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PINEWOOD AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Suggested Summer Reading for High School Students

Dear **Students** and **Parents**,

The American novelist George R.R. Martin once said that “*A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only once*”. It is beyond any doubt that reading has a tremendous impact on students’ English language and critical thinking skills, as well as their holistic development as individuals and internationally minded citizens. Because of the value we place on reading, the **English Department** has put together a **Reading List** wherefrom you may select books for your extracurricular reading over the summer:

Hemingway, Ernest

***The Old Man and the Sea* (1952)**

Awarded the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. It was his last major work of fiction. The story centres on an aging fisherman who engages in an epic battle to catch a giant marlin.

Hemingway, Ernest

***A Farewell to Arms* (1929)**

The best American novel to emerge out of World War I, the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his love for a beautiful English nurse.

Alexie, Sherman

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* (2007)**

This is the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Austen, Jane

***Emma* (1815)**

The pretty socialite Emma Woodhouse entertains herself by playing matchmaker for those around her. However, Emma's attempts at matchmaking cause more problems than solutions and may ultimately jeopardize her own chance at love and happiness.



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Austen, Jane

Pride and Prejudice (1813)

This comedy of manners follows the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman, and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a rich aristocratic landowner. They must overcome the titular sins of pride and prejudice in order to fall in love and marry.

Bradbury, Ray

Fahrenheit 451 (1953)

The terrifyingly prophetic novel of a post-literate future. Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness.

Bradshaw, Gillian

Beacon at Alexandria (1986)

The Beacon at Alexandria is placed in 293 a.d. Roman Empire, and tells the story of Charis, an amazing young woman who dresses as a eunuch and travels to Alexandria to study her medicine; something she couldn't do if she was not dressed up as a man.

Adams, Douglas

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1978)

Arthur Dent is trying to prevent his house from being bulldozed when his friend Ford Prefect whisks him into outer space. It turns out Ford is an alien who has just saved Arthur from Earth's total annihilation. Ford introduces Arthur to his myriad friends. Arthur makes his way across the stars while seeking the meaning of life, or something close to it.

Bronte, Charlotte

Jane Eyre (1847)

As an orphaned child, Jane Eyre is first cruelly abused by her aunt, then cast out and sent to a charity school. Though she meets with further abuse, she receives an education, and eventually takes a job as a governess at the estate of Edward Rochester. Jane and Rochester begin to bond, but his dark moods trouble her. When Jane uncovers the terrible secret Rochester has been hiding, she flees and finds temporary refuge at the home of St. John Rivers.

Bronte, Emily

Wuthering Heights (1847)

A man becomes obsessed with vengeance when his soul mate marries another man. Heathcliff is Cathy Earnshaw's foster brother; more than that, he is her other half. When



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forces within and without tear them apart, Heathcliff wreaks vengeance on those he holds responsible, even into a second generation.

Calvino, Italo

If On A Winter's Night a Traveller (1979)

An avant-garde novel published in 1979. Using shifting structures, a succession of tales, and different points of view, the book probes the nature of change, coincidence, and chance and the interdependence of fiction and reality.

Camus, Albert

The Stranger (1942)

The novel centers on a French man, Meursault, living in French-occupied Algeria. Meursault goes through life in isolation, reacting to events and relationships without much emotion or attachment.

Cervantes, Miguel de

Don Quixote (1605)

The plot revolves around the adventures of a member of the lowest nobility, an hidalgo ("Son of Something") from La Mancha named Alonso Quijano, who reads so many chivalric romances that he either loses or pretends to have lost his mind in order to become a knight-errant to revive chivalry and serve his nation, under the name Don Quixote de la Mancha.

Burns, Olive Ann

Cold Sassy Tree (1984)

Set in the US state of Georgia in the fictional town of Cold Sassy in 1906, it follows the life of a 14-year-old boy named Will Tweedy, and explores themes such as religion, death, and social taboos.

