

# Sagemont Summer Reading Program

## Grades 9-12

### Why read during the summer break?

- We believe that reading year-round promotes lifelong learning and intellectual curiosity. All Sagemont students are expected to read during the summer months. We encourage students to choose novels or nonfiction literature that appeal to their personal interests.

### How many books should I read?

- If you have selected an **honors or AP English course** for the upcoming school year, ***you must read 3 books.***
- If you have selected a **regular English course** for the upcoming school year, ***you must read 2 books.***

### How will I be graded?

- All reading should be completed **prior** to the first day of school.
- During the first week of classes, you will be expected to **submit a 500 – 750 word book report for a test grade for each book read.**
- As you read, be sure to keep notes based on the ideas listed above that will be discussed. Also, keep notes about the things you liked and disliked about the books.
- Guidelines to assist in writing your book report are on the following page.

### Which books am I allowed to read?

- It's your choice! Remember, the more interested you are in the subject matter, the more likely you will be to finish the book. Read online reviews on Amazon.com, ask your friends for recommendations, or pick a title from the suggested summer reading list. If you have already read a book on the list, you must choose a new book to read.

**Note to Parents:** Please review your child's summer reading selections before he or she begins reading. ***Some books may have content that you may not deem age-appropriate,*** so be sure to check out online reviews or ask your local librarian to help guide the selection process.

## Guidelines to Complete Book Reports

### The Outline of Your Report

You read your book, so now you will need to complete a book report of approximately 500 – 750 words for each book you have read. Your next step will be to organize what you are going to say about it in your report. Writing the basic elements down in an outline format will help you to organize your thoughts. What will you include in the outline? The following guidelines should help.

Let's assume for the moment that you've chosen a work of fiction. We'll start with a description of the book. The description should include such elements as:

1. Title page – Include a title page citing the title of your book and the author's name.
2. The setting—where does the story take place? Is it a real place or an imaginary one? If the author does not tell you exactly where the story is set, what can you tell about it from the way it is described?
3. The time period—is the story set in the present day or in an earlier time period? Perhaps it is even set in the future! Let your reader know.
4. The main character(s)—who is the story mostly about? Give a brief description. Often, one character can be singled out as the main character, but some books will have more than one.
5. The plot—what happens to the main character? WARNING! Be careful here. Do not fall into the boring trap of reporting every single thing that happens in the story. Pick only the most important events. Here are some hints on how to do that. First, explain the situation of the main character as the story opens. Next, identify the basic plot element of the story--is the main character trying to achieve something or overcome a particular problem? Thirdly, describe a few of the more important things that happen to the main character as he/she works toward that goal or solution. Finally, you might hint at the story's conclusion without completely giving away the ending.

The five points above deal with the report aspect of your work. For the final section of your outline, give your reader a sense of the impression the book made upon you. Ask yourself what the author was trying to achieve and whether or not he achieved it with you. What larger idea does the story illustrate? How does it do that? How did you feel about the author's style of writing, the setting, or the mood of the novel? You do not have to limit yourself to these areas. Pick something which caught your attention, and let your reader know your personal response to whatever it was.

### What about non-fiction?

You might have chosen a non-fiction biography, history, or a factual text on another subject of interest to you. In that case, the descriptive section of your report should include:

1. subject—an initial statement on the general subject of the book.
2. summary—your summary of what the author had to say about the subject. Again, pick only the most important points to discuss. For a biography, describe some of the key events in the person's life. For a history or other subject, describe some of the main points made about the subject. If the book is divided into different chapters, you can often use those divisions as a guide to what the main points are.

After you've described your book, express some of your thoughts about what you've read. What seemed to be the author's main reason for writing the book? What was the most interesting thing you learned about the book's subject? Why did you find it interesting? You might also give your opinion on how the subject was presented. Did the author hold your interest?

Remember! Whether you are writing about fiction or non-fiction you must be sure to recognize the main idea or ideas in the book. So be sure that you have a good understanding of it before you begin writing. Keep the book beside you while you are writing your report so that you can refer to it when necessary.

