

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 you cannot obtain a book from your local bookstore or online, please call the Deerfield Academy Bookstore at (413) 774-1513 to arrange a shipment.

ENGLISH 6-level required books - determined by your scheduled elective. We suggest you read your THREE optional books first. In early August, you will know which English class you have been placed in.

Central Questions:	Smith, Zadie. White Teeth
City Lights:	Cole, Teju. Open City
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
Mystery, Madness and Lies:	Bohjalian, Chris. The Double Bind (Having read <i>The Great Gatsby</i> will add resonance.)
Poetry Now:	February: An Anthology (Students will receive instructions.)
Problems in American Literature:	McCarthy, Cormac. The Road
Telling True Stories:	Horwitz, Tony. Confederates in the Attic
The Empire Writes Back:	Melville, Herman. Benito Cereno (in <i>Billy Budd, Sailor, and Selected Tales</i> , Oxford Classics)
The Modern Temper:	Barker, Pat. Regeneration
The State and Stage:	Miller, Arthur. All My Sons

Adichie, 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.

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.

Ashbery, John. **Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror** A Deerfield grad's most well-known and highly awarded collection of poems.

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.

Christensen, Inger (tr. Susana Nied). **Alphabet** The Danish poet's encyclopedic, yet short, catalogue of the world rests on twin forms of the alphabet and Fibonacci's sequence.

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.

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.

Eisenberg, Deborah. **The Stories (So Far) of Deborah Eisenberg** Stories of astonishing power and range by a master of the form.

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

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.

Gander, Forest and Zurita, Raul. **Pinholes in the Night**. Delve into this anthology compiled by one of the greatest living Latin American poets.

Gattis, Ryan. **All Involved** Travel through L.A. in the chaos and heartbreak following the Rodney King trial in 1992.

Hobbs, Jeff. **The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace** An Ivy League student's shining path of success ends in dark corners.

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.

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

Krakauer, Jon. **Missoula** A journalist exposes the truth about the manner in which one college handled sexual assaults on campus.

Lalami, Laila. **The Moor's Account** In the best tradition of historical fiction, Lalami imagines and recounts the first encounter between Spanish conquistadors and native tribes in 16th-century Florida.

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.

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.

Saunders, George. **Tenth of December** An undisputed master of the contemporary short story, Saunders writes brilliantly and profoundly about class, sex, love, loss, work, despair, and war.

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

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**.

Solnit, Rebecca. **Men Explain Things to Me** Brilliant, sometimes comic essays on the gender wars .

Torres, Justin. **We the Animals** A short novel that plunges into the chaotic heart of one family, the intense bonds of three brothers, and the mythic effects of their fierce love.

Vaillant, John. **Jaguar's Children** An illegal border crossing becomes an odyssey of risks and unexpected realizations.

Vanhoecker, Mark. **Skyfaring: A Pilot's Journey** From the cockpit of a jumbo jet at 36,000 feet, experience the world.

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

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.

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.