

Reading remains one of life's great pleasures and an important means of broadening our horizons of knowledge and experience. This list includes books of diverse cultural perspectives for readers with varying interests and abilities. Enjoy your reading discoveries. For English class, all students must read **FOUR** books, **one** of which is required. **Three** other choices from the list are left to you. Please be ready to discuss your reading early in the fall. **Bring the required reading book with you when you return. Electronic texts are permissible. If, for any reason, you cannot obtain the required book online or from your local bookstore or library, please email mschloat @deerfield.edu. He will help you resolve the difficulty.**

ENGLISH 500 required book:

Cather, Willa. **My Ántonia**

American Studies:

Bradley, David. **The Chaneyville Incident**

### Grade 11 Choices – select and read THREE

Abu-Jaber, Diana. **Crescent** An Iraqi-American chef discovers the ingredients for love and understanding of her Arab heritage as she cooks at Nadia's Café in Los Angeles.

Adichie, Chimamanda. **Americanah** Can love survive the cultural shifts as two Nigerians seek new homes in Great Britain and the United States?

Bradley, David. **The Chaneyville Incident** An African-American historian learns about his father and himself in uncovering the mystery of a shocking incident. (Recommended for Honors U.S. History)

Brown, Dee. **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee** Brown chronicles the intertwined fates of Native Americans and the immigrants who "tamed the West."

Butler, Octavia. **Kindred** Drawn back in time to slavery, a modern woman discovers a deeper awareness of her racial identity.

Cole, K.C. **The Universe and The Teacup: The Mathematics of Truth and Beauty** Explore links between mathematics and a variety of social, political, and scientific issues. (Recommended for FST)

Crane, Stephen. **The Red Badge of Courage** A naive boy heads to the Civil War to become a hero, but his courage falters in the face of overwhelming armies and an indifferent universe.

Diaz, Junot. **The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao** A creative Dominican teenager finds a way to express himself amidst the tensions in his life and family.

Durrow, Heidi W. **The Girl Who Fell From the Sky** Will Rachel, a biracial girl, find her identity in a society that doesn't know how to see her?

Egan, Timothy. **Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher** Explore the life and photographic work of Edward S. Curtis, who preserved Native American culture on film.

Erdrich, Louise. **Plague of Doves** An act by vigilantes haunts a family and tribe for years on an Ojibwe reservation.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. **This Side of Paradise** We follow Amory Blaine through prep school, Princeton, love, and loss, and leave him peering into adulthood and trying to figure out what he believes.

Ford, Richard. **Independence Day** Over a July Fourth weekend, realtor Frank Bascombe discovers again how to live with failed expectations in the land of the American Dream.

Greenway, Alice. **White Ghost Girls** Two American sisters come of age in Hong Kong in 1967 as the Vietnam War escalates and tensions rise in China.

Harbach, Chad. **The Art of Fielding** An error in a college baseball game sets off a spiral of consequences.

Hass, Robert. **The Apple Trees at Olema: New and Selected Poems** Prepare for the poet's DA visit.

Henderson, Smith. **Fourth of July Creek** Called to help a boy in distress, a social worker finds himself drawn into the paranoia of a survivalist in Montana.

Horwitz, Tony. **A Voyage Long and Strange** Rediscover the stories of the first visitors in the New World.

Jiles, Paulette. **The Color of Lightning** As the Civil War winds to a close, a freed slave tries to reclaim his family.

Johnson, Denis. **Train Dreams** A logger seeks the simple life in the emptiness and fullness of the West.

Kanter, Seth. **Ordinary Wolves** In remote Northern Alaska, a white boy rejects modern life in search of the ways of the elders in an Inupiak village.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. **The Namesake** Gogol Ganguli, son of parents in a traditional arranged Indian marriage, tries to define himself in his new home and changing lifestyle in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lee, Chang Rae. **Aloft** Even flying high in his small plane, a retired Long Island builder cannot escape the pull of his family's bonds and problems.

Maclean, Norman. **A River Runs Through It and Collected Stories** Maclean tells the story of his family and fly-fishing, of bar fights and bait fishermen, of a Montana "with the dew still on it."

Malcolm X. **The Autobiography of Malcolm X** Follows the turbulent life of this famous man, from his rough youth through prison and conversion to Islam and into his leadership period.

McCann, Colum. **Transatlantic** Traversing time, McCann weaves together the stories of an early flight across the Atlantic, Frederick Douglass's visit to Ireland, and the peace settlement between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

McCarthy, Cormac. **All the Pretty Horses** Two young men take off for Mexico on their horses and grow up as they experience love, imprisonment, and other adventures.

McPhee, John. **Levels of the Game** Arthur Ashe struggles to overcome prejudice against black tennis players.

Mengestu, Dinaw. **The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears** An Ethiopian immigrant battles the despair in his new community in Washington, D.C.

Meyer, Philipp. **The Son** In this multigenerational saga, a family leaves its mark on the Texan landscape over the course of a hundred years of clashes and conquests.

Mezrich, Ben. **Bringing Down the House** The inside story of six M.I.T. students who took Vegas for millions. An intriguing true story of how mathematics beat the system.

Morrison, Toni. **Home** A Korean War veteran struggles to recover his roots and save his sister.

Mullaney, Craig. **The Unforgiving Minute** Neither a West Point education nor a Rhodes scholarship could truly prepare an Army lieutenant for the crucible of war.

Otsuka, Julie. **The Buddha in the Attic** Japanese "picture brides" struggle to adapt in an American nation that revokes its initial welcome.

Patchett, Ann. **State of Wonder** Is there another "heart of darkness" deep in the Amazonian Rain Forest?

Philbrick, Nathaniel. **In the Heart of the Sea** Whalers survive a 2,000-mile sail in small boats after a shipwreck.

Plath, Sylvia. **The Bell Jar** After graduating from college, Esther Greenwood works in New York as an editor. As her life becomes more complex, her grasp on reality diminishes.

Poe, Edgar Allan. **Selected Stories** Poe penetrates his haunted and obsessed characters' secrets.

Potok, Chaim. **My Name is Asher Lev** A Jewish artist struggles with the demands of faith and art.

Powers, Kevin. **The Yellow Birds** Two Army privates in Iraq carry the war's burdens in different ways.

Sharma, Akhil. **Family Life** Grief, dislocation, and discrimination threaten immigrants in Queens, but a young man's resilience helps to restore the family.

Silver, Marisa. **Mary Coin** Silver imagines the story of the woman captured in an iconic photo of the Depression.

Steinbeck, John. **The Grapes of Wrath** Follow the Joad family from the Oklahoma Dust Bowl to California—the paradise that supposedly would end their problems.

Strayed, Cheryl. **Wild** With her life falling apart, Strayed finds clarity along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Vonnegut, Kurt. **Slaughterhouse-Five** Journey through time in telegraphic, schizophrenic style with Billy Pilgrim, who can never escape the horrors of the Dresden firebombing.

Walker, Alice. **The Color Purple** With the help of her husband's lover, the flamboyant blues-singing Shug Avery, Celie finds the courage to defy the oppressive restraints of race and sex and to delight in love.

Watson, Bruce. **Freedom Summer** White college students and black activists join together in the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. (Watson is a former Wilson Fellow at Deerfield.)

Watson, James. **The Double Helix** Relive the race to discover the structure of DNA.

Wolfe, Tom. **The Right Stuff** Travel into space with the seven Mercury astronauts.

Wright, Richard. **Native Son** Who or what is responsible for the murders Bigger Thomas commits?