

# MCST Summer Reading

"You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."

-Ray Bradbury

The MCST English department is delighted to present the following novels as this year's summer reading. Several MCST staff members and faculty have contributed their selections to the list. We hope that you will find a fiction or non-fiction novel, or two, to inspire you to cultivate your love for reading.

## Essay Assignment:

There is no summer project aside from reading the novel(s), but you are expected to write an essay during the first week of school. You will be permitted to use both the novel and any notes you have taken.

As active reading is an important skill, we encourage note-taking while reading. Notes should include comments on literary elements such as setting, characters, point of view, plot, mood, theme, motive, conflict, and symbolism, as well as points that intrigue, confuse, or inspire you. Write your comments on sticky notes and place them accordingly in the text. Or, keep a running log of notes that you can bring with you when return to MCST in the fall.

## The List

The following list contains a variety of literature from which you must choose at least one novel you have never read before to read over the summer (honors students choose two). Do some investigation at your local library or online to ensure that the novel(s) you choose suits your interests.

## **English Department Recommendations**

### **Fiction:**

*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, by Dave Eggers

*A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini

*Catch- 22*, by Joseph Heller

*Flowers for Algernon*, by Daniel Keyes

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou

*The Killer Angels*, by Michael Shaara

*The Pigman*, by Paul Zindel

*The Secret Life of Bees*, by Su Monk Kidd

*The Talisman*, by Stephen King

*Where the Red Fern Grows*, by Wilson Rawls

### **Nonfiction:**

*Into the Wild*, by John Krakauer

*October Sky*, by Homer Hickam, Jr.

*Tuesdays with Morrie*, by Mitch Albom

(See back for more)

## Faculty/Staff Recommendations

*A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity*, by Bill O'Reilly - Mr. DeMarco  
*A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving - Mr. Shaw  
*Aftermath: The Remnants of War: From Landmines to Chemical Warfare--The Devastating Effects of Modern Combat*, by Donovan Webster - Mr. Hye  
*All Over But the Shoutin'*, by Rick Bragg - Ms. Trimmer  
*C. S. Lewis's Space Trilogy (Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, and That Hideous Strength)* - Ms. Faber  
*Cannery Row*, by John Steinbeck - Mr. Condron  
*Crashing Through*, by Robert Kurson - Mr. Condron  
*Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*, by Eric Schlosser - Mr. Hye  
*Feed*, by M.T. Andersen - Mr. Condron  
*Finn*, by John Clinch - Mrs. Adams  
*Garbage Land*, by Elizabeth Royte - Mr. Hye  
*Invisible Man*, by Ralph Waldo Ellison - Mr. Shaw  
*My Sister's Keeper*, by Jodi Picoult - Ms. Weigel  
*Reading Lolita in Tehran*, by Azar Nafisi - Mr. Shaw  
*Sarah's Key*, by Tatiana de Rosnay - Ms. Weigel  
*The Double-Bind*, by Chris Bohjalian - Mrs. Adams  
*The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini- Ms. Schriever  
*The Once and Future King*, by E.B. White - Ms. Naegele  
*The Winds of War*, by Herman Wouk - Ms. Taperino  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston - Mrs. Ingrassia  
*Truman*, by David McCullough - Ms. Taperino  
*Uncommon Carriers*, by John McPhee - Mr. Hye  
*Watership Down*, by Richard Adams - Ms. Faber  
*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, by Robert Pirsig - Mr. Williams