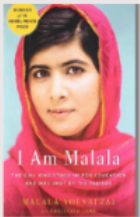


CRESTWOOD 2024 SUMMER READING LIST

Looking for something to read this summer? Want to get a head start on the next school year, or perhaps just escape to another world? Check out these great books ready for the cottage, the beach, or wherever your summer takes you.

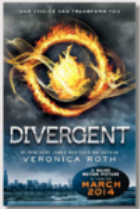
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Grade
7



Mrs. Todd recommends that the Grade 7's read "I am Malala" this summer. This autobiography is an incredible, true story about a young girl named Malala who stood up for women's education in Pakistan. Malala's life is turned on its head, and her peaceful childhood in Swat Valley is interrupted when the option to go to school is suddenly taken away. Malala fearlessly fights for her right to an education in an increasingly dangerous environment. Her story encourages others to stand up for what they believe in. "I am Malala" is an excellent story about courage, fearlessness, and resilience.

Divergent by Veronica Roth



For a heart-pounding, dystopian adventure, Mrs. Todd recommends that the Grade 7's read "Divergent". The novel follows Beatrice Prior, a young girl living in a future society where individuals are sorted into factions based on their personality traits. Beatrice must endure a series of physical and psychological tests, all whilst juggling a new romance and hiding a dangerous secret that could change her life forever. Beatrice tries to stay true to herself as the world changes around her, exploring her individuality, loyalty, and courage.

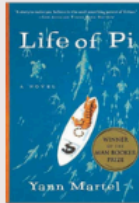
Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan



Looking for an inspiring historical-fiction novel to read this summer? Mrs. Todd encourages the Grade 7's to read "Echo". This novel weaves together three different stories, told by children from different times and places, all connected by a mysterious harmonica. Students will read about a talented musician named Friedrich in Germany before the start of World War II, a young boy named Otto in Nazi Germany, and siblings Ivy and Joel who live through the Depression in America. The harmonica symbolizes hope for these characters, bringing them together as they struggle to face a series of challenges and achieve their dreams. "Echo" is a heartwarming story about friendship, endurance, and the power of music.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Grade
8

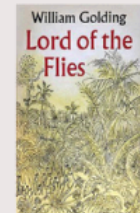


Want to go on a wild journey this summer? Mr. Hardin recommends "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel. After the sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a wounded zebra, an orangutan—and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger.

Mosquitoland by David Arnold



Are you in the mood for a bit of humour? How about heartbreak? Mr. Hardin's recommendation, "Mosquitoland," has it all. After the sudden collapse of her family, Mim Malone is dragged from her home in northern Ohio to the "wastelands" of Mississippi, where she lives in a medicated milieu with her dad and new stepmom. Before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back in Cleveland. So she ditches her new life and hops aboard a northbound Greyhound bus to her real home and her real mother, meeting a quirky cast of fellow travelers along the way. But when her thousand-mile journey takes a few turns she could never see coming, Mim must confront her own demons, redefining her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.



Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Mr. Hardin recommends "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding for Grade 8 students. This novel is set at the dawn of the next world war when a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate. This far from civilization, the boys can do anything they want. Anything! They attempt to create their own society, failing. As order collapses, strange howls echo in the night, and terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued. "Lord of the Flies" is an allegory that exposes "the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart."

The Giver by Lois Lowry



Is everything always as it seems? If you are looking for a book this summer, Ms. White suggests "The Giver" by Lois Lowry. Jonas lives in a seemingly perfect society; things are orderly, and everything and every one has its place. Everyone lives in happy harmony - but no one has any memory. When Jonas turns 12, he is assigned the 'Receiver of Memory' job. Through his training, he slowly begins to unlock the secrets of his community's past and what they are really missing out on. Once Jonas learns what he does, can he stay silent? Or will he stand up and rebel for what he believes in?

CRESTWOOD 2024 SUMMER READING LIST

Grade

9



Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

This summer, Mr. McCluskey recommends that Grade 9 students read "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi. This autobiographical graphic novel tells the story of Marjane, who grew up during Iran's Islamic cultural revolution. Through comic form, Persepolis tells the story of a young girl's growth and search for identity, set against the backdrop of civil and cultural war. This graphic novel is an excellent introduction to themes such as coming of age and social justice issues.

****Warning! Persepolis contains graphic images and subject matter relating to war and religious beliefs.****

In the Wild Light by Jeff Zentner



Stuck for a book to read this summer? Ms. White recommends "In the Wild Light" by Jeff Zentner. "In the Wild Light" is a coming-of-age novel that follows Cash and Delaney in the small town of Sawyer, Tennessee. When Delaney accepts a scholarship at a prestigious boarding school, she insists Cash be accepted alongside her. While this would be a life-changing opportunity, Cash struggles with the idea of leaving his family; he still feels the weight of losing his mother to an opioid addiction, and his Pawpaw is slowly dying.

"In the Wild Light" explores the struggles of finding yourself and exploring the possibilities and opportunities that exist when you enter a new world. It also features a supportive and influential English teacher who opens Cash's eyes to loving literature.

