

VOORHEES HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER READING - 2009

Grade 9

All 9th-grade students at Voorhees are required to read *The Pearl**. Students enrolled in English I Honors and English I CP are required to read one other book from the below list.

Among the Barons (Haddix)
Among the Betrayed (Haddix)
After the Dancing Days (Rostkowski)
Airborn (Oppel)
The Andromeda Strain (Crichton)
The Body of Christopher Creed (Plum-Ucci)
Companions of the Night (Vande Velde)
Iliad (Homer, translated by Fagles)
The Lost Years of Merlin (Barron)
The Pearl (Steinbeck) Required
The Pox Party (Anderson)
The Prince and the Pauper (Twain)
Private Peaceful (Morpurgo)
Something Wicked This Way Comes (Bradbury)
Whale Talk (Chris Crutcher)

Grade 11

Students taking English III and English III CP must read two books from the below list. Students in English III Honors must read *The Joy Luck Club** and one other book from the below list. Students taking AP English Language and Composition must read the required books**(*Notes of a Native Son* and *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass*).

Ender's Game (Card)
The Fixer (Malamud)
Girl with a Pearl Earring (Chevalier)
The Good Earth (Buck)
The Hot Zone (Preston)
Into the Wild (Krakauer)
The Joy Luck Club (Tan) Honors
A Lesson Before Dying (Gaines)
Little Women (Alcott)
My Sister's Keeper (Picoult)
****Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass(Douglass) AP****
****Notes of a Native Son (Baldwin) AP****
The Old Man and the Sea (Hemingway)
Ordinary People (Guest)
Our Town (Wilder)
A Prayer for Owen Meany (Irving)
The Things They Carried (O'Brien)

(The summer reading list is pending board approval)

Grade 10

All 10th-grade students at Voorhees must read *The Bean Trees* and one other book from the below list.

All Quiet on the Western Front (Remarque)
And Then There Were None (Christie)
Armageddon Summer (Yolen and Coville)
The Bean Trees (Kingsolver) Required
Bless the Beasts and Children (Swarthout)
Circle of Friends (Binchy)
A Cry in the Night (Clark)
The Eyes of the Dragon (King)
The Glass Castle (Walls)
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter (McCullers)
How I live Now (Rosoff)
Peeling the Onion (Orr)
Sledding Hill (Crutcher)

Grade 12

Students must read two books from the below list. Students taking AP English Literature and Composition must read the required books**.

Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors (Read)
Angela's Ashes (McCourt)
Autobiography of a Face (Grealy)
****The Awakening (Chopin) AP****
Black and Blue (Quindlen)
Chronicle of a Death Foretold (Garcia Marquez)
Cold Mountain (Charles Frazier)
****A Doll's House (Ibsen) AP****
The Fifth Child (Lessing)
The Fountainhead (Rand)
Grendel (Gardner)
****The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood) AP****
Hiroshima (Hersey)
Inexcusable (Lynch)
Jane Eyre (Bronte)
Light in August (Faulkner)
People's Choice (Greenfield)
Poisonwood Bible (Kingsolver)
Their Eyes Were Watching God (Hurston)
A Thief of Time (Hillerman)
Watership Down (Adams)
Wuthering Heights (Bronte)

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Adams, Richard. *Watership Down*

Faced with the annihilation of its warren, a small group of rabbits sets out across the English downs in search of a new home.

Alcott, Louisa. *Little Women*

Little Women is the story of the March family, whose daughters are growing up in New England in the mid-1800s. There are numerous sequels.

Andersen, M.T., *Pox Party*

Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts chronicle the experiences of Octavian, a young African American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

Barron, T.A. *The Lost Years of Merlin*

Fantasy lovers will relish this first book in Barron's Merlin trilogy. It begins with Merlin washing up on the rocks near death and with no memory. He is cared for by Branwen and called Emrys. He then sets out on a quest to solve the mysteries of his name and where he spent his early years. His quest leads him to magical lands inhabited by magical beings.