Chambers, Aidan

Postcards from No Man's Land (1999)

Two stories are set in Amsterdam during 1994 and 1944. One features 17-year-old visitor Jacob Todd during the 50-year commemoration of the Battle of Arnhem, in which his grandfather fought; the other features 19-year-old Geertrui late in the German occupation of the Netherlands.



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Chevalier, Tracy

Girl with the Pearl Earring (1999)

A historical novel set in 17th-century Delft, Holland, inspired by local painter Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring". Chevalier presents a fictional account of Vermeer, the model and the painting.

Chopin, Kate

The Awakening (1899)

Set in New Orleans and on the Louisiana Gulf coast at the end of the 19th century, the plot centers on Edna Pontellier and her struggle between her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing social attitudes of the turn-of-the-century American South. It is one of the earliest American novels that focuses on women's issues without condescension. It is also widely seen as a landmark work of early feminism, generating a mixed reaction from contemporary readers and critics.

Christie, Agatha

And then there were none (1939)

Ten people are invited to an isolated island, only to find that an unseen person is killing them one by one. Could one of them be the killer?

Christie, Agatha

Murder on the Orient Express (1934)

The elegant train of the 1930s, the Orient Express, is stopped by heavy snowfall. A murder is discovered, and Poirot's trip home to London from the Middle East is interrupted to solve the case. The opening chapters of the novel take place in Istanbul. The rest of the novel takes place in Yugoslavia, with the train trapped between Vinkovci and Brod.

Coelho, Paulo

The Alchemist (1988)

Originally written in Portuguese, it became a widely translated international bestseller. An allegorical novel that follows a young Andalusian shepherd in his journey to the pyramids of Egypt, after having a recurring dream of finding a treasure there.

Collins, Suzanne

***The Hunger Games* trilogy** (2008-2010)

The Hunger Games universe is a dystopia set in Panem, a North American country consisting of the wealthy Capitol and 13 districts in varying states of poverty. Every year, children from the first 12 districts are selected via lottery to participate in a compulsory televised battle royale death match called "The Hunger Games".



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Crane, Stephen

***The Red Badge of Courage* (1895)**

Taking place during the American Civil War, the story is about a young private of the Union Army, Henry Fleming, who flees from the field of battle. Overcome with shame, he longs for a wound, a "red badge of courage," to counteract his cowardice.

Crichton, Michael

***The Andromeda Strain* (1969)**

A techno-thriller novel written as a report documenting the efforts of a team of scientists investigating the outbreak of a deadly extraterrestrial microorganism in New Mexico.

de Bernières, Louis

***Captain Corelli's Mandolin* (1994)**

Set on the Greek island of Cephalonia during the Italian and German occupation of the Second World War. The main characters are Antonio Corelli, an Italian army captain, and Pelagia, the daughter of the local physician, Dr Yannis.

Dickens, Charles

***Oliver Twist* (1837)**

Born in a workhouse, the orphan Oliver Twist is sold into apprenticeship with an undertaker. After escaping, Oliver travels to London, where he meets the "Artful Dodger", a member of a gang of juvenile pickpockets led by the elderly criminal Fagin. *Oliver Twist* unromantically portrays the sordid lives of criminals, and exposes the cruel treatment of the many orphans in London in the mid-19th century.

Dickens, Charles

***A Tale of Two Cities* (1859)**

An historical novel by Charles Dickens, set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution. The novel tells the story of the French Doctor Manette, his 18-year-long imprisonment in the Bastille in Paris, and his release to live in London with his daughter Lucie whom he had never met. The story is set against the conditions that led up to the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror.

Dickens, Charles

***Great Expectations* (1861)**

It depicts the education of an orphan nicknamed Pip (the book is a bildungsroman, a coming-of-age story). The novel is set in Kent and London in the early to mid-19th century and contains some of Dickens's most celebrated scenes, starting in a graveyard, where the young Pip is accosted by the escaped convict Abel Magwitch. *Great Expectations* is full of



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extreme imagery – poverty, prison ships and chains, and fights to the death – and has a colourful cast of characters who have entered popular culture.