Taken from: The Lakewood Public Library - <http://www.lkwdpl.org/study/bookrep/>

## **High School Summer Reading List**

### **Fiction**

**\*Highly Recommended (Try it, you might like it!)**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| *Strength in What Remains – Tracy Kidder                           | If I Stay – Gayle Forman              |
| *This is Where I Leave You – Jonathan Tropper                      | Girl – Blake Nelson                   |
| *The Year of the Flood – Margaret Atwood                           | Paranoid Park – Blake Nelson          |
| *The Good Soldiers – David Finkel                                  | The Hollow People – Brian Keaney      |
| *Black Juice – Margo Lanagan                                       | Shiver; or Linger – Maggie Stiefvater |
| *Chronic City – Jonathan Lethem                                    | Shelter Me – Alex McAulay             |
| *The Informers – Juan Gabriel Vasquez                              | The Human Stain – Philip Roth         |
| *Absurdistan – Gary Shteyngart                                     | Pagan Babies – Elmore Leonard         |
| *Going Bovine - Libba Bray   | Bloods a Rover – James Ellroy         |
| *The Invisible Bridge – Julie Orringer                             | The Children of Men – PD James        |
| Await Your Reply – Dan Chaon                                       |                                       |
| *An Arsonist’s Guide to Writers Homes in New England – Brock Clark |                                       |
| *Ilustrado – Miguel Syjuco   | Cross – James Patterson               |
| *Her Fearful Symmetry – Audrey Niffenegger                         | For the Win – Cory Doctorow           |
| *The Imperfectionists – Tom Rachman                                | Fire Will Fall – Carol Plum-Ucci      |
| *The Reluctant Fundamentalist – Mohsin Hamid                       | Purple Heart – Patricia McCormick     |
| *Zeitoun – Dave Eggers   | Before I Fall – Lauren Oliver         |
| *Everything Matters! – Ron Currie Jr.                              | Repossessed – A.M. Jenkins            |

\*The Vagrants: A Novel – Yiyun Li  
\*Last Night in Twisted River – John Irving  
\*American Subversive – David Goodwillie  
\*Genesis – Bernard Beckett  
\*How I Became Stupid – Martin Page  
\*When You Are Engulfed in Flames – David Sedaris  
\*An Abundance of Katherines – John Green  
\*Looking For Alaska – John Green  
\*Snow – Orhan Pamuk  
\*Alice I Have Been – Melanie Benjamin  
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian – Sherman Alexie  
Postcards From No Man’s Land – Aidan Chambers  
The Poison Eaters and Other Stories – Holly Black  
The Space Between Trees – Katie Williams  
Anthropology of an American Girl – Hilary Thayer Hamann  
The New Rules of High School – Blake Nelson  
Prophecy of the Sisters – Michelle Zink  
Ham on Rye – Charles Bukowski  
On the Road – Jack Kerouac  
Slam – Nick Hornby  
Girl in Translation – Jean Kwok  
A Short History of Women – Kate Walbert  
The Forest of Hands and Teeth – Carrie Ryan  
Tales of the Madman Underground – John Barnes  
Lush Life – Richard Price  
The White Darkness – Geraldine McCaughrean  
The Body Finder – Kimberly Derting  
Will Grayson, Will Grayson – David Levithan  
How I Live Now – Meg Rosoff  
Freewill – Chris Lynch  
Revolver – Marcus Sedgwick  
Chanda’s Secret – Allan Stratton  
The Man From Saigon – Martin Lembec  
Nailed – Patrick Jones  
Gimme a Call – Sarah Mlynowski  
The Bog Child – Siobhan Dowd  
Punkzilla – Adam Rapp  
Vanishing Point – Ander Monson  
The Scarecrow – Michael Connelly  
Fight Club – Chuck Palahniuk  
South of Broad – Pat Conroy  
Fallen – Lauren Kate  
Sarah’s Key – Tatiana de Rosnay  
Last Night in Twisted River – John Irving  
Small Gods – Terry Pratchett  
Soldier X – Don Wulffson  
This Boy’s Life – Tobias Wolff  
Ash – Malinda Lo  
Shutter Island – Dennis Lehane  
Everafter – Amy Huntley  
Smoke – Denis Johnson  
Hold Still – Nina LaCour  
Raven Speak – Diane Wilson  
Return to Sender – Julia Alvarez  
Toby Alone – Timothee de Fombelle  
Hush, Hush – Becca Fitzpatrick

