

Summer Reading 2017

English 9 ~ Miss Eddy

Welcome to English 9 and to Nardin Academy! I look forward to meeting you, personally, in September. Your summer reading will be the first step on your new adventure of high school, and I truly hope that it will be an enjoyable and invigorating one. Below are the titles of your summer reading selections. Both are required readings. These works explore the many dimensions of human nature, the power of choice and chance, family, the human experience, social justice and injustice, as well as the belief in one's self and the good in others.

Both of the titles are available online for purchase. If you wish to purchase the titles at Barnes and Noble or Talking Leaves, it would be a good idea to call ahead to be sure that they are in-stock at the time you wish to purchase them. Both of the selections are also available through the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. (If you borrow a book from the library, please be sure that it will be available to you when the work is needed in class.)

Please also be on the lookout for information coming in the mail regarding our school-wide read.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

"The unforgettable novel of childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic. [*To Kill a Mockingbird*] is the timeless classic of growing up and the human dignity that unites us all" (From -Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Warner Books Editions, 1982. Cover.).

While reading, please consider what you think the theme of this novel is. What lessons do we gather from this novel? Please take notes in your book or on post-its as you read. You might wish to write down quotes that speak to you, characters that touch you, ideas that strike you, connections you make, etc.

Me Before You by Jojo Moyes

"Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life- steady boyfriend, close family—who has barely been farther afield than her tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair-bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel,—and he is not interested in exploring a new one.

Will is acerbic, moody, bossy- but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, Lou sets out to show him that life is still worth living.

Me Before You brings to life two people who couldn't have less in common- a heartbreakingly romantic novel that asks, *What do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart?*" (From Moyes, Jojo. *Me Before You*. Penguin Books, 2016. Back cover.).

I want to let you know that this novel does contain some strong language and mature content. We will address this in class, and I encourage family members to talk to each other throughout the reading process. This novel, while a heartbreaking and at times difficult read, reveals the immense complexity of relationships of many sorts and the human experience and condition. Jojo Moyes' brilliant and engaging writing style allows us the opportunity to step inside the lives of these characters and observe them through the "glass pages." We will study and examine this novel and its film for their formal literary qualities and author's writing style. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at eeddy@nardin.org. If while reading, you are at all uneasy, please contact me, and we can discuss other options. Please do note that this title, Me Before You, was chosen with meticulous care and concern for readers, inspiring a love for reading, and the themes that we will discuss throughout the year.

Jane Austen!

Because we are in the “Year of Austen,” commemorating 200 years since her death, and will be studying Jane Austen later in the year, I would also ask that you watch one of the following films over the summer to acquaint yourself with some of Jane Austen’s characters and her world. We will be reading *Persuasion* together, so I have not included this title on the list nor have I included *Pride and Prejudice* since you will read this as a junior. I might suggest getting a small group of your friends / family together to watch one of the films and make an afternoon / evening of it with scrumptious snacks and good company! There are other films based on other novels and various versions. If you are interested in these, please do e-mail me with your ideas.

Emma (1996 with Gwyneth Paltrow)

Sense and Sensibility (1995 with Emma Thompson and Kate Winslet)

In general, as you are reading, please take notes on the things you notice and which make you think and wonder. These could be questions you have or discussion topics you would wish to pose to the class, and they need not be in complete sentences. This can be done either in your book or on post-its, or in your notebook. Please save all of your notes, as they will be the first notes for class. I think that you may find that this will help you better understand the works and will help you get into the practice of annotating throughout the year. For all of the works, please circle any words with which you are unfamiliar. Then, please look up these words in a dictionary and be prepared to share this in class. Please keep a running list of vocabulary words and record these, with their definitions, in a composition notebook (the second notebook on supply list.) You will keep this notebook for all four years at Nardin.

Read at your own pace (though I might suggest about twenty pages a day) and read thoughtfully as we shall use these works in our studies in September as well as throughout the year as we explore other texts. Please feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns at eddy@nardin.org. If you wish to e-mail me, please use your parent’s(s’) or guardian’s(s’) e-mail.

Enjoy a wonderful summer! Please be a careful and thoughtful reader. I look forward to meeting you in September!

Happy Reading!

Please note: Any material or content within any of the above novel selections, which may be considered objectionable will be appropriately addressed in class.
