

**Dear Parents/Students:**

The English Department at River Oaks would like to welcome you to our summer reading program. Below are the requirements for all students entering the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, including a description of all assignments and/or exams due upon returning to school in August.



## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

In the Middle School, each student will have **ONE** required text:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading	From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler	Konigsburg
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading	The Cay	Taylor
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading	Hope Was Here	Bauer

All Middle School students at River Oaks will take an EXAM upon returning to school on the required summer reading book.

## **UPPER SCHOOL**

In the Upper School, the requirements are as follows:

**HONORS/AP** students will read three books

**NON-HONORS** students will read two books

FIRST, each student will have **ONE** required text:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
English I	The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho
English II	Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury
English III	Dracula	Bram Stoker
English IV	Bayou Farewell	Mike Tidwell

Upon returning to school, students will write an IN-CLASS ESSAY on the required book. Students will be able to use their books and should therefore highlight and annotate. Students will also be allowed to use a one-page outline developed in class.

SECOND, each student will read **ONE** (non-honors) or **TWO** (honors) books of his/her own choosing.

Each student is different, as are parental expectations. For that reason, we hope the selection process is a collaborative effort. Please observe the following requirements:

- Must NOT be a book the student has already studied
- Must be grade-appropriate (i.e. not the abridged children's version)
- Must be at least 150 pages

For each additional summer reading assignment, students will compose a READING GUIDE (1-2 pages). Each report should be typed, double-spaced and formatted according to MLA. Please use 1" margins and 12-point Times New Roman. The entire report should be no longer than two typed pages. Include the following:

- An introductory paragraph of no more than 100 words summarizing the book, including a statement concerning the central theme or idea.
- A body paragraph that introduces and explains a significant quote from the book; the quote should be no longer than three lines and should be in quotation marks; please cite the page number at the end of the quote -- i.e. (#).

- Finally, a one-paragraph conclusion that reviews the book, again about 100 words; please include WHY you did or did not like the book; feel free to compare it to other books (or films).

Each student and his/her parent(s) should also sign the report, certifying that the book selected was both approved and read. This assignment requires no research or additional sources, so avoid looking up information about the book(s) online. Using ONLY your reading of the book as the basis for your report is the best way to avoid plagiarism (using someone else's work as your own). The penalty for plagiarism is a ZERO.

## Reading Lists

The books on the following lists are suggestions only; due to the mature content of some contemporary literature, you are advised to preview the books before making your selection. You are NOT limited to these lists, in other words.

YALSA Booklists and Book Awards ~ <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists>

These lists, prepared by the Young Adult Library Services Association, target a variety of readers – from “Reluctant Readers” to “College Bound.” Most titles include one-two sentence summaries.

UC Berkeley ~ <http://reading.berkeley.edu/index.html>

Themed reading lists, including “War & Peace” and “Now That’s Funny.” The 2008 theme was “Bio-Graphy: Writing a Life.” Titles include short summaries.

## Prize Winners

The Michael L. Printz Award ~ <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/printz>

Annual award for “a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature.”

The Pulitzer Prizes ~ <http://www.pulitzer.org/>

Annual awards from Columbia University for “distinguished” works of American fiction, history, biography, poetry and drama

National Book Awards ~ <http://www.nationalbook.org/>

“The nation's preeminent literary prize” - categories include fiction, nonfiction, poetry and young adult literature.

National Book Critics Circle Award ~ <http://www.bookcritics.org/>

Annual awards for books published in English, including fiction, general nonfiction, biography, autobiography and poetry

The Man Booker Prize ~ <http://www.themanbookerprize.com/>

“Now in its thirty-ninth year, the prize aims to reward the best novel of the year written by a citizen of the [British] Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland.”