Summer Vacation Reading List
for Students Entering Literary Studies or Composition 11

Prior to commencing your English studies in Literary Studies or Composition 11, you are required to read TWO books from the following list over the summer period. We hope that these choices will inspire you to continue reading throughout the year! Most are also available in ebook and audiobook formats. Other options for acquiring these books would include: public library, Kidsbooks, Chapters, and Amazon. Please read through the book titles and their plot summaries below to assist you in making your choices.

In Grade 11, we will be exploring the motif of the individual in society. Each of the books on the list will help you to familiarize yourself with the motif before beginning our exploration of it in class. All students are required to complete reading their two choices prior to the first day of class. Upon your return to school, your teacher will give you information about activities and assessments based on your book choices. Enjoy your reading exploration this summer!

**Moon of the Crusted Snow** by Waubgeshig Rice
FICTION
As one society collapses, another is reborn. With winter looming, a small northern Anishinaabe community goes dark. Cut off from power and communication with no foreseeable resolution, only very few residents truly realize the community’s shortfalls. When unexpected visitors arrive, escaping the crumbling society to the south, tensions rise and allegiances are divided. The hard winter months pass slowly, and the food supply dwindles as the death toll and panic rise, but the greatest threat to survival of the reserve might come from within the community itself.

**All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr
FICTION
Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure’s reclusive great-uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum’s most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining tow in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Marie-Laure and Werner, from warring countries, both having lost many of the people they loved, come together in Saint-Malo, as Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

**To Kill A Mockingbird** by Harper Lee
FICTION
Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the thirties. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man’s struggle for justice. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much.

**V for Vendetta** by Alan Moore
GRAPHIC NOVEL
Set in an imagined future England that has given itself over to fascism, this groundbreaking story captures both the suffocating nature of life in an authoritarian police state and the redemptive power of the human spirit which rebels against it.

**Maus** by Art Spiegelman
GRAPHIC NOVEL
*Maus* is a graphic novel by American cartoonist Art Spiegelman, serialized from 1980 to 1991. It depicts Spiegelman interviewing his father about his experiences as a Polish Jew and Holocaust survivor. The work employs postmodernist techniques and represents Jews as mice, Germans as cats, and Poles as pigs.
Educated by Tara Westover

Tara Westover was seventeen when she first set foot in a classroom. Instead of traditional lessons, she grew up learning how to stew herbs into medicine, scavenging in the family scrap yard and helping her family prepare for the apocalypse. She had no birth certificate and no medical records and had never been enrolled in school. Westover’s mother proved a marvel at concocting folk remedies for many ailments. As Tara developed her own coping mechanisms, little by little, she started to realize that what her family was offering didn’t have to be her only education. Her first day of university was her first day in school—ever—and she would eventually win an esteemed fellowship from Cambridge and graduate with a PhD in intellectual history and political thought.

An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth by Chris Hadfield

Chris Hadfield decided to become an astronaut after watching the Apollo moon landing with his family on Stag Island, Ontario, when he was nine years old, and it was impossible for Canadians to be astronauts. In An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth, Hadfield gives us a rare insider’s perspective on just what that kind of thinking involves, and how earthbound humans can use it to achieve success and happiness in their lives. Written with humour, humility, and a profound optimism for the future of space exploration, An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth offers readers not just the inspiring story of one man’s journey to the ISS, but the opportunity to step into his space-boots and think like an astronaut—and renew their commitment to pursuing their own dreams, big or small.

Night by Elie Wiesel

Night is Elie Wiesel’s masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. This new translation by Marion Wiesel, Elie’s wife and frequent translator, presents this seminal memoir in the language and spirit truest to the author’s original intent. And in a substantive new preface, Elie reflects on the enduring importance of Night and his lifelong, passionate dedication to ensuring that the world never forgets man’s capacity for inhumanity to man.

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Fading southern belle Blanche DuBois is adrift in the modern world. When she arrives to stay with her sister Stella in a crowded, boisterous corner of New Orleans, her delusions of grandeur bring her into conflict with Stella’s crude, brutish husband Stanley Kowalski. Eventually their violent collision course causes Blanche’s fragile sense of identity to crumble, threatening to destroy her sanity and her one chance of happiness.