

Summer Reading is assigned to encourage students to read independently and to practice public speaking skills by giving a book talk. You must choose a book to read during the summer and come to school, with book in hand, prepared to share your analysis and impressions of the book with other students.

A suggested list of titles and authors is attached, but you are not limited to these titles or authors. We encourage you to use internet searches to review the suggested books and to look at other 10th grade reading lists. Choose a book that you will enjoy, one which you believe to be of recognizable literary merit, but appropriate to your grade level and personal reading ability and aligned with your family's values. You will also see a list of books which you may NOT choose, because they are often studied in class at MDS. You may NOT read a book that you have previously read and studied in school.

You will give an oral book talk in front of your class. You will be expected to :

- Begin with an attention-getting quote.
- Show the cover of the book and state the title, author, and genre.
- Briefly summarize the plot, without giving away the ending, including
 - Setting
 - Theme
 - Point of View
- Describe a character. Include two or three personality traits and supporting details from the text. (You may “become the character” if you wish.)
- Fluently read a favorite or significant passage (5-10 sentences) from the book, discussing why you chose this passage.
- Share examples of at least three additional literary techniques used by the author.
- Share your reaction to the book, tell the audience to whom you would recommend this book, and explain why.

As you read, you will want to annotate (mark) in the book as you encounter important passages, literary techniques, or significant details, so that you can easily find them later (use sticky notes, or highlight or underline and write notes in the margins). We suggest that you prepare notecards to keep you on track during your talk. You may want to start writing these notes as you read during the summer.

When you come to school in August, you must have your book with you. You should have marked in the book. If you have prepared note cards, bring them. Your teacher will give you a specific rubric to follow as you prepare the book talk and assign a deadline for completion. Your assessment will be based entirely on the oral book talk, including preparation, content, and presentation style.

In general, students should not select works typically taught in English classes at Mount de Sales Academy. A list of such texts, which students should not select, will be provided.

Suggested Reading List for English II, Tenth Grade

This list is not exhaustive, but suggestions only. Any one is a good choice, but also there are many excellent books not listed here. Use this list for ideas and inspiration.

General Fiction:

Adams, Richard. *Watership Down*

One of the most beloved novels of our time, *Watership Down* is an epic journey, a stirring tale of adventure, courage, and survival.

Fiver could sense danger. Something terrible was going to happen to the warren; he felt sure of it. They had to leave immediately. So begins a long and perilous journey of survival for a small band of rabbits. As the rabbits skirt danger at every turn, we become acquainted with the band, its humorous characters, and its compelling culture, complete with its own folk history and myths. Fiver's vision finally leads them to Watership Down, an upland meadow. But here they face their most difficult challenges of all.

A stirring epic of courage and survival against the odds, *Watership Down* has become a beloved classic for all ages. Both an exciting adventure story and an involving allegory about freedom, ethics, and human nature, it has delighted generations with its unique and charming world, winning many awards and being adapted to film, television, and theater.

Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*

Pi Patel is an unusual boy. The son of a zookeeper, he has an encyclopedic knowledge of animal behavior and a fervent love of stories and practices not only his native Hinduism but also Christianity and Islam. When Pi is 16, his family emigrates from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship along with their zoo animals bound for new homes. The ship sinks. Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450 pound Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi, whose fear, knowledge, and cunning allow him to coexist with Richard Parker for 227 days lost at sea. When they finally reach the coast of Mexico, Richard Parker flees to the jungle, never to be seen again. The Japanese authorities who interrogate Pi refuse to believe his story and press him to tell them "the truth". After hours of coercion, Pi tells a second story, a story much less fantastical, much more conventional - but is it more true?

Life of Pi is at once a realistic, rousing adventure and a meta-tale of survival that explores the redemptive power of storytelling and the transformative nature of fiction. It's a story, as one character puts it, to make you believe in God.

Johnson, Adam. *The Orphan Master's Son*

Pak Jun Do is the haunted son of a lost mother - a singer "stolen" to Pyongyang - and an influential father who runs Long Tomorrows, a work camp for orphans. There the boy is given his first taste of power, picking which orphans eat first and which will be lent out for manual labor. Recognized for his loyalty and keen instincts, Jun Do comes to the attention of superiors in the state, rises in the ranks, and starts on a road from which there will be no return.

