

Spring 2017

To: Parents of Gifted and Talented Academy Seniors
Re: Summer Reading Program

I look forward to working with the students and embarking on our study of humanities. The course seeks to draw together from many different times and places the universal themes and experiences that remain relevant today. The course will continue preparation to receive college credit through Advanced Placement testing. As in past years, the coursework is substantial, rarely allowing class time for “reading.” The curriculum will focus on several major pieces of literature with shorter pieces and corresponding selections of other areas of the arts to complete the unit study. Each unit will feature an independent exploration by the student into further related material.

The summer reading program asks the student to read certain major works in advance, at a more leisurely pace, to be prepared for discussion in class at the beginning of school. The selections below introduce important themes and periods, along with a taste of many different cultures. Two selected titles will be read by everyone and accompanied by discussion questions (see attached); the third text is a technical guide to the study of literature.

The selected novels are Ahrundati Roy’s *The God of Small Things* and Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*, which will be discussed during the first two weeks of school. If students have read *Heart of Darkness*, they **must** reread the novel. The responses to discussion questions for these novels **must be typed** and will be due **the FIRST day of class in August**.

The technical guide students must read is *The Art of Fiction*, by David Lodge. Students will utilize this text to assist in analysis and reading of the two novels. A corresponding assignment is attached and is **due the first day** of school. This **must be typed**.

Copies of these books may be found in local libraries or purchased. Barnes and Noble has copies of the novels readily available, inquire about student discounts. There may also be discount copies available on Amazon.com, Powells.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Alibris.com and many other bookselling websites. Sometimes used copies are sold for as little as two or three dollars on these sites.

Questions about the program or the year’s curriculum are welcome; you can reach me through email. Summer assignments will be available on the Academy website at www.ehsgiftedacademy.weebly.com should you need a replacement copy over the summer.

Cordially,

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