Binchy, Maeve. *Circle of Friends*

Binchy transports readers to the village of Knockglen in Ireland to meet Benny, the only child of doting parents, Eve Malone, an orphan raised by nuns, and a host of local characters.

Bradbury, Ray. *Something Wicked This Way Comes*

Two boys in a small midwestern town are changed forever when a "dark carnival" arrives in the town one autumn evening.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*

Jane Eyre, a timid orphan who was mistreated at her uncle's home, is sent to a boarding school, where she stays on to become a teacher. Tired of teaching, Jane takes a position as governess for Adele Varens, a ward of Edward Rochester. Jane eventually falls in love with Rochester and does not learn of his insane wife until the day she is to be married.

Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*

Mr. Lockwood, forced to spend a stormy night at Wuthering Heights, encounters the spirit of Catherine. Heathcliff, an unsociable man who was taken off the streets by Catherine's father and who fell in love with Catherine, continues to work his revenge against all those who had injured him before his inheritance.

Buck, Pearl S. *The Good Earth*

Set in pre-Revolutionary China, *The Good Earth* won universal acclaim for its sympathetically authentic picture of Chinese life. Wang Lung and his wife O-lan rise from peasants to rich landowners through their own determination and persistence and the "good earth."

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*

This exciting science fiction novel introduces Andrew "Ender" Wiggin. He is a genetically bred child who is the hope of the government to save earth from aliens. They train him by playing military games and he always wins. Now the question is can he win the "game" to save the earth from the aliens?

Chevalier, Tracy. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*

The fictional story of the 16-year-old girl who is the model for Vermeer's famous painting. 17th century Delft comes alive with the details of everyday life in the household of this famous painter. Problems emerge as Vermeer draws Griet into his world of painting. A wonderful coming-of-age novel.

Christie, Agatha. *And Then There Were None*

This is one of the earliest and the best of this prolific writer's mysteries.

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*

Tells of a woman's desire for an affair with the son of a Louisiana resort owner whom she meets on vacation.

Clark, Mary Higgins. *A Cry in the Night*

In this mystery, Jenny finds that the home of her new husband contains a terrible secret.

Crichton, Michael. *The Andromeda Strain*

A deadly microorganism enters Earth's atmosphere with a returning satellite, and a team of medical specialists must discover how to battle it before time runs out.

Crutcher, Chris, *Sledding Hill*

Billy, recently deceased, keeps an eye on his best friend, fourteen-year-old Eddie, and helps him stand up to a conservative minister and English teacher who is orchestrating a censorship challenge.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk*

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Faulkner, William. *Light In August*

Race, religion, and the southern community are dominating themes of this compelling novel from the 1930s. The central character, Joe Christmas, is an orphan with mixed bloodlines, antisocial tendencies, and a harsh personal history.

Frazier, Charles. *Cold Mountain*

Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier, leaves the hospital where he is being treated and determines to walk home. The story of Ada, his sweetheart, is intertwined with Inman's. Based on the story of the author's great-great grandfather who deserted during the Civil War.

Gaines, Ernest J. *A Lesson Before Dying*

In a small Louisiana community in the late 1940s, Jefferson, a retarded African-American youth, is wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to die. Wiggins, another African-American, is called upon to forge a bond with Jefferson to help him die with pride and like a man.

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

An isolated Latin American town is the setting for this dark thriller, which features a spectacular wedding, a sudden scandal, and a murder to which the entire town appears to be an accessory before the fact.

Gardner, John. *Grendel*

Grendel retells the *Beowulf* legend from the monster's point of view.

Grealy, Lucy, *Autobiography of a Face*

A memoir in which award-winning poet Lucy Grealy recalls her experiences with a potentially terminal cancer that required she have a third of her jaw removed when she was nine years old, and discusses the suffering she endured as she was growing up from classmates, strangers, and other people because of her looks.

Greenfield, Jeff. *People's Choice*

When the newly elected president falls off a horse and dies of an embolism, it is assumed that the vice-president elect will take his job until one of the electors begins an insurrection and constitutional chaos breaks out. This is a humorous, cautionary tale.

Guest, Judith. *Ordinary People*

The death of one of two sons in an "ordinary" family proves disastrous to the remaining son and brings the family to crisis and disintegration.

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Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Betrayed*

Thirteen-year-old Nina is imprisoned by the Population Police, who give her the option of helping them identify illegal "third-born" children, or facing death.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Among the Barons*

In a future world of false identities, government lies, and death threats, Luke feels drawn to the younger brother of the boy whose name Luke has taken.

Hemingway, Ernest. *The Old Man and the Sea*

The story chronicles Santiago's fight with a huge marlin and his struggle to bring it back to his village.

Hersey, John. *Hiroshima*

Hiroshima is the story of six ordinary people - a clerk, a physician, a minister, a widowed seamstress, a young surgeon, and a German priest - starting at 8:15, when the first atom bomb was dropped. The author follows the course of their lives after the bomb was dropped, hour by hour and then day by day.

Hillerman, Tony. *A Thief of Time*

Chilling discoveries unearthed at a dig for Navajo pottery bring Lt. Joe Leaphorn and Officer Jim Chee to the site and put them on the trail of stolen artifacts, a missing woman, and bizarre and mystifying murders.

Homer. *The Iliad*

The greatest of Greek epics, *The Iliad* is the story of Achilles' withdrawal from battle and his return to kill the Trojan hero Hector.

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Janie Crawford, a woman living in the black town of Eton, Florida during the 1930s, is independent and articulate. Married three times and accused and tried for the murder of one of her husbands, she continues to search for her real identity.

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*

In this three-act psychological drama, Nora Helmer is pampered by her complacent husband, Torvald, who treats her like a scatterbrained child. Unknown to him, she borrows money to finance a trip necessary for her husband's health, and when he finds out, his convention-bound reaction has surprising repercussions.

Irving, John. *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

This is a terrifying story of what happens in Owen Meany's life as a result of hitting a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother.

King, Stephen. *The Eyes of the Dragon*

This story is a horror fantasy featuring dragons, princes, evil wizards, an enchanted castle, and a terrible secret.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees*

Taylor Greer hits the road and inherits a three-year-old Cherokee girl who manages to slowly wind her way into Taylor's heart.

—*The Poisonwood Bible*

Nathan Price and his family move to the Belgian Congo in 1959. This novel presents the experiences they have while living in Africa and how they affect each member of the family in a different way.

Krakauer, Jon. *Into the Wild*

Tells the story of Chris McCandless, a twenty-four-year-old who walked into the Alaskan wilderness on an idealistic journey and was found dead of starvation four months later. Attempts to discover what led the young man to that point.

Lessing, Doris. *The Fifth Child*

Ben, the fifth child of Harriet and David Lovett, puts an end to the idealistic homelife and harmony of the Lovett household. This child, from before birth until his teenage years, is not normal by any societal standards.

Lynch, Chris. *Inexcusable*

High school senior and football player Keir sets out to enjoy himself on graduation night, but when he attempts to comfort a friend whose date has left her stranded, things go terribly wrong.

Marquez, Garcia. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

A mysterious and haunting tale of romance and murder, that begins with the marriage of a man and a woman in love. But when he inexplicably mistreats his beloved on the night of the wedding, he is in turn murdered by her brothers, and we are left with a strange sense of inevitability and passions gone terribly awry

Malamud, Bernard. *The Fixer*

Yakov Bok, a Jewish handyman, is wrongly accused of murdering a Christian boy in czarist Russia.

McCourt, Frank. *Angela's Ashes*

Frank McCourt's memoirs of growing up in the slums of Limerick, Ireland, earned him the Pulitzer Prize. He recalls his alcoholic father, the loss of his siblings, the power of the Irish Catholic Church, and the shame of poverty in this engaging story.

McCullers, Carson. *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*

John Singer, a deaf-mute, becomes the confidante of four very different people in a small Southern town. Biff Brannon, the owner of a café, Mick Kelly, an adolescent girl, Jake Blout, a radical, and Benedict Copeland, the town's black doctor, all desire to escape from the boredom of the town and find that Singer understands and cares for them.

Morpurgo, Michael. *Private Peaceful*

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.

O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried*

The Vietnam War is personalized through the brief episodes that make up this book. The men of Alpha Company battle the enemy and sometimes each other in this intimate look into the world of the soldier during the Vietnam War.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn*

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Orr, Wendy. *Peeling the Onion*

Anna Duncan has just won a karate championship when her neck is broken in a car accident. Anna must adjust to vast changes in life. Pain, uncertainty, and fear become her companions as she moves toward the future. Loyalty and disloyalty, love and separation, true friendship and fair-weather friendship are all addressed in this complex novel.

Picoult, Jodi. *My Sister's Keeper*

Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate.

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Plum-Ucci, Carol. *Body of Christopher Creed*

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

Preston, Richard. *The Hot Zone*

The Hot Zone reads more like a horror novel than the true account it is of a hot virus that nearly burned through the suburbs of Washington, D.C. in 1989.

Quindlen, Anna. *Black and Blue*

Black and Blue is a suspenseful novel about Fran Benedetto's abusive relationship with her husband, Bobby, a New York City policeman. After her passionate marriage turns into a nightmare, Fran runs away to Florida with her ten-year-old son and starts a new life under a new name, living in fear yet with increasing hope that Bobby will not track her down.

Rand, Ayn. *The Fountainhead*

The novel is a brilliant story of society's attempt to stifle the creativity of one person.

Read, Piers Paul. *Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors*

One of the greatest survival stories of all time, *Alive* relates the experiences of the survivors of a plane that crashed in the Andes Mountains.

Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Four German youths are pulled abruptly from school to serve at the front as soldiers in World War I. Although the young men of this novel are German, the message is universal in its delineation of the feelings of the common soldier.

Rosoff, Meg. *How I live Now*

To get away from her pregnant stepmother in New York City, fifteen-year-old Daisy goes to England to stay with her aunt and cousins, with whom she instantly bonds, but soon war breaks out and rips apart the family while devastating the land.

Rostkowski, Margaret. *After the Dancing Days*

A forbidden friendship with a badly disfigured soldier in the aftermath of World War I forces thirteen-year-old Annie to redefine the word "hero" and to question conventional ideas of patriotism.

Steinbeck, John. *The Pearl*

Kino, a poor fisherman, finds a magnificent pearl. After a series of terrible events, and the unfolding of greed and envy around him, Kino must decide what to do with the pearl.

Swarthout, Glendon. *Bless the Beasts and Children*

Six troubled teenagers group together, develop self-esteem, and eventually heal their psychological wounds at an Arizona summer camp that specializes in "turning boys into cowboys."

Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club*

Chapters in this novel alternate among the lives of four Chinese women in pre-1949 China and the lives of their American-born daughters in California.

Twain, Mark. *The Prince and the Pauper*

Edward VI of England and a little pauper change places for a few days before Henry VII's death. The prince wanders in rags, while Tom Canty suffers the horrors of princedom.

Vande Valde, Vivian. *Companions of the Night*

When sixteen-year-old Kerry Nowicki helps a young man escape from a group of men who claim he is a vampire, she faces some bizarre and dangerous choices.

Walls, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle*

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcohol father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.

Wilder, Thornton. *Our Town*

Our Town is a drama of life in a small New Hampshire village called Grover's Corners. The people of the village go about their lives during a few years in the early 1900s.

Wright, Richard. *Native Son*

Set in Chicago in the 1930s, *Native Son* is the story of Bigger Thomas, a young, doomed black man who rebels against the white world and finds a sense of freedom and identity in acts of violence. The novel raises issues of prejudice, politics, and social injustice.

Yolen, Jane and Bruce Coville.

Armageddon Summer

The followers of a religious cult have gathered on a mountaintop to await the end of the world. Among them are two teenagers who, for different reasons, have accompanied their parents. Marina and Jed fall in love and must come to terms with their own beliefs and feelings as they await the end of the world.