Considering himself "a humble citizen of the greatest nation in the world," Jun Do becomes a professional kidnapper who must navigate the shifting rules, arbitrary violence, and baffling demands of his Korean overlords in order to stay alive. Driven to the absolute limit of what any human being could endure, he boldly takes on the treacherous role of rival to Kim Jong Il in an attempt to save the woman he loves, Sun Moon, a legendary actress "so pure, she didn't know what starving people looked like."

Part breathless thriller, part story of innocence lost, part story of romantic love, *The Orphan Master's Son* is also a riveting portrait of a world heretofore hidden from view: a North Korea rife with hunger, corruption, and casual cruelty but also camaraderie, stolen moments of beauty, and love. A towering literary achievement, *The Orphan Master's Son* ushers Adam Johnson into the small group of today's greatest writers.

Brown, Rosellen. *Before and After*.

This fascinating novel concerns a family's struggle to hold itself together after a teenaged son

murders his girlfriend. The story is told alternately from the viewpoint of the boy's mother, father, and sister. The story moves from initial shock and denial (our son could ne er have done this!) through anxiety over his disappearance and the difficulties of his capture and incarceration to the murder trial itself and finally to life "afterwards," after the family has had to relocate to another part of the country to avoid cruel gossip in the small New Hampshire town where these events took place. The family members are not only at odds with the community but frequently at odds with one another as well. Deep questions of loyalty, honesty, and love are forced to the surface in this psychologically riveting tale. Brown won an Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Conroy, Pat. *The Great Santini*

Ben Meecham is the son of Bull Meecham, a squadron leader and expert marine fighter–pilot who demands the best from everyone, especially his son. Bull dubs himself “the Great Santini,” and his family must obey when “the Great Santini has spoken.” Ben can never seem to live up to his father’s inhuman standards, and Bull’s unbending will dominates every aspect of family life. Ben endeavors to develop his own identity in the midst of a power struggle with his domineering and sometimes vulgar and abusive father. At times hilarious and heartbreaking, this novel presents lifelike portraits of an over the top bully who sacrifices compassion for discipline, and a young man who develops qualities that his father could never hope to possess. Conroy won a Stanley W. Lindberg Award for Literary Contribution and was inducted into the Georgia Writer’s Hall of Fame. The novel is a Random House recommendation for High School.

Evanovich, Janet. *One for the Money*

An unemployed discount lingerie buyer, Stephanie Plum is a tough girl from Trenton, New Jersey, who has an interesting story to tell: her only chance out of her present financial rut is joining her revolting cousin Vinnie in his bail bond business. She takes on a job and the often comical problems begin. She's known her primary target, Joe, since childhood, and he has the ability to charm and seduce her at his convenience. Cars start blowing up; people begin disappearing; and a sadistic lunatic adds Plum to his wish list. Stephanie's several unsuccessful attempts to involve Joe make a downright hilarious and suspenseful tale of murder and deceit. Stephanie’s narrative voice offers a winning mix of vulgarity and sensitivity. This is the first in a series of crime fiction books. Evanovich is a bestselling author.

Fitch, Janet. *White Oleander*.

Astrid is the only child of a single mother, Ingrid, a brilliant obsessed poet who wields her luminous beauty to intimidate and manipulate men. Astrid worships her mother and cherishes their private world full of ritual and mystery but their idyll is shattered when Astrid’s mother falls apart over a lover.

Deranged by rejection, Ingrid murders the man and is sentenced to life in prison. *White Oleander* is the unforgettable story of Astrid’s journey through a series of foster homes and her efforts to find a place for herself. Each home is its own universe, with a new set of laws and lessons to be learned. This is an unforgettable story of mothers and daughters, burgeoning sexuality, the redemptive powers of art, and the unstoppable force of the emergent self. Oprah’s Book Club

Hoffman, Alice. *Property Of*

In this novel, Alice Hoffman introduces a lonely outsider who wants desperately to belong. As she determinedly tries to become the "property of" a local gang's brooding leader, she will discover what

can, and cannot, be possessed and what can happen when you hand your heart over to a man who claims to care nothing about love. The main character becomes involved with the gang leader, McKay, and she stands by him through his drug use, loving her man so much she sees his habit as a way to hold him. Addicted to love, she becomes addicted to heroin too, because she cannot stand to be outside, alone. The story describes a struggle of growing up and moving on. Hoffman is a bestselling author.

