



*Framingham High School*

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## **2011 SUMMER READING** for students entering **GRADE 12**

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body” – Sir Richard Steele

All students are required to read a minimum of **two books**; however, we strongly encourage students to read several books for fun and for mental exercise. At least one of the books must be from this list. The second book can be either from the list or not, as long as it is appropriately challenging. **Students entering Advanced Placement Literature must read The Tempest** by William Shakespeare. At the beginning of the school year, students will be asked to write about the books they have read over the summer. We encourage students to work on their note-taking skills to prepare for discussions and assessments.

### **The Tempest** by William Shakespeare

This comedy takes place on an island that is controlled by a magician who was banished there. While in exile, he has raised a daughter who has never seen other people until a shipwreck caused by a tempest nearby. This story involves a funny monster, a magic sprite, drunken sailors, and love-at-first-sight, all while dealing with the complicated theme of power.

### **Catch 22** by Joseph Heller

Set during the second half of World War II, a soldier named Yossarian is stationed with his Air Force squadron on the island of Pianosa, near the Italian coast in the Mediterranean Sea. Heller creates absurd situation that evoke laughter and tears as Yossarian and his fellow soldiers clash with their inhumane officers and with a relentlessly confusing bureaucracy.

### **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** by Rebecca Skloot

This is a must-read for anyone interested in life sciences, social work, or social justice. Henrietta’s cancerous tissue, taken without her knowledge or consent, turned out to provide the foundation for countless medical breakthroughs and vaccines. Meanwhile, Henrietta’s family continued to live in poverty and frequently poor health, begging the questions, Who owns our bodies? And who carries our memories?

### **First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers** by Luong Ung

Told from the perspective of a five-year old girl, this memoir follows a family’s courageous survival through the 1970s genocide in Cambodia.

### **The Body of Christopher Creed** by Carol Plum-Ucci

This novel gives a realistic and haunting exploration of bullying’s worst-case scenario. No one knows what happened to Christopher Creed, the boy known as the class freak, the bullies’ punching bag. He simply vanished. Determined to discover the truth, Torey Adams, one of Creed’s former tormenters, implicates himself and discovers the importance of tolerance.

**The Road** by Cormac McCarthy

This novel follows the difficult journey of a father and son through an annihilated, post-apocalyptic America. Both father and son must face the dangers of a lawless time in which morality is forgotten and during which the best and the worst of human nature are revealed.

**Brave New World** by Aldous Huxley

This dystopic novel takes place on a future Earth where human beings are mass-produced and conditioned for lives in a rigid caste system. As the story progresses, the reader learns some of the disturbing secrets that lie underneath the bright, shiny facade of this highly-ordered world.

**A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini

By the author of the best-seller Kite Runner, this moving novel is told from the perspective of two women struggling to come to terms with the repressive rule in Taliban-run Afghanistan.

**The Tiger Ladies: A Memoir of Kashmir** by Sudah Kohl

For Koul, Kashmir was paradise, a place of supreme beauty and harmony cradled by the divine Himalayas. This all vanished with the militant Islamic movement and the violent struggle between Pakistan and India over her homeland.

**White Boy Shuffle** by Paul Beatty

*(Be advised that this book contains mature content and language.)*

This is a story of an African-American boy growing up in California. When his mom moves from Santa Monica to inner-city Los Angeles because she doesn't want him to act too white, he experiences a severe culture shock. He goes from getting beat up by girls to dominating on the basketball court, while breaking free from stereotypes along the way.

**Zenzele: A Letter for My Daughter** by J. Nozipo Maraire

Through a series of letters a mother shares with her daughter, who is entering Harvard University, her secrets about her past and her astonishing experiences in Zimbabwe's independence struggle.