

Nardin Academy: Freshman Honors English Summer Reading 2017-Mrs. Skoog

Welcome to Nardin! I certainly look forward to meeting each of you personally. Except for our all-high school read, each of these novels features a protagonist who is near your own age. The settings are all contemporary; and, although the cultures represented differ, you will be reminded that human nature itself is unchanging and universal. These novels are available at local book stores and at area public libraries. They can also be ordered, both new and used copies, on Amazon. If you do order from Amazon, expect a 7-10 day delay.

You will be tested on the novels shortly after the school year begins.

Ford, Jamie. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. The U.S. internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is one of our historical black marks as a nation. Read about the virtual imprisonment of our own citizens from the point of view of a young Chinese American, also a pariah in that era, who loses his friend and love.

Guest, Judith. *Ordinary People*. How would you react to the accidental drowning of your older brother, perishing while sailing when a sudden storm kicks up on Lake Michigan (just as they can occur on Lake Erie), a brother you adored as much as your parents did? Would you blame yourself? And would you and your grieving parents ever be able to heal? You will become so involved with the lives of this once “ordinary” family that you will become part of it.

Shreve, Anita. *Light on Snow*. Twelve year old Nicki, suffering from both the fatal loss of her mother and little sister and the emotional neglect of the bereaved dad, stumbles on an abandoned infant while taking a winter walk through the woods near her new home.

*Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. In the 1950's Baltimore, a poor African-American woman visits Johns Hopkins hospital to be tested for cancer, the disease from which she unfortunately dies quickly. In the interim, the hospital lab, as it does with every cancer patient, has taken a biopsy of Mrs. Lacks' malignant cells. However ,unlike thousands of other cell samples, these multiply with astounding rapidity and can be thus used worldwide for study. This true story grapples with social, racial and ethical issues.

*this is our all-high school summer read

(TURN OVER)

Vocabulary requirement: please purchase a medium-sized “marbled” (Mead is one manufacturer) “Composition Notebook”- which will have lined, blank pages. This will be your Nardin vocabulary notebook which you will use for your four years at Nardin. Write any unfamiliar word in your new notebook, beginning on the first page. Do not skip lines. When you have a moment, look up each word’s meaning and write it after the word you have listed. Master these words. Use them at the dinner table! Parents love vocabulary. You should have at least 20 words . We will compare notes in early September and be tested on them soon after!

Response: On the first full day of class, please bring one response to any of these 4 selections that you enjoyed or did not enjoy and your reasons. Include specific plot support from the work to verify your feeling(s).

Enjoy your summer-and here’s to the bright and enlightening freshman year I know we will share!