: In all our courses, there is an expectation that students will complete reading independently for a variety of purposes; unless otherwise stated, students will complete one outside reading experience per year at a minimum. Course committees may create select lists for independent reading, or faculty may, with the same care for core or selected works, have freedom to work individually and creatively in this area if the independent reading is meant to support a project or paper. If working individually, it is expected that the faculty member will approve the approach with the department coordinator or chair.

Film or Documentary: The teaching of film or documentary material in its entirety will follow the same standards as set above for all other texts and will require adoption of the film through our adoption process; in addition, a letter of notice to parents should be sent home separately if the ratings of those films fall outside of the expected age group