Doctorow, E.L.

Ragtime (1975)

It is a work of historical fiction mainly set in the New York City area from 1902 until 1912.

Dumas, Alexandre

The Three Musketeers (1844)

A French historical adventure novel. It is in the swashbuckler genre, which has heroic, chivalrous swordsmen who fight for justice. Set between 1625 and 1628, it recounts the adventures of a young man named d'Artagnan after he leaves home to travel to Paris, hoping to join the Musketeers of the Guard.

Edugyan, Esi

Washington Black (2018)

A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age story, it follows the early life of George Washington "Wash" Black, chronicling his escape from slavery and his subsequent adventures.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

Tender is the Night (1934)

Set in French Riviera during the twilight of the Jazz Age, the novel chronicles the rise and fall of Dick Diver, a promising young psychiatrist, and his wife, Nicole, who is one of his patients. The story mirrors events in the lives of the author and his wife Zelda Fitzgerald as Dick starts his descent into alcoholism and Nicole descends into mental illness.

Follett, Ken

Pillars of the Earth (1989)

An epic novel set in the twelfth century which explores the themes of violence and the intellectual excitement that was sweeping Europe at that time. The slow and painful birth of an early Gothic cathedral is a fascinating central motif for a tale which evokes its period brilliantly.

Forster, E.M.

A Passage to India (1924)

Set against the backdrop of the British Raj and the Indian independence movement in the 1920s, the novel is based on Forster's experiences in India, deriving the title from Walt Whitman's 1870 poem "Passage to India" in *Leaves of Grass*.



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Forster, E.M

A Room With a View (1908)

A novel about a young woman in the restrained culture of Edwardian era England. Set in Italy and England, the story is both a romance and a humorous critique of English society at the beginning of the 20th century.

Heinlein, Robert A.

Stranger in a Strange Land (1961)

A science fiction novel telling the story of Valentine Michael Smith, a human who comes to Earth in early adulthood after being born on the planet Mars and raised by Martians, and explores his interaction with and eventual transformation of Terran culture.

Heller, Joseph

Catch-22 (1961)

A satirical war novel often cited as one of the most significant novels of the twentieth century. It uses a distinctive non-chronological third-person omniscient narration, describing events from the points of view of different characters. The separate storylines are out of sequence so the timeline develops along with the plot. The novel is set during World War II, from 1942 to 1944. It mainly follows the life of antihero Captain John Yossarian, a U.S. Army Air Forces B-25 bombardier.

Hosseini, Khaled

The Kite Runner (2003)

It tells the story of Amir, a young boy from the Wazir Akbar Khan district of Kabul. The story is set against a backdrop of tumultuous events, from the fall of Afghanistan's monarchy through the Soviet invasion, the exodus of refugees to Pakistan and the United States, and the rise of the Taliban regime.

Hugo, Victor

The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1831)

The famous Gothic novel by Victor Hugo, and one of the key texts in French literature. The novel sought to preserve values of French culture in a time period of great change, which resulted in the destruction of many French Gothic structures and threatened to trivialise the vibrancy of 15th-century France. The novel made Notre- Dame de Paris a national icon and served as a catalyst for renewed interest in the restoration of Gothic form.



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Hurston, Zora

Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937)

It is considered a classic of the Harlem Renaissance, and Hurston's best known work. The novel explores main character Janie Crawford's "ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny". Set in central and southern Florida in the early 20th century, the novel was initially poorly received. Since the late 20th century, it has been regarded as influential to both African-American literature and women's literature.

Huxley, Aldous

Brave New World (1932)

A dystopian social science fiction novel. Largely set in a futuristic World State, whose citizens are environmentally engineered into an intelligence-based social hierarchy, the novel anticipates huge scientific advancements in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation and classical conditioning that are combined to make a dystopian society which is challenged by only a single individual: the story's protagonist.

