

# Saint Katharine Drexel Preparatory School ELA Summer Reading List 2021-2022

## ELA 8TH

Required Book: The Call of the Wild by Jack London

### *Summer Reading Choices:*

1. The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton  
**Essay Prompt:** Write an essay explaining why you believe each of the Greasers - Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dally - could be considered a hero. Include your own definition of a hero in the essay, and be sure to explain how each character, in his own way, meets your definition. Remember to support your ideas with examples from the book.
2. Souder by William H. Armstrong  
**Essay Prompt:** Write an essay about the following topic: "Being scared helps you to grow up." Think about a situation in your life where you were frightened and had to move forward anyway. Describe how you came through the situation, and describe how you grew from the experience.

## English I (9th Grade)

Required Book: Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

### *Summer Reading Choices:*

1. Night by Elie Weisel

**Essay Prompt:** The decisions people make often have a significant impact on their lives. Think of the decisions Elie Weisel was forced to make in the book *Night*. Discuss at least THREE decisions Elie made and analyze how those decisions positively or negatively impacted his life and affected his identity and innocence.

2. Number the Stars by Lois Lowery

**Essay Prompt:** Write an essay that explains what the quote “Being brave means not thinking about the dangers” means to you. (p.123)

## English I Honors (9th Grade Honors)

**Required Book:** Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

### *Summer Reading Choices*

1. The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

**Essay Prompt:** Anne Frank says in spite of everything, she believes everyone is good at heart. Do you believe that everyone is good at heart? Why or why not?

(2) I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

**Essay Prompt:** What characters serve as positive role models for Maya Angelou? How does Angelou come to her conclusion about the strength of a black woman? Use information from the story to support your claim.

## English II (10th Grade)

**Required Book:** Henrietta’s Dance by Rebecca Skloot or  
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

### *Summer Reading Choices*

1. A Raisin In the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

**Essay Prompt:** Have you ever had to make an important decision about money? If you and your family received a large sum of money from an inheritance and the will included the entire family, would the money be split democratically or would a particular family member get to decide it is to be divided? In what ways would this money make the family feel liberated? In what ways would this situation cause tension among the family members? Compare your point of view to the decisions that the characters in Lorraine Hansberry's play make.

2. Leonardo da Vinci by Walter Issacson

**Essay Prompt:** Issacson believes the term "genius" is too easily applied to people, but that Leonardo was one of the few people in history who indisputably deserved - or, to be more precise, earned - that appellation." Do you agree with Issacson about the overuse of the term "genius?" How is genius defined? Can you think of someone in either today's world or in history who would qualify as a genius?

## English II Honors (10th Grade Honors)

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2. Beloved by Toni Morrison

**Essay Prompt:** In an essay, discuss the relationship between the slave mother and her children. How were they during slavery? What was life like after slavery? Cite examples from the story that indicate any changes and support your claims.

## English III (11th Grade)

Required Book: The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald or  
American Dream by Norman Mailer

### *Summer Reading Choices*

1. A Street Car Named Desire by Tennessee Williams  
**Essay Prompt:** Despite Blanche's past life, her deceit and her manipulation of characters, the readers, and the viewers of the play, all tend to sympathize with her. In an essay, explain how this emotional reaction from all parties can be justified by identifying and describing three instances that illustrate her manipulation.
2. The True Story of Pocahontas by Linwood Custalow  
**Essay Prompt:** After reading the book and viewing the Disney movie, *Pocahontas*, compare and contrast the ways in which Pocahontas is portrayed in regards to the way she represented her people as well as her relationship with the Europeans.

## English III Honors (11th Grade Honors)

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American Dream by Norman Mailer

### *Summer Reading Choices*

1. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck  
**Essay Prompt:** Compare/contrast the characters of Lennie and George. Is their relationship similar to that of brothers, father/child, or best friends? Cite examples from the story that support your claims.
2. The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

**Essay Prompt:** Using any three of the mother/daughter pairs, show how the East-West conflict affected their relationships. Use examples from the story to support your claims.

## English IV (12th Grade)

**Required Book:** Hamlet by William Shakespeare

### *Summer Reading Choices*

1. Othello by William Shakespeare

**Essay Prompt:** In an essay, discuss how age, social position, and race impact the relationship between Othello and Desdemona. Cite examples from the play to support your claims.

2. Emma by Jane Austen

**Essay Prompt:** In an essay, consider in order the instances when Emma arrives at some degree of knowledge. Relate these instances to the plot pattern.

## English IV Honors (12th Grade Honors)

**Required Book:** Hamlet by William Shakespeare

### *Summer Reading Choices*

1. Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

**Essay Prompt:** In an essay, compare and contrast the characters of Edward Rochester and St. John Rivers. What were their strengths and weaknesses? Why does Jane choose Rochester over St. John? Cite examples from the text to support your claims.

2. Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

**Essay Prompt:** In an essay, discuss how the character Sydney Carton changes from the beginning of the novel to the end. Cite

examples from the text to support your claims.