

June 2020

Dear Convent 10th Grade Students and Families,

“A book is a dream you hold in your hands.” -Neil Gaiman

At Convent & Stuart Hall, we encourage dreams, both big and small. We want our students to exercise their imaginations, to travel to far off places, to be excited by everything that life has to offer — and we believe reading can take you there.

We have identified an essential text at each grade level. Additionally, we invite you to choose at least two others, either from the list we have curated in development of the literary theme for 10th grade — **“The Promises and Dangers of First Person Narrative”** — or a work you self select.

The summer list is one we think and hope you will enjoy. We ask that you keep a journal of your reading. This is a great way to record your reading experiences and your thoughts on what you read and what it meant to you. Keep this journal over time as a personal artifact. You may be amazed to look back over your reading log and re-encounter the texts you discovered and the person you were when reading them.

Another resource for your summer reading and learning and a chapter within our ever-developing collection of *Cor Unum* resources is our [Anti-Racism Resource List](#). This is shared in support of continuing and deepening dialogue about topics that are challenging, often uncomfortable, and vital to the betterment of ourselves and our society. The [Essentials of Dialogue](#) from Generation Global have helped to guide our school community’s practice of creating safe and brave spaces from which to speak, listen and learn. This list contains multimedia resources for all ages.

Reading Prompts

Essential Summer Reading:

- [Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro](#)

This suspenseful novel twists and turns as readers are introduced to Kathy and her friends at a mysterious and elite boarding school.

Optional Summer Suggestions (please choose one or more):

- [And Still I Rise by Maya Angelou](#)

A collection of 31 poems written by Maya Angelou - lyrical and dramatic, exuberant and playful, speaking of love, longing, partings; of Saturday night partying, and the smells and sounds of Southern cities; of freedom and shattered dreams.

- [*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok](#)

A baseball game between their yeshivas brings Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders together; as they go from rivals to friends to the best of friends, each boy learns the ways in which their traditions make them similar and different.

- [*Ghost World* by Daniel Clowes](#)

This popular graphic novel explores friendship between two teens in their town as they criticize popular culture and imagine what life has in store for them.

- [*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy](#)

Family, love, and politics combine in this novel as a beautiful cousin's arrival upends one family's reality.

- [*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou](#)

Angelou's debut memoir explores her childhood and the events that helped shape her into the poet and person that she eventually becomes, sharing her path of survival of her trauma and her journey to loving herself and putting her voice into the world.

- [*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan](#)

Tan's novel explores the stories of four women who arrive in San Francisco from China in 1949 and find themselves united by shared tragedy and experiences; Tan follows their stories as well as those of their daughters, highlighting how the nature of a story shifts depending on who is doing the telling.

- [*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini](#)

This heartbreaking story explores the power of friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant as Afghanistan reaches a turning point in its history.

- [*The Light on the Tent Wall* by Mary TallMountain](#)

This collection of poetry from Native American poet TallMountain explores the "light on the tent wall," the sacred place where the songs that created us began.

- [*The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead](#)

In Tallahassee in the 1960s, a Black boy is unfairly sentenced to a reformatory school to "correct" him; while there, he is confronted with the horrors of the reform school where the only way to attempt survival is to scheme oneself out of trouble.

- [*Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson](#)

The novel opens with Melody at a ceremony in 2001, wearing a dress originally sewn for her mother, who never got to wear it to her own; exploring family, parenthood, gentrification, and society, this novel explores the decisions people make and the reverberations those choices create for years to come.

- [*She Had Some Horses* by Joy Harjo](#)

This poetry collection explores what it means to be a woman.

- [*There There* by Tommy Orange](#)

This novel follows the threads of twelve different Native Americans traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, unraveling what has brought each of them there as well as the ways in which they are connected -- even if they don't know it yet.

- [*This One Summer* by Mariko and Jillian Tamaki](#)

This Caldecott-winning coming-of-age graphic novel explores the summer when Rose and Windy, longtime "summer friends," begin to show who they are becoming as they grow up; no longer the children who run at the beach, the friends observe local teenagers, reflect on experiences they've had, and choose their own paths forward.

Writing Prompts for Summer Creativity:

#1–22 are suggested for Gr. K–3; #1–30 are suggestions for Gr. 4–12

“Pens and books are the weapons that defeat terrorism,” said Malala Yousafzai. Writers are historians and fortune tellers, entertainers and healers. Over the summer, and on behalf of the School’s commitment to helping you develop a strong, creative and unique voice, we would like you to **keep a handwritten journal of at least six entries** using these prompts or any other of your own. Each journal entry should be **at least a page long**. Write as much as you can about your topics. You can **fictionalize** your entries if you like - pretend to be someone else and write in their voice. You could write in the form of **poetry, song lyrics, or drama** as well. Be honest, be descriptive, be creative.

1. Write about your day from another person’s perspective. Choose a person with whom you’ve interacted. How do you think they’d see you? The day’s events?
2. Describe a stranger that you saw today. What did they look like? What do you think they’re like? What are they interested in? What do they hate?
3. Imagine that you get to meet a celebrity. Describe your interaction.
4. Write about a time you said something that you regretted.
5. Write about a time that someone said something to you that hurt you.
6. Write about something that you are proud of.
7. Choose an article out of the newspaper. Tape it into your journal. Write about it.
8. If you could live in any book, what book would it be? Why?
9. Write a review of a movie.
10. Write a review of a television show.
11. Pick a random book from your bookshelf. Then, open to a random page and pick a random sentence. Use that sentence as the first line of a story of your own.
12. Imagine that you are singing to yourself, when suddenly, the topic of the song comes true. Describe the scene.
13. Pick a formula you learned in math class. Imagine the story of the mathematician who discovered it. How?
14. Write your high school graduation speech.
15. Write about something from your childhood that you think changed you.
16. Write a story inspired by a recent dream that you had.

17. Write a new ending for your favorite book.
18. Write a poem, short story, or journal entry about a conversation that you've overheard.
19. Write a story inspired by one of your pet-peeves.
20. Write a story from the perspective of someone who does not have one of their major senses (sight, smell, touch, hearing, taste).
21. Write about a time you kept a secret from someone else, or someone else kept a secret from you.
22. Write a story or journal entry about a photograph you have in your house. If you can, tape your photograph into your journal. You may also draw the photograph!
23. Interview a person in your life. Write a transcription of your interview. Try to ask them questions you do not already know the answer to!
24. Write a story inspired by a slogan for an advertising campaign.
25. Write a story inspired by a trending hashtag on Twitter or Instagram.
26. Read the newspaper. Write a poem or short story using a headline as your first line.
27. Use all of the following words in a piece of writing: bit, draw, flex, perilous, bubble, corner, pound, high, open, admonish.
28. You accidentally drink a potion that shrinks you down to two inches tall. Write a story about your day.
29. Pick a random word from the dictionary. Use this word as inspiration for a story.
30. Imagine you find a time traveling machine. Describe how you use it. Where do you go? What happens?

We wish you a healthy and happy summer and look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

On behalf of the Summer Reading Team,

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Department Chair

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