Houston, James D. and Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. *A Farewell to Manzanar*

When the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor in 1941, seven year old American born Jeanne Wakatsuki doesn't understand what has happened. But the attack transforms her life: her father is arrested, falsely accused of aiding the enemy, and the rest of her family is sent to Manzanar, an internment camp.

Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*

Set in South Carolina in 1964, Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce hearted black "standin mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to free herself and Rosaleen. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power. NY Times Bestseller, 2003 SEBA Award for Best Fiction Novel

McLaughlin, Emma and Nicola Kraus. *The Nanny Diaries*.

Co-written by two former nannies, the novel follows the adventures of a college senior, Nan, as she works as a nanny for a wealthy, crumbling New York City family. Her charge is a four-year-old boy who cannot control his mom's scheduling him for every activity known to the Upper East Side, including ice skating, French lessons, and a Mommy and Me group largely attended by nannies. Nan also finds a love interest, referred to as "Harvard Hottie." What makes the book so impossible to put down is the suspense of finding out what the unbelievably inconsiderate Mrs. X or the adulterous, distant Mr. X will demand of Nan next. Will Nanny continue to work for Mrs. X and let the job take control of her life or will she be forced to abandon the little boy who so desperately needs her?

McGuire, Gregory. *Wicked*.

This imaginative fantasy novel retells the story of *The Wizard of Oz* from the point of view of Elphaba, a green-skinned, sharp-toothed witch from the West. Elphaba has always gotten a bad rap for her idiosyncrasies, but when she goes to college, she begins to find real purpose in her desire to expose the corruption in Oz. With obstacles like her shallow, materialistic roommate Glinda, Elphaba really captures the reader's sympathy. The book investigates both idealism and cynicism in its discussion of social, religious, educational, and political issues present in Oz, and, more pointedly, present in our day and time. The idealism is whimsical and engaging; the cynicism is biting. The author occasionally uses earthy language to create a feeling of authenticity, and he does not shy away from the sexual awakening of young adults. 1995 Bestseller, 2007 New England Book Awards Fiction

Picoult, Jodi. *My Sister's Keeper*

Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer-ridden older sister. Since birth, the 13yearold has donated platelets, blood, her umbilical cord, and bone marrow as part of her family's struggle to lengthen Kate's life. Anna is now being considered as a kidney donor in a last ditch attempt to save her 16yearold sister. As this compelling story opens, Anna has hired a lawyer to

represent her in a medical emancipation suit to allow her to have control over her own body. Picoult skillfully relates the ensuing drama from multiple points of view. Everyone's quandary is explicated and each of the characters is fully developed. There seems to be no easy answer, and readers are likely to be sympathetic to all sides of the case. This is a real page turner and frighteningly thought provoking. Alex Award, Vermont Green Mountain Book Award, Best Book of the Year (Bookbrowse.com), IMPAC Dublin Literary Reward nominee

Russo, Richard. *Empire Falls*.

Miles Roby has been slinging burgers at the Empire Grill for twenty years, a job that cost him his college education and much of his self respect. What keeps him there? It could be his bright, sensitive daughter, Tick, who needs all his help surviving the local high school. Or maybe it's Janine, his soon to be exwife, who's taken up with a noxiously vain healthclub proprietor. Or perhaps it's the overbearing Francine Whiting, who owns everything in town—and seems to believe that “everything” includes Miles. In *Empire Falls*, Richard Russo delves deep into the bluecollar heart of America in a work that overflows with hilarity, heartache, and grace. The everyday life in this novel is realistic, and at times, the author uses strong language. 2002 Pulitzer Prize

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*

Once again, Earth is under attack. An alien species is poised for a final assault. The survival of humanity depends on a military genius who can defeat the aliens. But who?

Ender Wiggin. Brilliant. Ruthless. Cunning. A tactical and strategic master. And a child.

Recruited for military training by the world government, Ender's childhood ends the moment he enters his new home: Battle School. Among the elite recruits Ender proves himself to be a genius among geniuses. He excels in simulated war games. But is the pressure and loneliness taking its toll on Ender? Simulations are one thing. How will Ender perform in real combat conditions? After all, Battle School is just a game. Isn't it?