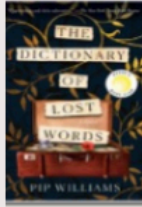
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams



Don't Panic! It's summer, so relax and enjoy the extraterrestrial by reading Douglas Adams' "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." Join Earth's last surviving human, Arthur Dent, as he hitchhikes across the galaxy, learns never to leave home without a towel and searches for the meaning of life, the universe and everything. Why should you read it? It's funny!

Grade

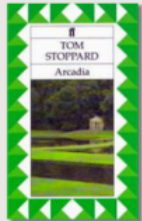
10



The Dictionary Of Lost Words by Pip Williams

This coming-of-age story about the daughter of one of the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary is a thoughtful, perceptive novel that explores growing up feeling alienated from the world around you. Our protagonist "adopts" the words rejected by the predominantly old and male establishment editors of the Dictionary and quickly sees parallels between these "outsiders" and herself. This book will delight all logophiles and anyone who has ever felt themselves as different and less worthy than those around them.

Arcadia by Tom Stoppard



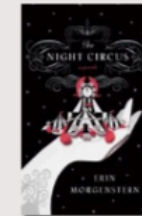
This play, unbelievably, talks about the intersection of Lord Byron's poetry and the laws of thermodynamics. The action is centered around a long dining room table, and characters from past and present intersect and comment on each other in an enchanting and graceful way. This is a play about love, growing up and the nature of the universe, which yields new insights and revelations every time you read it. One of Mr. Jull's favourite books ever!



Something More by Jackie Kalilith

One more coming-of-age story for you! This is a contemporary story told by a neurodiverse Palestinian-Canadian young woman navigating the tumultuous world of high school and hormones while trying to piece together who she is and who she wants to become.

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern



If you are looking to be drawn into a captivating and enchanting world brought to life through vivid description and writing, Ms. White recommends you look no further than "The Night Circus" by Erin Morgenstern.

At its core, it is a novel about two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who are bound to compete in a mysterious game in which they don't know the rules. The backdrop to the competition is the elusive Le Cirque des Rêves, a circus only open at night. As the competition draws on, it becomes clear that darker forces are at play, secrets being kept, and sacrifices being made. As the plot thickens, Morgenstern's writing will transport you to the various exhibits within the circus and truly make the magic come to life!

CRESTWOOD 2024 SUMMER READING LIST

Grade
11



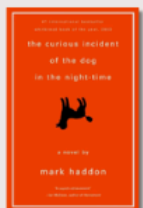
This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald

"This Side of Paradise" is a great book to read in the summer before starting Grade 11. It is a perfect introduction to Fitzgerald's writing style, as well as the setting and themes we will see in our main novel study of "The Great Gatsby." The story is a semi-autobiographical tale about a handsome and entitled young man during his time at Princeton University; it explores the themes of love, social class, and greed set in the Jazz Age.



Little Brother by Cory Doctorow

Cory Doctorow is a local Toronto author who blends modern technology and science fiction issues to create darkly exciting fiction. "Little Brother" is a teen thriller about Marcus, who finds himself caught up in the aftermath of a terrorist attack in San Francisco. Arrested and taken to a secret prison, Marcus discovers that his world has become a police state. "Little Brother" is an exciting story, but it has a lot to say about the modern world we live in today.



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

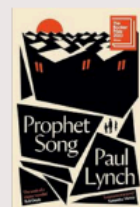
This entirely unique novel by Mark Haddon is both a fascinating character study and a mystery story in one. The 1st person narrator is 15-year-old Christopher, an autistic young man living in England who loves Sherlock Holmes stories. When his neighbour's dog is found dead, he decides to use his unique, analytical mind to solve the crime. While telling a fun and involving mystery story, the real gift of this novel is Haddon's ability to put readers inside the autistic mind empathetically.

Grade
12



Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Mr. McCluskey recommends reading "Things Fall Apart," by Chinua Achebe, the summer before Grade 12, as it is a great introduction to our first unit: Post Colonial Literature. Achebe's classic novel is set in Nigeria at the beginning of European colonization. Through the novel's protagonist, Okonkwo, we learn about Igbo society and culture and are introduced to many ideas and themes that we will discuss in Grade 12 English. Things Fall Apart is an excellent introduction to African Literature and a great choice for summer reading!



Prophet Song by Paul Lynch

When searching for summer reads, people often choose light, escapist fiction such as spy novels or romance fiction. Paul Lynch's Prophet Song is not that! Prophet Song, which won the 2023 Booker Prize, is a dystopian novel set in modern-day Ireland as it slides into totalitarianism. So, why should you read it? Because it's really, really, heartbreakingly good! It may haunt you and keep you up at night, but Prophet Song will also make you understand and empathize with others in a new way.



Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

Better known as a comedian and former host of The Daily Show, Trevor Noah tells his fascinating life story of growing up in the shadow of apartheid in South Africa. Under the laws of apartheid at that time, interracial relationships were illegal, so Noah, being the child of a white father and Black mother, was literally "born a crime." There is real darkness and complex social and political issues within his story, but Noah injects his autobiography with humour and humanity throughout.