

## Valdosta High School 2019 Summer Study for Freshman Honors English

To enhance your learning experience at VHS in 2019-2020, complete the Summer Study assignment, which includes reading two books, watching a movie, and learning about current events.

**Please be aware that there is sensitive material in the options, parents and students should work together to choose materials to study. There are lots of choices for every student.**

**Read One Nonfiction Book** - Choose one book from the options and complete a 3-column chart.

- *The Pact* by Samson Davis, Rameck Hunt, George Jenkins (2002): Growing up in a crime-ridden area of Newark, N.J., the authors could easily have followed their childhood friends into tragic lives. But when their high school was visited by a recruiter from a college aimed at preparing minority students for medical school, the three friends decided to make something of their lives.
- *Must Win: A Season of Survival for a Town and Its Team* by Drew Jubera: Nestled amid cotton, pine, and swamps, the Deep South outpost of Valdosta, Georgia, has long drawn pilgrims from across the country to the home of the Wildcats, the winningest high school football team in America. Christened by national media as "Title Town, USA," Valdosta has thrived on the continuity of dominance: sons still play in front of fathers and grandfathers, creased men in pickups still offer steak dinners as a reward for gridiron glory, and Friday nights in the 11,000-seat stadium known as Death Valley still hold a central role in the town's social fabric. With a new coach, a new optimism, and a kaleidoscopic cast that includes an aspiring rapper, a beekeeper's son, the best athlete in the state, and the heir to a pro legacy cut short by a crack dealer's bullet, these Wildcats have been given one more chance. *Must Win* is the American story written across a bright green playing field.
- *Mary's Monster: Love, Madness, and How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein* by Lita Judge: Pairing free verse with over three hundred pages of black-and-white watercolor illustrations, *Mary's Monster* is a unique and stunning biography of Mary Shelley, the pregnant teenage runaway who became one of the greatest authors of all time. (graphic novel)
- *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb. When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday October 9, 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price. When she was shot in the head at point blank range while riding the bus home from school, few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in N. Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Read One Fiction Book** - Choose one book from the options and complete a 3-column chart.

- *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd: Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement, and the uneasy ways of love.
- *Unwind* by Neil Shusterman. In America after the Second Civil War, the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life armies came to an agreement: The Bill of Life states that human life may not be touched from the moment of conception until a child reaches the age of thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, a parent may choose to retroactively get rid of a child through a process called "unwinding." Unwinding ensures that the child's life doesn't "technically" end by transplanting all the organs in the child's body to various recipients. Now a common and accepted practice in society, troublesome or

unwanted teens are able to easily be unwound. With breath-taking suspense, this book follows three teens who all become runaway Unwinds as their paths intersect and lives hang in the balance.

- *The Martian* by Andy Weir. Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills – and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit – he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?
- *The Dinner* by Herman Koch. One evening in Amsterdam, two couples meet for dinner. They need to discuss their teenage sons. The boys have committed a horrifying act that was caught on TV. They remain unidentified—except by their parents. How far will each couple go to protect their child? This is a gripping psychological tale of grief, shame, blame, doubt, and pride passed on from one generation to the next.

### **Recommended (not required) Watch a Movie**

An educated person knows the power of popular culture. Please watch at least one of the following films:

- \* The Wizard of Oz (1937)
- \* Citizen Kane (1941)
- \* 12 Angry Men (1957)
- \* Star Wars (1977)
- \* Gandhi (1982)

- \* Forest Gump (1994)
- \* Shawshank Redemption (1994)
- \* The Green Mile (1999)
- \* Oh Brother Where Art Thou (2000)
- \* Troy (2004)

### **Recommended (not required) Follow the News**

A truly educated person also has knowledge of current events. Instead of limiting yourself to one source, examine a variety of sources. To know your world better, please do one of the following weekly:

- \* Read a newspaper or read the news online.
- \* Listen to the news on the radio.
- \* Read a weekly news magazine.
- \* Watch the news on television.

Enjoy your summer. We look forward to seeing you in the classroom. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

Pamela Childress – [pchildress@gocats.org](mailto:pchildress@gocats.org)