Deerfield Academy **Grade 12/PG** **Summer Reading 2015**

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 600 required books:	Determined by your assigned course – you will be notified in early August.
Central Questions:	Smith, Zadie. **White Teeth**
City Lights:	Cole, Teju. **Open City**
Creative Writing – Poetry	Hass, Robert. **Praise**
Creative Writing – Prose	Strout, Elizabeth. **Olive Kitteridge**
Future Shock:	Eggers, Dave. **The Circle**
Jazz Age and Lost Generation:	Remarque, Erich Maria. **All Quiet on the Western Front**
Literature and Form:	Mitchell, David. **Cloud Atlas**
Love Stories:	Krauss, Nicole. **The History of Love**
Poetry Now:	**February: An Anthology (**Enrolled students will receive further information.)
Reading Insanity: Am I Crazy?:	Bohjalian, Chris. **The Double Bind** (Having read *The Great Gatsby* will add resonance.)
Telling True Stories:	Capote, Truman. **In Cold Blood**
The Empire Writes Back:	Melville, Herman. **Benito Cereno** (in *Billy Budd, Sailor, and Selected Tales,* Oxford Classics)
The Modern Temper:	Barker, Pat. **Regeneration**

<u>Grade 12 Choices – select and read THREE</u>

Adiche, Chimamanda. **Half of a Yellow Sun** In post-colonial Nigeria, three children of different backgrounds experience the ravages of civil war and relief of union.

Adiga, Aravind. **White Tiger** Ride along with Indian taxi driver becoming a "social entrepreneur."

Alexie, Sherman. **Indian Killer** An Indian serial killer seeking retribution for the white man's crimes against his people also must come to terms with his own past.

Best, Joel **Damned Lies and Statistics: Untangling Numbers from the Media, Politicians, and Activists** Resist the spin doctors. (Recommended for statisticians)

Brooks, Geraldine. **The People of the Book** Follow the fascinating tale of a book that preserves a cultural history under threats.

Burgess, Anthony. **A Clockwork Orange** Alex, the teenager from Hell, having committed unspeakable mayhem in a bleak, futuristic England, is 'programmed' by the state to sin no more.

Camus, Albert. **The Plague** Still timely, this existential novel studies the human condition and its meaning in the face of a deadly virus that sweeps through Algiers.

Coetzee, J.M. **Disgrace** This searing novel follows a white South African professor's descent into disgrace in a country he seemingly no longer understands.

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)

Danticat, Edwidge. **The Dew Breaker** A Haitian woman traveling to Florida from New York with her father learns the truth about his life and work in Haiti under the Duvalier dictatorship.

Dawkins, Richard. **The Blind Watchmaker** Examine the intricacies of evolution.

DeLillo, Don. **White Noise** One day the Gladneys are living an ordinary suburban life and then a toxic cloud descends, awakening them to the dangers pulsing through the American atmosphere and culture.

Desai, Kiran. **The Inheritance of Loss** Join the search for a better life with characters who find themselves as aliens in lands familiar and unfamiliar.

Egan, Jennifer. **A Visit from the Goon Squad** In a daring style, Egan explores how youthful rebels find or lose themselves as they reach middle age.

Ellison, Ralph. **Invisible Man** Nameless, yet real, Ellison's African-American protagonist journeys from the rural South to Harlem, discovering himself and his invisibility.

Finkel, David. **The Good Soldiers** An embedded reporter recounts a heartbreaking year in the life of American battalion fighting in post-surge Iraq.

Flaubert, Gustave. **Madame Bovary** Practioner of *le mot juste*, "the exact word," Flaubert examines the hypocrisies and small-mindedness of the French bourgeoisie, its conformities and spatial limits.

Forster, E.M. **Room with a View** Follow British travelers as they move between repressive England and the more permissive Continent.

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

Henderson, Eleanor. **Ten Thousand Saints** Two friends follow their hopes and hearts from Vermont to New York's East Village in the 1980s.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. **Remains of the Day** A beautifully realized chronicle of the decline of the British class system in the late twentieth century, as seen through the eyes of a loyal butler.

Kafka, Franz. **The Metamorphosis** "As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect." How can you resist?

