

### **Summer Reading for English Preparation at Providence Academy**

The following is the required reading list for any and all Providence Academy students entering grades 6-12 next autumn (2016-2017). Upper School students are required to pick up a copy of the title corresponding to their grade next autumn; Middle School students are asked to choose at least one of the five selections to read. Please purchase the edition listed below (for those text so designated). Kindle and other iBook versions of *these specific editions* created for the iPad are also acceptable textual forms.

Keep in mind that these texts have been *carefully selected* for each course. As the first experience in its respective course, each book is consciously representative of the course into which it will initiate the students. In other words, each selection will introduce key themes, motifs, rhetorical styles, etc., which will then be referenced explicitly and implicitly throughout the course. This inevitably means the better one understands the book, the better prepared the student will be for the course to follow. In addition to introducing key themes, etc., students will be asked to engage in a variety of evaluations (discussions, quizzes, compositions, etc.) upon their return to class in the fall as a way to introduce the course and gauge comprehension of the Summer Reading Text.

For the Middle School students, the book chosen to be read will also serve, inevitably, as an introduction to the teacher of the student, insofar as the student has freely chosen to read this specific text, rather than the other four (although, naturally, any student is welcomed to read as many as five selections if he/she desires to do so).

While this summer reading requirement does serve as a remedy to keep this integral academic skill of reading fresh, all works have been selected so as to be digested rather than simply tasted. For example, rather than have the entering juniors read the entirety of Homer's *Odyssey* (something they are quite capable of) we have selected just over half of the work (books 1-13) for them to focus on. This way students can read, contemplate, reread, etc. in preparation for the beginning of the course.

Please direct any and all questions to the Chair of the English Department, Mr. Adam C. Schmalzbauer via email ([adam.schmalzbauer@providenceacademy.org](mailto:adam.schmalzbauer@providenceacademy.org)) as it will be summer soon.

ENJOY!

6<sup>th</sup>     Choose One + of the following

*Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* by Tanya Lee Stone

*The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare

*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Hoskins Forbes

*Minn of the Mississippi* by Holling Clancy Holling

*The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* by Howard Pyle

7<sup>th</sup>     Choose One + of the following

*Mrs. Mike* by Benedict and Nancy Freedman

*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

*The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller

*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi

*Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt

8<sup>th</sup>     Choose One + of the following

*The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau

*Gettysburg: The True Account of Two Young Heroes in the Greatest Battle of the Civil War*

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry

*Peak* by Roland Smith

*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engel

9<sup>th</sup> – *Selected Myths* by Plato

ISBN – 019955255X

10<sup>th</sup> – *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain; Penguin Classics

ISBN – 0142437174

11<sup>th</sup> – *The Odyssey* by Homer (read the first 13 books before the first class); Penguin Classics

ISBN -- 0140268863

12<sup>th</sup> – *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley; Harper Perennial Modern Classics

ISBN – 0060850524