James, Henry

The Turn of the Screw (1898)

A famous Gothic horror novella, following a governess who, caring for two children at a remote estate, becomes convinced that the grounds are haunted.

Joyce, James

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916)

A novel about a young man growing up in Ireland and rebelling against family, country, and religion.

Kafka, Franz

The Trial (1925)

One of Kafka's best known works, it tells the story of Josef K., a man arrested and prosecuted by a remote, inaccessible authority, with the nature of his crime revealed neither to him nor to the reader. Heavily influenced by Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*, Kafka even went so far as to call Dostoevsky a blood relative.

Keneally, Thomas

Schindler's List (1982)

The book tells the story of Oskar Schindler, a member of the Nazi Party who becomes an unlikely hero by saving the lives of 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust.



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Kesey, Ken

***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1962)**

Set in an Oregon psychiatric hospital, the narrative serves as a study of institutional processes and the human mind, including a critique of psychiatry and a tribute to individualistic principles.

King, Stephen

***The Shining* (1977)**

The novel's success firmly established King as a preeminent author in the horror genre. The setting and characters are influenced by King's personal experiences, including both his visit to The Stanley Hotel in 1974 and his struggle with alcoholism. *The Shining* centers on the life of Jack Torrance, a struggling writer and recovering alcoholic who accepts a position as the off-season caretaker of the historic Overlook Hotel in the Colorado Rockies. His family accompanies him on this job, including his young son Danny Torrance, who possesses "the shining", an array of psychic abilities that allow Danny to see the hotel's horrific past.

Lee, Harper

***To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960)**

To Kill a Mockingbird has become a classic of modern American literature, winning the Pulitzer Prize. The plot and characters are loosely based on Lee's observations of her family, her neighbors and an event that occurred near her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, in 1936, when she was ten. As a Southern Gothic novel and Bildungsroman, the primary themes of *To Kill a Mockingbird* involve racial injustice and the destruction of innocence. Scholars have noted that Lee also addresses issues of class, courage, compassion, and gender roles in the Deep South.

Malcolm X

***The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (1965)**

The result of a collaboration between civil and human rights activist Malcolm X and journalist Alex Haley. Haley coauthored the autobiography based on a series of in-depth interviews he conducted between 1963 and Malcolm X's 1965 assassination. The Autobiography is a spiritual conversion narrative that outlines Malcolm X's philosophy of black pride, black nationalism, and pan-Africanism.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia

***Love in the Time of Cholera* (1985)**

A novel written in Spanish by Colombian Nobel prize winning author Gabriel García Márquez. When Florentino Ariza sees Fermina Daza through a villa window, it is love at first sight. Though a man of modest means, Florentino's skill as a poet awakens a similar passion within Fermina. But Fermina's father disapproves of the affair and vows to keep the lovers



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apart. Fermina eventually marries an aristocratic doctor and they move to Paris. Florentino, however, still loves Fermina and patiently waits for a chance to be with her again.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967)

The novel tells the multi-generational story of the Buendía family, whose patriarch, José Arcadio Buendía, founded the (fictitious) town of Macondo. The novel is often cited as one of the supreme achievements in literature.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (1981)

A novella written in the form of a pseudo-journalistic reconstruction, telling the story of the murder of Santiago Nasar by the Vicario twins.

Murakami, Haruki *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* (1994)

In a Tokyo suburb, a young man named Toru Okada searches for his wife's missing cat—and then for his wife as well—in a netherworld beneath the city's placid surface. As these searches intersect, he encounters a bizarre group of allies and antagonists.

Orwell, George *1984* (1949)

A dystopian social science fiction novel and cautionary tale. Thematically, it centres on the consequences of totalitarianism, mass surveillance and repressive regimentation of people and behaviours within society. Orwell, a democratic socialist, modelled the totalitarian government in the novel after Stalinist Russia and Nazi Germany. More broadly, the novel examines the role of truth and facts within politics and the ways in which they are manipulated.