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse-Five*

Slaughterhouse-Five is the now famous parable of Billy Pilgrim, a World War II veteran and POW who has, in the later stage of his life, become "unstuck in time" and who experiences at will (or unwillingly) all known events of his chronology out of order and sometimes simultaneously.

Traumatized by the bombing of Dresden at the time he had been imprisoned, Pilgrim drifts through all events and history, sometimes deeply implicated, sometimes a witness. He is surrounded by Vonnegut's usual large cast of continuing characters (notably here the hack science fiction writer Kilgore Trout and the alien Tralfamadorians, who oversee his life and remind him constantly that there is no causation, no order, no motive to existence). The "unstuck" nature of Pilgrim's experience may constitute an early novelistic use of what we now call post-traumatic stress disorder; then again, Pilgrim's aliens may be as "real" as Dresden is real to him.

Struggling to find some purpose, order, or meaning to his existence and humanity's, Pilgrim meets the beautiful and mysterious Montana Wildhack (certainly the author's best character name), has a child with her, and drifts on some supernal plane, finally, in which Kilgore Trout, the Tralfamadorians, Montana Wildhack, and the ruins of Dresden do not merge but rather disperse through all planes of existence. *Slaughterhouse-Five* was hugely successful, brought Vonnegut an enormous audience, was a finalist for the National Book Award and a best seller, and remains four decades later as timeless and shattering a war fiction as *Catch-22*, with which it stands as the two signal novels of their riotous and furious decade.

(Other books by Kurt Vonnegut include: *Cat's Cradle*, *Player Piano*, and *Breakfast of Champions*)

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Lord of the Rings*

In ancient times the Rings of Power were crafted by the Elven-smiths, and Sauron, the Dark Lord, forged the One Ring, filling it with his own power so that he could rule all others. But the One Ring was taken from him, and though he sought it throughout Middle-earth, it remained lost to him. After many ages it fell by chance into the hands of the hobbit Bilbo Baggins.

From Sauron's fastness in the Dark Tower of Mordor, his power spread far and wide. Sauron gathered all the Great Rings to him, but always he searched for the One Ring that would complete his dominion.

When Bilbo reached his eleventy-first birthday he disappeared, bequeathing to his young cousin Frodo the Ruling Ring and a perilous quest: to journey across Middle-earth, deep into the shadow of the Dark Lord, and destroy the Ring by casting it into the Cracks of Doom.

The Lord of the Rings tells of the great quest undertaken by Frodo and the Fellowship of the Ring: Gandalf the Wizard; the hobbits Merry, Pippin, and Sam; Gimli the Dwarf; Legolas the Elf; Boromir of Gondor; and a tall, mysterious stranger called Strider.

(There are single volume copies of the entire text or you can get each volume separately: *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*.)

McKinley, Robin. *The Hero and the Crown*

An outcast princess must earn her birthright as a hero of the realm—in this “utterly engrossing” Newbery Medal-winning fantasy (*The New York Times*).

Aerin is an outcast in her own father's court, daughter of the foreign woman who, it was rumored, was a witch, and enchanted the king to marry her.

She makes friends with her father's lame, retired warhorse, Talat, and discovers an old, overlooked, and dangerously imprecise recipe for dragon-fire-proof ointment in a dusty corner of her father's library. Two years, many canter circles to the left to strengthen Talat's weak leg, and many burnt twigs (and a few fingers) secretly experimenting with the ointment recipe later, Aerin is present when someone comes from an outlying village to report a marauding dragon to the king. Aerin slips off alone to fetch her horse, her sword, and her fireproof ointment . . .

But modern dragons, while formidable opponents fully capable of killing a human being, are small and accounted vermin. There is no honor in killing dragons. The great dragons are a tale out of ancient history.

That is, until the day that the king is riding out at the head of an army. A weary man on an exhausted horse staggers into the courtyard where the king's troop is assembled: “The Black Dragon has come . . . Maur, who has not been seen for generations, the last of the great dragons, great as a mountain. Maur has awakened.”

