

## 2006 TWELFTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

As a senior, you will be reading a variety of contemporary and classic literary works from around the world. The selections you will read next year will offer unique insights to fascinating times and cultures, some of which may seem strange or exotic to you. The following readings will help you to broaden your outlook and challenge you to see the world as others have seen it. An (ALA) after the synopsis identifies each book designated as one of the “Outstanding Books for the College Bound” by the American Library Association.

Alvarez, Julia. *In the Time of the Butterflies*. HISTORICAL FICTION. In the Dominican Republic, the four Mirabel sisters plot to overthrow the brutal military dictator, Trujillo. Only one survives to tell their story of courage. (ALA)

Anaya, Rudolpho. *Bless Me, Ultima*. FICTION. The novel is about a Mexican-American coming of age in New Mexico. The book explores the boy’s relationship to his family, his religion, and Ultima, an elderly *curandera* (healer) who lives with his family.

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid’s Tale*. FICTION. In the future utopia of Gilead, fertile lower-class women serve as birth mothers for the upper class.

Chambers, Aidan. *Postcards from No Man’s Land*. Fiction. Seventeen is an age of self-discovery, and Jacob has gone to Amsterdam to explore his life. His quest strangely parallels discoveries about his grandfather’s life there during World War II. (ALA)

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. Sixteen year-old Griet is hired as a maid in the household of Delft painter Johannes Vermeer, where she becomes an assistant and muse to the famous artist. (ALA).

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. FICTION. A young African American man seeking identity during his high school and college days and later in Harlem, relates his terrifying experiences. (ALA)

García Márquez, Gabriel. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. FICTION. One hundred years pass in the life of Macondo, a Columbian village in which the grim realities of civil war and violence blend with the most magical happenings.

Hesse, Hermann. *Siddhartha*. FICTION. A young Indian man is tempted by the world but seeks enlightenment in the time of the Buddha. (ALA)

Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. FICTION Years after he flees Afghanistan, Amir, now an American citizen, returns to his native land and attempts to atone for the betrayal of his best friend before he fled Kabul and the Taliban. (ALA)

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*. FICTION. In a chilling vision of the future, babies are produced in bottles and exist in a mechanized world without a soul. (ALA)

- Lamb, Wally. *She's Come Undone*. FICTION. Teenaged Dolores grapples with obesity and the aftermath of divorce and rape.
- McCullers, Carson. *The Member of the Wedding*. FICTION. A young Southern girl is determined to be the third party on a honeymoon, despite all advice. (ALA)
- Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. 1987. FICTION. To save her daughter from slavery, an escaped slave murders her own infant daughter. Years later, her ghost haunts her. (ALA)
- O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried*. FICTION. These stories follow a platoon of American soldiers through a variety of personal and military encounters during the Vietnam War. (ALA)
- Pipher, Mary. *The Middle of Everywhere: The World's Refugees Come to Our Town*. NONFICTION. An Exploration of the difficulties and struggles of refugees settled by the United States government in Lincoln, Nebraska, as they try to adjust and build a life in America.(ALA)
- Rodriguez, Luis. *Always Running: La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A.* MEMOIR. A former Hispanic gang member feels that he had left the street life for good until he discovers that his young son has joined a gang.
- Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things*. FICTION. Set in modern India, the story deals with the bond of twins, an eccentric family, and forbidden love.
- Santiago, Esmeralda. *When I Was Puerto Rican*. MEMOIR. A Puerto Rican girl overcomes poverty and culture shock on her way from the countryside near San Juan to New York's Performing Arts High School and finally Harvard.
- Uchida, Yoshiko. *Picture Bride*. FICTION. Hana, a young Japanese woman, travels to America to marry a man she has never met. (ALA)
- Ung, Loung. *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*. HISTORY/MEMOIR. The perils of life under the brutal Pol Pot regime change a young woman's life forever, as she and her family find themselves fugitives of war, without even their names to remind them of what they lost. (ALA)