



**School of the Arts Commencement Academy
Summer Reading Program**

45 Prince Street
Rochester, NY 14607

A Letter to Parents/Guardians and Students

Dear Parents/Guardians and Incoming Twelfth graders:

This letter outlines the expectations for the Summer Reading Program for 2010. **All students are expected to complete the summer reading assignment REGARDLESS of the course in which they are enrolled.**

Students are required to read 2 novels:

- Select two novels from the book list provided
- The novels are categorized according to level of difficulty.
- Students are encouraged to take notes as they read the novels because they will be able to use them when they write their essay.

In September...

- Students will be completing an in class critical lens essay on September 13th, that will serve as a writing baseline for teachers.
- Students may use any notes that they have taken on the novels that they read over the summer.

Students are responsible for obtaining the novels from a public library or retail bookseller.

Although all the novels in this summer reading program are pre-approved by a panel of teachers, parents, and administrators, please be aware that some novels may contain mature themes or scenes. It is strongly recommended that you consider reading the novels along with your child to ensure proper interpretation of the content of these novels. This interaction can ensure greater retention of the main ideas and characters of the novels.

Thank you for your support of the **SOTA Summer Reading Program!**

Sincerely,

The SOTA English Department



Summer Reading List for 12th Grade

☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ Most Difficult ☹ ☹ ☹ More Difficult ☹ ☹ Less Difficult
 ☹ Least Difficult

| TITLE OF NOVEL | AUTHOR OF NOVEL | DESCRIPTION OF NOVEL |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| <u>The Road</u> ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ | Cormac McCarthy | A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other. |
| <u>Jennifer Government</u> ☹ | Max Barry | Taxation has been abolished, the government has been privatized, and employees take the surname of the company they work for. Jennifer Government is a stressed-out single mom, corporate watchdog, and government agent who has to rustle up funding before she's allowed to fight crime. The fight begins when Hack Nike attracts the eye of Jennifer Government with an advertising campaign which attempts to build street “cred” for a new line of \$2500 sneakers by shooting customers. |
| <u>Princess</u> ☹ ☹ | Jean Sasson | A true story of life behind the veil in Saudi Arabia, Princess delivers a gripping account of the horrors and degradations suffered by actual modern-day Saudi women. |
| <u>Kindred</u> ☹ ☹ | Octavia Butler | Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin. |
| <u>Water for Elephants</u> ☹ ☹ ☹ | Sara Gruen | It was the early part of the great Depression, and for Jacob, now ninety, the circus world he remembers was both his salvation and a living hell. It was there that he met Marlena, the beautiful equestrian star married to August, the charismatic but twisted animal trainer. And he met Rosie, an untrainable elephant who was the great gray hope for this third-rate traveling show. The bond that grew among this unlikely trio was one of love and trust, and, ultimately, it was their only hope for survival. |
| <u>Push</u> ☹ ☹ | Sapphire | For Precious Jones, 16 and pregnant with her father's child, miraculous hope appears and the world begins to open up for her when a courageous, determined teacher bullies, cajoles, and inspires her to learn to read, to define her own feelings and set them down in a diary. |