

Class of 2029 Summer Reading Assignment

Rationale for Summer Reading:

Welcome, St. X Sophomores! 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:

1. Choose ONE novel from the list below.
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.

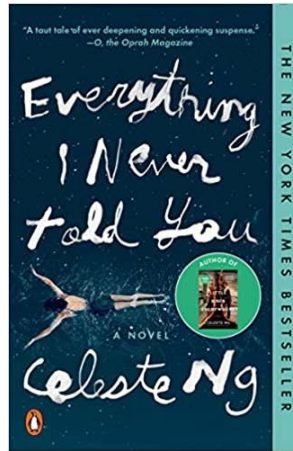
Annotations

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.

Everything I Never Told You



<https://www.josephbeth.com/book/9780143127550>

ISBN: 978-0143127550

Description

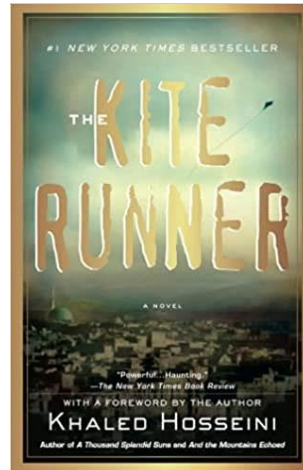
The acclaimed debut novel by the author of *Little Fires Everywhere*.

“A taut tale of ever deepening and quickening suspense.” —O, the Oprah Magazine

“Explosive . . . Both a propulsive mystery and a profound examination of a mixed-race family.” —*Entertainment Weekly*

“Lydia is dead. But they don’t know this yet.” So begins this exquisite novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia’s body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos. A profoundly moving story of family, secrets, and longing, *Everything I Never Told You* is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another.

The Kite Runner



<https://www.iosephbeth.com/book/9781594631931>

ISBN: 978-1594631931

Description

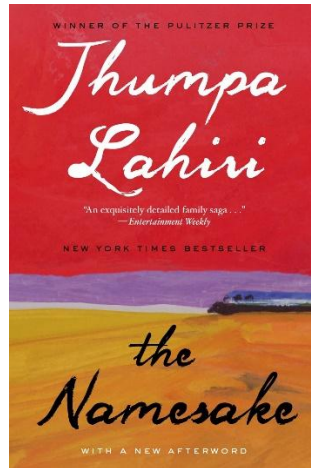
The #1 *New York Times* bestselling novel beloved by millions of readers the world over.

“A vivid and engaging story that reminds us how long his people [of Afghanistan] have been struggling to triumph over the forces of violence—forces that continue to threaten them even today.” –*New York Times Book Review*

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner* transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

Since its publication in 2003 *Kite Runner* has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic of contemporary literature, touching millions of readers, and launching the career of one of America's most treasured writers.

The Namesake



<https://www.josephbeth.com/book/9780358062684>

ISBN: 978-0358062684

Description

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER. Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri brilliantly illuminates the immigrant experience and the tangled ties between generations. *Namesake* is a fine-tuned, intimate, and deeply felt novel of identity from “a writer of uncommon elegance and poise.” (*The New York Times*)

Meet the Ganguli family, new arrivals from Calcutta, trying their best to become Americans even as they pine for home. The name they bestow on their firstborn, Gogol, betrays all the conflicts of honoring tradition in a new world — conflicts that will haunt Gogol on his own winding path through divided loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs.