Summer Reading List
for Students Entering Composition 11 Honours

Prior to commencing your English studies in Composition 11 Honours, you are required to read TWO books from the list below. Most of the listed titles are available in the St. George’s Learning Commons. Some titles may also be available as an e-book or as a PDF. Please read through the book titles and their plot summaries below to assist you in making your choices.

In Composition 11 Honours, we will be exploring a broad range of literature that includes fiction and non-fiction with the goal of developing your analytical reading, and writing skills. At the onset of class in September, these readings will be the focus of our class discussions and analysis; therefore, all students are required to finish reading their two choices prior to the first day of class. Upon your return to school, your teacher will give you criteria assessments that will be based on these readings. Enjoy your reading exploration this summer!

CHOICE TEXTS:

**Beartown** by Fredrik Backman  
FICTION  
People say Beartown is finished. But down by the lake stands an old ice rink, built generations ago by the working men who founded this town. And in that ice rink is the reason people in Beartown believe tomorrow will be better than today. Their junior ice hockey team is about to compete in the national semi-finals, and they actually have a shot at winning. All the hopes and dreams of this place now rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys. Being responsible for the hopes of an entire town is a heavy burden, and the semi-final match is the catalyst for a violent act that will leave a young girl traumatized and a town in turmoil. Accusations are made and, like ripples on a pond, they travel through all of Beartown, leaving no resident unaffected.

**In the Skin of a Lion** by Michael Ondaatje  
FICTION  
A story about immigrants and their neighborhoods, and the building of the city of Toronto, about capitalists and the workers they exploit, about love and revenge, loss and recovery. Told in a lyrical style with scenes set apart from each other yet obliquely carrying the story line, Ondaatje's novel spans the early 1900's leading up to WWII, although, surprisingly, the impact of WWI on Canada gets a pass. Patrick is a farm boy and an immigrant to the city; Nicholas is an immigrant from Macedonia, Carol is a poor girl hanging out with an enigmatic millionaire, and Alice yearns for Patrick to take notice of her - all of them in strange territory, looking for acceptance.

**To Kill A Mockingbird** by Harper Lee  
FICTION  
The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, To Kill A Mockingbird became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, To Kill A Mockingbird takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. Now with over 18 million copies in print and translated into forty languages, this regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal. Harper Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature.