

7/8 Academy Summer Reading

7th Grade: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor (For Kids)* by Thomas C. Foster

The goal of this book is to make every reader a critical thinker. Featuring chapter titles such as, “Every Trip is a Quest (Except When It’s Not)” and “Nice To Eat You: Acts of Vampires,” Foster introduces the reader to literary analysis in a humorous, conversational manner, using examples from well-known works of classic and modern literature. This book will be a touchstone for our discussions in Humanities class, as we explore deeper meanings in literature and apply critical reading skills to history.

Students will be expected to give an oral report on their book of choice when they return back to school, as well as participating in an activity where they dress up as a character from the book.

8th Grade: *Kalahari* by Jessica Khoury

This science-fiction-inflected adventure novel tells the story of a young biologist, Sarah, who must race against time to stop the outbreak of a fatal virus—while simultaneously keeping her teenage companions alive when they are stranded in the Kalahari desert. As they read this book, students will practice literary analysis techniques and build on a foundation of biology/life science knowledge.

Students will be expected to give an oral report on their book of choice when they return back to school, as well as participating in an activity where they dress up as a character from the book.

Upper School Summer Reading

All Upper School Students: Read *Weapons of Math Destruction* by Cathy O’Neil

Weapons of Math Destruction examines the algorithms used to analyze massive sets of data in this information age and how each of us is unwittingly and individually influenced by these computer programs. From college acceptances to job interviews and car insurance rates, all of us have been affected by decisions based on these algorithms, and because the computer is ostensibly unbiased, it has become increasingly difficult to argue with the outcomes. However, computer algorithms can and do embody the assumptions and biases of the programmers, who may be, consciously or not, adversely affecting the lives of millions of people.

As has been demonstrated in recent months, we as consumers cannot abdicate the responsibility of examining what is influencing our decision-making process; indeed, the very future of our democracy may depend on it. Since knowledge coupled with action is power, during the upcoming year we will all be examining the assumptions we make each day and how our individual perspective influences our conception of reality. Together, all of this makes *truth* far more complex and difficult to define than even the most challenging mathematics

English 9: *Carpe Diem: Put a Little Latin in Your Life* by Harry Mount

https://www.amazon.com/Carpe-Diem-Little-Latin-Your/dp/1401322344/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

English 10: *How to Think: A Survival Guide for a World at Odds* by Alan Jacobs

<https://www.amazon.com/How-Think-Survival-Guide-World/dp/0451499603>

AP Language and Composition: *Write to the Point* by Sam Leith

In this approachable and readable book, Leith promises to instruct the reader on how to write anything—and he does mean anything. From business emails and book reviews to tweets and love letters, Leith provides a handy, humorous, and specific guide to concise and effective writing. The skills introduced in this summer reading selection will be honed and employed throughout the entirety of the AP Language course.

AP Literature and Composition: *The Written World: The Power of Stories to Shape People, History, Civilization* by Martin Puchner

In this introduction to classic literature, Puchner identifies sixteen key texts which advanced literature as an art, starting with Babylonian mythology and ending with Harry Potter. Puchner argues that a true consideration of literature includes foundational non-western texts such as Murasaki's *The Tale of Genji* and the West African oral epic *Sunjata*, and also takes into account the technological advances of written language, papyrus, bound text, and word processing, asking how the advancement of those technologies led to a deepening of literature and art itself. In addition to providing a concise and useful overview of literature, *The Written World* mentions in brief several of the texts we will be reading throughout the AP Literature course.