(also by Robin McKinley: *The Blue Sword*)

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*

Madeleine L'Engle's groundbreaking science fiction and fantasy classic, soon to be a major motion picture. This movie tie-in audiobook includes an introduction read by director Ava DuVernay, a foreword read by the author, and an afterword read by Madeleine L'Engle's granddaughter Charlotte Jones Voiklis.

Meg Murry, her little brother Charles Wallace, and their mother are having a midnight snack on a dark and stormy night when an unearthly stranger appears at their door. He claims to have been blown off course and goes on to tell them that there is such a thing as a "tesseract", which, if you didn't know, is a wrinkle in time. Meg's father had been experimenting with time travel when he suddenly disappeared. Will Meg, Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin outwit the forces of evil as they search through space for their father?

In 1962, Madeleine L'Engle debuted her novel *A Wrinkle in Time*, which would go on to win the 1963 Newbery Medal. Bridging science and fantasy, darkness and light, fear and friendship, the story became a classic of children's literature and is beloved around the world. Now Disney is taking it to the silver screen! Directed by Ava DuVernay and with an all-star cast that includes Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, Mindy Kaling, Chris Pine, and newcomer Storm Reid, the major motion picture brings the world of *Wrinkle* to life for a new generation of fans.

A Wrinkle in Time is the first book in The Time Quintet, which consists of *A Wrinkle in Time*, *A Wind in the Door*, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, *Many Waters*, and *An Acceptable Time*.

LeGuin, Ursula. *A Wizard of Earthsea* (first of the Earthsea Cycle)

Originally published in 1968, Ursula K. Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea* marks the first of the six now beloved Earthsea titles. Ged was the greatest sorcerer in Earthsea, but in his youth he was the reckless Sparrowhawk. In his hunger for power and knowledge, he tampered with long-held secrets and loosed a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tumultuous tale of his testing, how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed an ancient dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance.

Stewart, Mary. *The Crystal Cave*

Born the bastard son of a Welsh princess, Myrddin Emrys - or as he would later be known, Merlin - leads a perilous childhood, haunted by portents and visions. But destiny has great plans for this no-man's-son, taking him from prophesying before High King Vortigern to the crowning of Uther Pendragon, and the conception of Arthur, king for once and always.

This is the first book in what is now a five book series.

Asimov, Isaac. *I, Robot*

This classic science fiction masterwork by Isaac Asimov weaves stories about robots, humanity, and the deep questions of existence into a novel of shocking intelligence and heart.

Also by Asimov: ***The Foundation Series***

The initial trilogy—*Foundation*, *Foundation and Empire*, and *Second Foundation*—is a science fiction classic. Assimove added to the trilogy to make a larger and richer series.

Clarke, Arthur C. *Childhood's End*

In the near future, enormous silver spaceships appear without warning over mankind's largest cities. They belong to the Overlords, an alien race far superior to humanity in technological development. Their purpose is to dominate Earth. Their demands, however, are surprisingly benevolent: end war, poverty, and

cruelty. Their presence, rather than signaling the end of humanity, ushers in a golden age . . . or so it seems.

Without conflict, human culture and progress stagnate. As the years pass, it becomes clear that the Overlords have a hidden agenda for the evolution of the human race that may not be as benevolent as it seems.

Verne, Jules. *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea: A Tour of the Underwater World is a classic action-adventure novel by French author Jules Verne. Published in 1870, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* has become one of the most widely recognized novels in the science fiction genre. Much alike to the famous at-sea adventure novel *Moby Dick*, naturalist Dr. Aronnax sets out on an epic conquest to capture an evasive sea monster. In this novel, their submarine, the Nautilus, Captain Nemo, and Doctor Aronnax travel deep into the uncharted territory of a hazardous sea, facing several underwater perils along the way.

Burroughs, Edgar Rice. *A Princess of Mars*

First serialized in the pulp magazine *All-Story Magazine* between February and July of 1912, *A Princess of Mars* is the first novel in Edgar Rice Burroughs's classic "Barsoom" series, set on the planet Mars. At the center of the series is the protagonist John Carter, a Confederate Captain of the American Civil War, who finds himself mysteriously transported to the planet Mars. Upon arrival John Carter discovers that the lower gravity of the planet has endowed him a super human strength and agility. This prowess helps him to win the allegiance of the Tharks, a nomadic war-like tribe of green six-limbed aliens. Edgar Rice Burroughs's Mars is a desert world, a dying planet which is caught in the conflict between the "Green Martians", or the Tharks, and the "Red Martians", a group of humanoids who inhabit a loose network of city-states and control the planet's canals and agriculture. John Carter soon finds himself embroiled in the political conflict between the two "Red Martian" city states of Zodanga and Helium when he rescues and falls in love with the beautiful Dejah Thoris, Princess of Helium. *A Princess of Mars* is both a romantic adventure and a science fiction tale of fantasy which has been an inspiration to countless science fiction writers ever since its first publication.

