

## Honors World Literature SUMMER READING 2019-2020

**Welcome! We look forward to traversing the globe with you through the eyes of some of the best writers of all time.** Students enrolled in Honors World Literature will be required to read two (2) novel selections over the summer: one fiction and one nonfiction. Be prepared to be assessed over these books immediately upon school starting. It would benefit you to annotate in your book (if you own it) while you read. The only assignment you have this summer is to immerse yourself in the splendor of these books!

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### NOVEL CHOICES

#### FICTION (choose one):

**1001 Arabian Nights** by Anonymous: After discovering his new bride has been unfaithful, the vengeful King Shahriyar has her executed and begins sleeping with a different virgin every night, executing her the next morning. Eventually, no more virgins can be found, so the vizier's daughter volunteers herself. To spare her own life, she captures his attention with wild stories of adventure and chivalry--tales of mystical lands, the many voyages of Sindbad, of Ali Baba's forty thieves and of Aladdin's magical lamp. As one story leads into the next, the king is too enthralled to end her life.

**Candide** by Voltaire: The swift and lively tale follows the absurdly melodramatic adventures of the youthful Candide, who is forced into the army, flogged, shipwrecked, betrayed, robbed, separated from his beloved Cunégonde, and tortured by the Inquisition. As Candide experiences and witnesses calamity upon calamity, he begins to discover that—contrary to the teachings of his tutor, Dr. Pangloss—all is perhaps not always for the best.

**All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr: Tells the story of two teenagers during World War II; a blind girl living in Nazi-occupied France and a German orphan boy serving in the Nazi Army. Marie-Laure's father works for the Museum of Natural History where he serves as the master of the museum's many locks. When the Nazis seize Paris, she and her father flee to Saint-Malo carrying what may possibly be the most valuable and dangerous jewel. Orphan Werner becomes an expert at building new technology landing him a special assignment at the academy for Hitler Youth. Werner travels throughout the war finally landing in Saint-Malo where he and Marie-Laure's lives collide.

**On Black Sisters Street** by Chika Unigwe: Four different women have left their African homeland in search of riches that they believe Europe possesses. However, when Sisi, the most mysterious of the women is murdered, their lives are instantly changed. As tragedy draws the women closer, they realize that they must choose between their secrets and their safety.

#### NONFICTION (choose one)

**Little Daughter: A Memoir of Survival in Burma and the West** by Zoya Phan: *Zoya Phan was born in the remote jungles of Burma to the Karen tribe, which for decades has been resisting Burma's brutal military junta. At age 13, her peaceful childhood was shattered when the Burmese army attacked. So began two terrible years of running, as Zoya was forced to join thousands of refugees hiding in the jungle. Her family scattered, her brothers went deeper into the war, and Zoya, close to death, found shelter at a Thai refugee camp, where she stayed until 2005 when she fled to the U.K. and claimed asylum. There, in a twist of fate, she became the public face of the Burmese people's fight for freedom. This is her inspirational story.*

**The Good Daughter: A Memoir of My Mother's Hidden Life** by Jasmin Darznik: Jasmin Darznik came to America from Iran when she was only three years old, and she grew up knowing very little about her family's history. When she was in her early twenties, on a day shortly following her father's death, Jasmin was helping her mother move; a photograph fell from a stack of old letters. The girl pictured was her mother. She was wearing a wedding veil, and at her side stood a man whom Jasmin had never seen before.

**Born a Crime** by Trevor Noah: By turns alarming, sad and funny, this book provides a harrowing look, through the prism of Mr. Noah's family, at life in South Africa under apartheid and the country's lurching entry into a post-apartheid era in the 1990s. He recounts raw, deeply personal reminiscences about being "half-white, half-black" in a country where his birth "violated any number of laws, statutes and regulations."

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions! ELA Academic Coach: Jessica Whyllly [jwhyllly@gocats.org](mailto:jwhyllly@gocats.org)