Orwell, George *Animal Farm* (1945)

A satirical allegorical novella telling the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmer, hoping to create a society where the animals can be equal, free, and happy. According to Orwell, the fable reflects events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and then on into the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union.



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Paton, Alan

Cry the Beloved Country (1948)

Set in the prelude to apartheid in South Africa, it follows a black village priest and a white farmer who must deal with news of a murder.

Plath, Sylvia

The Bell Jar (1963)

The autobiographical account of the author's teenage years and descent into madness and depression.

Saint-Exupery, Antoine de

The Little Prince (1943)

Moral allegory and spiritual autobiography, *The Little Prince* is the most translated book in the French language. The story follows a young prince who visits various planets in space, including Earth, and addresses themes of loneliness, friendship, love, and loss. Despite its style as a children's book, *The Little Prince* makes observations about life, adults and human nature

Zusak, Markus

Book Thief (2005)

The novel is about the adventures of Liesel Meminger in Germany during a time of war. By personifying "Death" as a tangible thing, (Death is in fact the narrator) the novel narrates a unique perspective into the world of the victims of WWII.

Stockett, Kathryn

The Help (2009)

A historical fiction novel about African Americans working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi, during the early 1960s.

Stoker, Bram

Dracula (1897)

Perhaps the most famous gothic novel of all time. As an epistolary novel, the narrative is related through letters, diary entries, and newspaper articles. It has no single protagonist, but opens with solicitor Jonathan Harker taking a business trip to stay at the castle of a Transylvanian noble, Count Dracula. Harker escapes the castle after discovering that Dracula is a vampire, and the Count moves to England and plagues the seaside town of Whitby.



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Swift, Jonathan

***Gulliver's Travels* (1726)**

A prose satire by the Irish writer and clergyman Jonathan Swift, satirising both human nature and the "travellers' tales" literary subgenre. It is Swift's best known full-length work, and a classic of English literature. Swift claimed that he wrote *Gulliver's Travels* "to vex the world rather than divert it".

Tolkien, J.R.R.

***Lord of the Rings* (1954-55)**

The world-famous epic high-fantasy novel, set in Middle-earth, intended to be Earth at some distant time in the past. The story began as a sequel to Tolkien's 1937 children's book *The Hobbit*, but eventually developed into a much larger work. Written in stages between 1937 and 1949, *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the best-selling books ever written.

Twain, Mark

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884)**

Commonly named among the Great American Novels, the work is among the first in major American literature to be written throughout in vernacular English, characterized by local color regionalism. It is told in the first person by Huckleberry "Huck" Finn, the narrator of two other Twain novels (*Tom Sawyer Abroad* and *Tom Sawyer, Detective*) and a friend of Tom Sawyer. It is a direct sequel to *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The book is noted for "changing the course of children's literature" in the United States for the "deeply felt portrayal of boyhood". Set in a Southern antebellum society that had ceased to exist over 20 years before the work was published, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is an often scathing satire on entrenched attitudes, particularly racism and freedom.

Vonnegut, Kurt

***Cat's Cradle* (1963)**

A satirical postmodern novel, with science fiction elements, by American writer Kurt Vonnegut. It explores and satirizes issues of science, technology, the purpose of religion, and the arms race, often through the use of black humor.

Walker, Alice

***The Color Purple* (1982)**

The Color Purple documents the traumas and gradual triumph of Celie, an African American teenager raised in rural isolation in Georgia, as she comes to resist the paralyzing self-concept forced on her by others.



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Wilder, Thornton

Bridge of San Luis Rey (1927)

A Pulitzer Prize winner, it tells the story of several interrelated people who die in the collapse of an Inca rope bridge in Peru, and the events that lead up to their being on the bridge. A friar who witnesses the accident then goes about inquiring into the lives of the victims, seeking some sort of cosmic answer to the question of why each had to die.