Bradbury, Ray. *Something Wicked This Way Comes*

Few American novels written this century have endured in the heart and mind as has this one - Ray Bradbury's incomparable masterwork of the dark fantastic.

A carnival rolls in sometime after the midnight hour on a chill Midwestern October eve, ushering in Halloween a week before its time. A calliope's shrill siren song beckons to all with a seductive promise of dreams and youth regained. In this season of dying, Cooger & Dark's Pandemonium Shadow Show has come to Green Town, Illinois, to destroy every life touched by its strange and sinister mystery. And two inquisitive boys standing precariously on the brink of adulthood will soon discover the secret of the satanic raree-show's smoke, mazes, and mirrors, as they learn all too well the heavy cost of wishes - and the stuff of nightmare.

Classics

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*

Pride and Prejudice is a story of love and English life during the Georgian era. Mr. Bennett is an English gentleman who lives in Hertfordshire with his wife, overbearing woman. The Bennets have five daughters: the beautiful Jane, the clever Elizabeth, the scholar Mary, the immature Kitty and the wild Lydia. Unfortunately for the Bennets, if Mr Bennet dies, their home will be inherited by a distant cousin they

have never met, so future happiness and security of the family depends on the daughters making good marriages

Pride and Prejudice is Austen's best known novel, but all of them are worth reading—all of them very funny and perceptive—including *Sense and Sensibility*, *Mansfield Park*, and (my favorite) *Persuasion*.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*

Jane Eyre (originally published as *Jane Eyre: An Autobiography*) is a novel by English writer Charlotte Brontë. It was published on 16 October 1847, by Smith, Elder & Co. of London, England, under the pen name "Currer Bell." The first American edition was published the following year by Harper & Brothers of New York. Primarily of the bildungsroman genre, *Jane Eyre* follows the emotions and experiences of its title character, including her growth to adulthood, and her love for Mr. Rochester, the byronic master of fictitious Thornfield Hall. In its internalisation of the action—the focus is on the gradual unfolding of Jane's moral and spiritual sensibility, and all the events are coloured by a heightened intensity that was previously the domain of poetry—*Jane Eyre* revolutionised the art of fiction. Charlotte Brontë has been called the 'first historian of the private consciousness' and the literary ancestor of writers like Joyce and Proust. The novel contains elements of social criticism, with a strong sense of morality at its core, but is nonetheless a novel many consider ahead of its time given the individualistic character of Jane and the novel's exploration of classism, sexuality, religion, and proto-feminism.

London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild*

The Call of the Wild is a novel by Jack London published in 1903. The story is set in the Yukon during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush—a period in which strong sled dogs were in high demand. The novel's central character is a dog named Buck, a domesticated dog living at a ranch in the Santa Clara Valley of California as the story opens. Stolen from his home and sold into service as sled dog in Alaska, he reverts to a wild state. Buck is forced to fight in order to dominate other dogs in a harsh climate. Eventually he sheds the veneer of civilization, relying on primordial instincts and learned experience to emerge as a leader in the wild. London lived for most of a year in the Yukon collecting material for the book. The story was serialized in the *Saturday Evening Post* in the summer of 1903; a month later it was released in book form. The novel's great popularity and success made a reputation for London. Much of its appeal derives from the simplicity of this tale of survival. As early as 1908 the story was adapted to film and it has since seen several more cinematic adaptations.

Stevenson, Robert Lewis. *Treasure Island*

Peg-legged pirates, colorful parrots, and plundered riches—they're all here in Robert Louis Stevenson's original seafaring adventure.