Raven Stole the Moon – Garth Stein

The Tenant – Roland Topor

Falling Angel – William Hjortsberg

Beloved – Toni Morrison

Wolf Hall – Hilary Mantel

Fingersmith – Sarah Waters

**Fiction – Teen Issues/Coming of Age (some Chick Lit, not a lot)**

\*Willow – Julia Hoban

\*Killing Gods – Kevin Brooks

\*Touch – Francine Prose

\*Purple Heart – Patricia McCormick

\*Solace of the Road – Siobhan Dowd

\*After – Amy Efav

\*Crash Into Me – Albert Borris

\*King of the Screwups: A Novel – K.L. Going

\*Hold Still – Nina Lacour

\*Outside the Box - DanAllosso

\*How to Steal a Car – Pete Hautman

A Map of the Known World – Lisa Ann Sandell

Fat Cat – Robin Brande

Food, Girls, and Other Things I Can't Have: A Novel – Allen Zadoff Slob – Ellen Poter

Breathless – Jessica Warman

North of Beautiful – Justina Chen Headley

The Chosen One – Carol Lynch Williams

The Boy in the Dress – David Williams

The Perks of Being a Wallflower – Stephen Chbosky

Hate List – Jennifer Brown

Cashing In – Susan Colebank

Skunk Girl – Sheba Karim

Wintergirls – Laurie Halse Anderson

Stepping Up – Mark Fink

Sea of Change – Aimee Friedman

Are U 4 Real? Sara Kadehors

Audrey Wait! – Robin Benway

Absolutely, Maybe – Lisa Yee

The Amanda Project – Stella Lennon

Beautiful – Amy Reed

Purge - Sarah Darer Littman

The Longest Fall – Lee Krinsky

Bait – Alex Sanchez

TMI – Sarah Quiqley

One Lonely Degree – Kelly Martin

Bystander – James Preller

Jane in Bloom – Deborah Lytton

Project Sweet Life – Brent Hartinger

Saving Francesca – Melin Marchetta

Torment – Lauren Kate

Positively – Courtney Scheinmel

Loserville – Peter Johnson

Love You Hate You Miss You – Elizabeth Scott

The September Sisters – Jillian Cantor

Back Home – Julia Kelle

Empress of the World – Sara Ryan

Broken Soup – Jenny Valentine

**What's In the News:**

**Non-Fiction/Current Events/ Social Science/History**

\*Last Train from Hiroshima – Charles Pellegrino

\*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind – Bryan Meales

\*Son of Hamas – Mosab Hassan Yousef

\*Half the Sky – Nicholas Kristof

\*Crazy for the Storm – Norman Ollestad

\*Let the Great World Spin – Colum McCann

\*Under a Red Sky: Memoir of a Childhood Under Communist Romania – Haya Leah Molnar

\*They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky: The Story of Three Lost Boys From Sudan – Benjamin Ajak

\*They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group – Susan Bartoletti

\*The Horrors of Andersonville: Life & Death Inside a Civil War Prison – Catherine Gourley

\*Columbine – Dave Cullen

\*Tears in the Darkness: The Story of the Bataan Death March and its Aftermath – Mike Norman

\*The Killing Fields – Christopher Hudson

\*Alive in the Killing Fields: The True Story of Nawieth Keat, a Khmer Rouge Survivor – Nawieth Keat

\*The Lost City of Z – David Grann

\*Wolf Hall – Hilary Mantel

\*Hellhound on His Trail – The Stalking of Martin Luther King Jr. and the International Hunt for His Assassin – Hampton Sides

\*The Dark Side – Jane Mayer

\*The Forever War – Dexter Filkins

\*The Ghosts of War – Ryan Smithson

\*Parrot and Oliver in America – Peter Carey

\*Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World – Liaquat Ahamed

\*Matterhorn – Karl Marlantes

\*The Gamble – Thomas E. Ricks

\*War Reporting for Cowards – Chris Ayres

\*First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers – Luoung Ung

\*War Child – A Child Soldier's Story – Emmanuel Jal

Wanting Mor (Based on a true story) – Rukhsana Khan

Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees – Deborah Ellis

Sisters in War: A Story of Love, Family and Survival in the New Iraq – Christine Asquith

The Smartest Guys in the Room – The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron – Bethany McLean and Peter Elkind

Churchill's Bunker – Richard Holmes

Dinner at Mr. Jefferson's – Charles Cerami

The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America – Timothy Egan

Fordlandia: The Rise & Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City – Greg Grandii

Fiasco – Thomas E. Ricks

The Woman Who Fell From the Sky – an American Journalist in Yemen – Jennifer Steil

The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman's Journey to Love & Islam – Willow Wilson

A Nation Rising: Untold Tales of Flawed Founders, Fallen Heroes, Forgotten Fighters from America's Hidden History – Kenneth Davis

Colossus: Hoover Dam and the Making of the American Century – Michael Hiltzik

Twilight at the World of Tomorrow: Genius, Madness, Murder, and the 1939 World's Fair on the Brink of War – James Mauro

Down to the Sea – Bruce Henderson

With Wings like Eagles – Michael Korde

Aces High – Bill Yenne

### **Biographies/Autobiographies**

\*Gang Leader for a Day – Sudhir Venkatesh

\*The Bridge – The Life & Rise of Barack Obama – David Remnick

\*Cheever: A Life – Blake Bailey

\*Rimbaud – Graham Robb

\*War - Sebastian Junger

\*Boone: A Biography – Robert Morgan

\*The Thoreau You Don't Know: What the Prophet of Environmentalism Really Meant – Robert Sullivan

\*Tattoos on the Heart – Reverend Gregory Boyle

\*The Last Stand (Custer and Little Big Horn) – Nathaniel Philbrick

The Last Hero: A Life of Henry Aaron – Howard Bryant

Steinbrenner: The Last Lion of Baseball – Bill Madden

Things I've Been Silent About – Azar Nafisi (Follow-up to Reading Lolita in Tehran)

Spoken From the Heart – Laura Bush

Open: An Autobiography – Andre Agassi

Pops: A Life of Louis Armstrong – Terry Teachett

The Book of Basketball: The NBA according to the Sports Guy – Bill Simmons

Only the Strong Survive – The Odyssey of Allen Iverson – Larry Platt

American Rebel: The Life of Clint Eastwood – Marc Eliot

True Compass: A Memoir – Edward Kennedy

London: The Biography – Peter Ackroyd

Cobb: A Biography – Al Stump

### **Plays/Drama (For All You Drama Queens and Kings)**

A Long Days Journey into Night – Eugene O'Neill

Richard III – Shakespeare

Glengarry Glen Ross: A Play – David Mamet

Blithe Spirit – Noel Coward

The God of Carnage: A Play – Yasmina Reza

Red – John Logan

A Doll's House – Henrik Ibsen

A Behanding in Spokane: A Play – Martin McDonagh

Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett

The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Williams

Time Stands Still – Donald Margulies

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? – Edward Albee

Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller

Our Town – Thornton Wilder

Inherit the Wind – Jerome Lawrence

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – T. Williams

**Graphic Novels (For all the budding artists who like a good story, too)**

\*Epileptic – David B.

\*Stitches – David Small

\*The Arrival – Charles Tan

\*Kill Shakespeare – Conor McCreery; Anthony Del Col

\*The Invention of Hugo Cabret – Brian Szselnik

\*Asterios Polyp – David Mazzucchelli

Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess: Olympians – George O'Connor

The Good Neighbors – Holly Black

The Savage – Dave McCain

ZebraFish – Peter H. Reynolds

Ghostopolis – Doug Ten Napel

**Classics (Don't skip over these, they're great reads)**

The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde

The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde

A Farewell to Arms – Ernest Hemingway

Rebecca – Daphne DuMaurier

Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston

The Count of Monte Cristo – Alexandre Dumas

Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

For Whom the Bell Tolls – Ernest Hemingway

Something Wicked This Way Comes – Ray Bradbury

Gone With the Wind – Margaret Mitchell

The Scarlet Pimpernel – Baroness Orczy

Sense and Sensibility - Jane Austen

Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad

Native Son – Richard Wright

Blindness – Jose Saramago

Black Boy – Richard Wright

The Alchemist – Paulo Coelho

Moby Dick – Herman Melville

Silent Spring – Rachel Carson

Middlemarch – Georg Eliot

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

Pudd'n Head Wilson – Mark Twain

Grapes of Wrath – John Steinbeck

Raise High the Roof Beam Carpenter – JD Salinger

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

The Man Who Was Thursday – G.K Chesterton

The Maltese Falcon – Dashiell Hammett

Civil Disobedience – Henry David Thoreau

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass – Lewis Carroll

The Man Who Would Be King – Rudyard Kipling

\*The Metamorphosis – Franz Kafka

Franny and Zooey – JD Salinger

Walden – Henry David Thoreau

Alas, Babylon – Pat Frank

Cry, the Beloved Country Alan Paton

Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy

Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen

Leaves of Grass – Walt Whitman

Canterbury Tales – Jeffrey Chaucer

**Reluctant Readers (C'mon boys, there's got to be something here for you)**

\*DemonKeeper; Goblins! – Royce Buckingham

\*Alive – Piers Paul Read

\*Hunger Games; Catching Fire; Mockingjay – Suzanne Collins

\*Centerfield – Robert Lipsyte

\*Heroes for My Son – Brad Meltzer

\*The Game from Where I Stand – Doug Glanville

\*The Things They Carried – Tim O'Brien

\*Slam – Nick Hornby

\*Knights of the Hill Country – Tim Tharp

The Great Wide Sea – Madalaine Herlong

Crackback – John Coy

The Road of the Dead – Kevin Brooks

The Hunt for Red October – Tom Clancy

The Gatekeepers Series – Anthony Horowitz

If I Die in a Combat Zone – Tim O'Brien

You Can't Get Much Closer Than This – A.Z Adkins

The Cartel – Ashley & JaQuavis

A Time to Kill – John Grisham

I Am Legend – Richard Matheson

Wintersmith – Terry Pratchett

Going After Cacciato – Tim O'Brien

Digital Fortress – Dan Brown

Full Tilt – Neal Shusterman

The Brute – Mike Klaassen

Outside the Box – Dan Allosso

Ball Don't Lie – Matt de la Pena

Box Out – John Coy

Gym Candy – Todd Strasser

Coma – Robin Cook

Bad Monkeys – Matt Ruff

BirthMarked – Carah M. O'Brien

They Came From Below – Blake Nelson

Being – Kevin Brooks

**For Those Not Yet Tired of Vampires and Zombies**

Wish You Were Dead – Todd Strasser

Another Faust – Daniel Nayeri

Pride & Prejudice & Zombies – Seth Grahaeme Smith

Stargazer – Claudia Gray

Never Slow Dance with a Zombie – Evan Lowe

Shimmer – Dallas Reed

Bad Girls Don't Die – Katie Alender

Strange Angels – Lili St. Crow

The Curse of Raven Lake – Chris Kreie

Frostbite – David Wellington

The Forest of Hands & Teeth – Carrie Ryan

Blood and Chocolate– Annette Klaus

Jessica's Guide to Dating on the Dark Side – Beth Fantasky

The Reformed Vampire Support Group – Catherine Jinks