Keegan, Marina. **The Opposite of Loneliness: Essays and Stories** Keegan's life was short on time but long on wisdom.

Kidder, Tracy. **Mountains Beyond Mountains** If you don't believe a single person can make a difference, you have to meet Paul Farmer, a physician who "would cure the world."

Klay, Phil. **Redeployment** Read these award-winning stories to discover what modern soldiers truly face.

Kushner, Rachel. **The Flamethrowers** Reno, a naïve young woman from Nevada, arrives in New York City in the 1970s and discovers the risky pull of art, radical thought, and motorcycle racing.

Lee, Chang-Rae. **A Gesture Life** A culturally alienated businessman confronts his Japanese and Korean heritage by exploring his role as a Japanese Army officer during the Korean occupation in WW II.

Levy, Andrea. **Small Island** In the wake of World War II, Jamaicans immigrate to Great Britain only to find the empire for which they fought does not easily embrace newcomers.

Mantel, Hilary. **Wolf Hall** Mantel guides you through the intrigues at the court of Henry VIII.

McCann, Colum. **Let the Great World Spin** Philippe Petit's high-wire walk between the Twin Towers binds the lives of an unlikely set of New Yorkers.

McDougall, Christopher. **Born to Run** Discover the secrets of long-distance running from the reclusive Tarahumara Indians of Mexico's deadly Copper Canyons.

McKibben, Bill. **Eaarth** Read this account and then consider the nature of global climate change.

Minot, Susan. **Thirty Girls** The fate of girls captured by Joseph Kony in Africa spurs an investigation by an American journalist who has seemingly lost direction in her life.

Moore, Susanna. **The Life of Objects** An Irish girl leads a fairy tale life in a Berlin home until the realities of Nazi Germany become too real.

O'Breht, Téa. **The Tiger's Wife** In a war-torn Balkan country, a young doctor unravels the story of her grandfather's death and remembers the tales he told.

Orringer, Julie. **The Invisible Bridge** Immerse yourself in love story that travels from Budapest to Paris and then deep into the horror of labor camps in World War II.

Ozeiki, Ruth. **Tale for the Time Being** Two lives, separated by the vast Pacific Ocean, intertwine through history and imagination.

Patchett, Ann. **Bel Canto** Terrorists interrupt a posh party in an unnamed South American country, and captors and prisoners alike discover new allegiances and passions.

Pittard, Hannah. **The Fates Will Find Their Way** Written by a Deerfield graduate, this novel follows a group of boys who spend years trying to make sense of 16-year-old girl's disappearance.

Rogan, Charlotte. **The Lifeboat** Survivors on an overloaded lifeboat decide who and what to sacrifice.

Shamsie, Kamila. **Burnt Shadows** The effects of the partition of India reverberate around the world and climax in the aftermath of 9/11.

Shepard, Jim. **Like You'd Understand, Anyway** Encounter a dazzling array of stories and places.

Smith, Zadie. **On Beauty** Race, class, and gender clash on a college campus where life's complications—and beauty—ultimately emerge. A nice companion to E.M. Forster's **Howards End.**

Unsworth, Barry. **Sacred Hunger** The horrors and inhumanity of the slave trade come alive in this epic about an attempt by escaped slaves to form a new society.

Urrea, Louis Alberto. **The Hummingbird's Daughter** Based on the story of a Catholic saint, this novel, with a touch of magical realism, chronicles life in pre-Revolutionary Mexico.

Vásquez, Juan Gabriel. **The Sound of Things Falling** Experience the startling stories behind the heartbreaking violence of the drug wars in Colombia.

Walter, Jess. **Beautiful Ruins** A romance started in a ramshackle Italian hotel renews fifty years later.

Wilkerson, Isabel. **The Warmth of Other Suns** Recounting the lives of three families, Wilkerson traces the great migration northward by African Americans through the middle of the 20th century.

Woolf, Virginia. **To The Lighthouse** Suppose the mind were time and time were water. If you can't, take this book to a spot where you can hear the waves and read aloud.

Verghese, Abraham. **Cutting for Stone** You'll be swept into this riveting tale about two generations of Indian doctors working in Ethiopia through tumultuous times.