When young Jim Hawkins decides to follow a map to buried treasure, he must befriend or outsmart memorable characters such as pirate Long John Silver, captain Billy Bones, and island man Ben Gunn. Mutinous plans, mysterious deaths, and a tangle of double crosses keep Jim guessing all the way to the prize.

Inspired by real-life seafarers, Stevenson captures the adventurous spirit of the times and the imagination of readers, young and old alike.

Hemingway, Ernest. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

For Whom the Bell Tolls begins and ends in a pine scented forest, somewhere in Spain. The year is 1937 and the Spanish Civil War is in full swing. Robert Jordan, a demolitions expert attached to the International

Brigades...has come to blow up a bridge on behalf of the antifascist guerilla forces. He hopes he'll be able to rely on their local leader, Pablo, to help carry out the mission, but upon meeting him, Jordan has his doubts. *For Whom the Bell Tolls* combines two of the author's recurring obsessions: war and personal honor. The pivotal battle scene involving El Sordo's last stand is a showcase for Hemingway's narrative powers, but the quieter, ongoing conflict within Robert Jordan as he struggles to fulfill his mission perhaps at the cost of his own life is a testament to his creator's psychological acuity. By turns brutal and compassionate, it is arguably Hemingway's most mature work and one of the best war novels of the 20th century. Alix Wilber for Barnes & Noble Classics

Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*

Widely recognized as Willa Cather's greatest novel, *My Antonia* is a soulful and rich portrait of a pioneer woman's simple yet heroic life. The spirited daughter of Bohemian immigrants, Antonia must adapt to a hard existence on the desolate prairies of the Midwest. Enduring childhood poverty, teenage seduction, and family tragedy, she eventually becomes a wife and mother on a Nebraska farm. A fictional record of how women helped forge the communities that formed a nation, *My Antonia* is also a hauntingly eloquent celebration of the strength, courage, and spirit of America's early pioneers. –Gordon Tapper for Barnes & Noble Classics

Also consider works by Dante, Chaucer, Dickens, Thackeray, Milton, and so on. You are mature enough to handle just about anything.

Nonfiction

Dana, Richard Henry. *Two Years before the Mast*

Two Years Before the Mast is the true story of Richard Henry Dana's voyage aboard the "Pilgrim" on a trip around Cape Horn during the years 1834 to 1836. Intended as an account of "the life of a common sailor at sea as it really is", "Two Years Before the Mast" details a voyage from Boston to San Francisco to trade goods from the east for cow hides. "Two Years Before the Mast" is a classic depiction of maritime life in the 19th century. Included in this edition is the appendix, "Twenty-Four Years After" written and added by the author in 1869.

Colton, Larry. *Counting Coup: A True Story of Basketball and Honor on Little Big Horn*

This is a true story of life on an American Indian reservation where despite all the stereotypical obstacles (alcohol and drug addictions, the reliance on gambling and split families, usually because of the other challenges), hope can still be found in small accomplishments and signs of progress. The author, Colton, takes on this stark world headfirst and develops a wonderful inside story of both failure and accomplishment. The detailed, upclose narrative centers on one standout player in particular, Sharon LaForge, a moody teenager enduring incredible adversity. Colton portrays teenage life on a reservation with candor.

Grogan, John. *Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog*

This book is a tribute to a Labrador Retriever, Marley, who doesn't fit the mold of an eventempered, calm and reliable dog companion. Newlyweds, John and Jennie Grogan, adopted the sweet, affectionate puppy who grew into a lovably naughty and hyperactive dog. This story tells the adventures the parents and children (eventually three) enjoyed with the overly energetic but endearing dog.

2006 Quill Award.

Hickam, Homer. *Rocket Boys*

Inspired by Werner von Braun and his Cape Canaveral team, 14-year-old Homer Hickam decided in 1957 to build his own rockets. They were his ticket out of Coalwood, West Virginia, a mining town that everyone knew was dying everyone except Sonny's father, the mine superintendent and a company man so dedicated that his family rarely saw him. Hickam's smart, iconoclastic mother wanted her son to become something more than a miner and, along with a female science teacher, encouraged the efforts of his grandiosely named Big Creek Missile Agency. He grew up to be a NASA engineer and his memoir of the bumpy ride toward a gold medal at the National Science Fair in 1960, an unprecedented honor for a miner's kid is rich in humor as well as warm sentiment. Hickam vividly evokes a world of close communal ties in which a storekeeper who sold him saltpeter warned, "Listen, rocket boy. This stuff can blow you to kingdom come." Hickam is candid about the deep disagreements and tensions in his parents' marriage, even as he movingly depicts their quiet loyalty to each other. The portrait of his ultimately successful campaign to win his aloof father's respect is equally affecting.

Pelzer, David. *A Child Called It*.

This autobiographical account charts the abuse of a young boy as his alcoholic mother first isolates him from the rest of the family; then torments him; and finally nearly kills him through starvation, poisoning, and one dramatic stabbing. Pelzer's portrayal of domestic tyranny and eventual escape is unforgettable. This author has overcome mammoth obstacles and succeeded in life. However, while personal accounts of child maltreatment provide crucial information about the realities of childhood, youngsters need insight and hope in order to digest the raw material of abuse. NY Times bestseller, Pelzer Outstanding Young Person of the World 1994

Wieviorka, Annette. *Auschwitz Explained to My Child*.

How could people do these things to children? What's a roundup? Were the Jews the only ones marked for death? So are all Germans from that time guilty? Why didn't the Jews fight? A 13-year-old Jewish girl asks 80 blunt questions about the Holocaust, and her mother, French Holocaust scholar Wieviorka, answers with the same directness. Originally published in France, and translated here in simple, conversational style, the small, spacious book in question and answer format provides an honest introduction to the historical facts and the elemental moral issues. Besides the roles of victims and perpetrators in the ghettos, transports, camps, and gas chambers, the questions persist about the bystanders individuals and nations who allowed the Holocaust to happen. There is absolutely no rhetoric or sentimentality, and the informal, conversational tone lends itself to discussion at home or in the classroom.

As Wieviorka says, the child asks questions that have haunted philosophers and historians for more than half a century.

Wolff, Tobias. *This Boy's Life: A Memoir*

Wolff begins his finely written memoir recounting the journey he and his mother made from Florida to Washington State in search of a better life. However, as has happened several times before, his mother gravitates toward an abusive man whom she eventually marries. Toby spends much of his youth in a battle of wills with his unhinged stepfather, using any means available to emerge victorious, including inventing an alter ego (Jack), lying, and stealing. Toby grapples with the typical experiences of young adulthood: trying to "fit in," learning what's right, and searching for acceptance from peers, parents, and other adults. Wolff creates a classic coming-of-age story told in gritty and beautiful prose.

New York Times Notable Book of the Year Award, O’Henry Prize Winner for three short stories

Wolfe, Tom. *The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test*.

Tom Wolfe's much discussed kaleidoscopic nonfiction novel chronicles the tale of novelist Ken Kesey and his band of Merry Pranksters. In the 1960s, Kesey led a group of psychedelic sympathizers around the country in a painted bus and presided over LSD induced "acid tests" all along the way. Long considered one of the greatest books about the history of the hippies, Wolfe's ability to research like a reporter and simultaneously evoke the hallucinogenic indulgence of the era ensures that this book, written in 1967, will live long in the counterculture canon of American literature.

In general, students should not select works typically taught in English classes at Mount de Sales Academy. The list below includes literary works often taught in English courses and students should not select works from this list:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain
The Aeneid, Virgil
All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque
Beowulf
Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
Frankenstein, Mary Shelley
Death and the King’s Horseman, Wole Soyinka
Dr. Faustus, Christopher Marlowe
Antigone, Sophocles
The Boys in the Boat, Daniel James Brown
The Crucible, Arthur Miller
Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury
The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald
Hamlet, William Shakespeare
Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad
The Iliad, Homer
Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Harriet Jacobs
Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare
Lord of the Flies, William Golding
Macbeth, William Shakespeare
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Frederick Douglass
1984, George Orwell
No Country for Old Men, Cormac McCarthy
Oedipus the King, Sophocles
Othello, Shakespeare
The Odyssey, Homer
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway
The Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver
The Red Badge of Courage, Stephen Crane
The Road, Cormac McCarthy
Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare
The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne
Seabiscuit, Laura Hillebrand

Summer Reading 2020-2021

English II, Grade 10

Mount de Sales Academy

The Sound and the Fury, William Faulkner

True Grit, Charles Portis

Uncle Tom's Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe