

2009 English Summer Reading List

Eleventh Grade

Three Cups of Tea, Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

At Home in Mitford, Jan Karon

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

Cry, The Beloved Country, Alan Paton

Ben Hur, Lew Wallace

Julie, Catherine Marshall

Mindy, June Strong

My Name is Asher Lev, Chaim Potok

The Last Sin Eater, Francine Rivers

The Great Controversy, Ellen G. White

Qi, David Aikman

Assignments:

Choose two books to read from the list. Students planning to take honors English should read three.

1. Reading Journal for each book: 350 words minimum. For each book write down your thoughts, questions, reactions and personal connections to what you read.
2. Essay on one book: 350 words minimum. The essay should a) review the story, b) discuss how the author developed the story, c) give your opinion about the story and whether you would recommend it to anyone
3. Presentation in class over one book. This presentation will happen in the first week of school.

Annotated Book List

Three Cups of Tea

By Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Some failures lead to phenomenal successes, and this American nurse's unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, is one of them. Dangerously ill when he finished his climb in 1993, Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by the small Pakistani village of Korphe; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. Coauthor Relin recounts Mortenson's efforts in fascinating detail, presenting compelling portraits of the village elders, con artists, philanthropists, mujahideen, Taliban officials, ambitious school girls and upright Muslims Mortenson met along the way. As the book moves into the post-9/11 world, Mortenson and Relin argue that the United States must fight Islamic extremism in the region through collaborative efforts to alleviate poverty and improve access to education, especially for girls. Captivating and suspenseful, with engrossing accounts of both hostilities and unlikely friendships, this book will win many readers' hearts. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information

At Home in Mitford

By Jan Karon

From Amazon.com

Father Tim, a cherished small-town rector, is the steadfast soldier in this beloved slice of life story set in an American village where the grass is still green, the pickets are still white, and the air still smells sweet. The rector's forthright secretary, Emma Garret, worries about her employer, as she sees past his Christian cheerfulness into his aching loneliness. Slowly but surely, the empty places in Father Tim's heart do get filled. First with a gangly stray dog, later with a seemingly stray boy, and finally with the realization that he is stumbling into love with his independent and Christian-wise next-door neighbor. Much more than a gentle love story, this is a homespun tale about a town of endearing characters-- including a mysterious jewel thief--who are as quirky and popular as those of *Mayberry, R.F.D.* --Gail Hudson

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

By Mark Twain

From the Publisher

Sparkling with mischief, jumping with youthful adventure, Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer* is one of the most splendid recreations of childhood in all of literature. It is a lighthearted romp, full of humor and warmth. It shares with its sequel, *Huckleberry Finn*, not only a set of unforgettable characters--Tom, Huck, Aunt Polly and others--but a profound understanding of humanity as well. Through such hilarious scenes as the famous fence-whitewashing incident, Twain gives a portrait--perceptive yet tender--of a humanity rendered foolish by his own aspirations and obsessions. Written as much for adults as for young boys and girls, *Tom Sawyer* is the work of a master storyteller performing in his shirt sleeves, using his best talents to everyone's delight.

Cry, the Beloved Country

By Alan Paton

Book Description, Amazon.com

"Cry, the beloved country, for the unborn child that is the inheritor of our fear. Let him not love the earth too deeply. Let him not laugh too gladly when the water runs through his fingers, nor stand too silent when the setting sun makes red the veld with fire. Let him not be too moved when the birds of his land are singing, nor give too much of his heart to a mountain or valley. For fear will rob him of all if he gives too much."

The most famous and important novel in South Africa's history, and an immediate worldwide bestseller when it was published in 1948, Alan Paton's impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law is a work of searing beauty. The eminent literary critic Lewis Gannett wrote, "We have had many novels from statesmen and reformers, almost all bad; many novels from poets, almost all thin. In Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* the statesman, the poet and the novelist meet in a unique harmony."

Cry, the Beloved Country is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, *Cry, the Beloved Country* is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

Ben Hur

By Lew Wallace

Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ (1880) by Lew Wallace is one of the most popular and beloved 19th century American novels. This faithful New Testament tale combines the events of the life of Jesus with grand historical spectacle in the exciting story of Judah of the House of Hur, a man who finds extraordinary redemption for himself and his family. A classic of faith, fortitude, and inspiration. *Amazon.com*

Julie

By Catherine Marshall

From Library Journal

Marshall, author of the classic *Christy*, drew on her life experiences for this coming-of-age story in which a young girl discovers herself and the strength of her faith. Teens especially will be drawn to this tale, and the new edition of this 1984 publication offers the perfect excuse to replace worn-out copies.

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Mindy

By June Strong

We meet Mindy when she's a teenager struggling with her Christian faith in an 1800s small-town area that isn't Christian. She's also suffering from tuberculosis and her life is in doubt. Clearly the author wants to strengthen and assist others who are trying to live out Christianity in a worldly world, and does this well, with warm, real characters we can relate to in spite of the writing style. Mindy, an intelligent, engaging young woman, is someone every Christian can understand. Her struggles, defeats, and victories can bring hope to anyone in a similar situation. Though the setting is old to us today (you will find traditional roles for the most part), the struggles are the same, and Mindy's inner debates and outward decisions--as well as those of other characters--give us valuable insights and a renewed conviction to follow God whatever the cost. In today's world, a real Christian is even more of an oddity than Mindy was in her day; but if you're in Mindy's shoes in any area of your life, I encourage you to get this book, read it, and take it in. *Amazon.com customer review*

My Name is Asher Lev

By Chaim Potok

Since its original publication in 1972, this stirring, luminously rendered novel that lets us into a little-known and less understood world has been recognized as a modern classic.

Its protagonist is Asher Lev, a boy raised in a cloistered Hasidic community in postwar Brooklyn, who at an early age discovers a compulsive need to draw and paint the world around him. As he grows up, Asher's gift will become increasingly evident to others even as it places him at odds with his parents and teachers. For a Jew is supposed to serve the Ribono Shel Olom, the Master of the Universe, while an artist is responsible only to his imagination. In depicting Asher's struggle to reconcile these two identities, *My Name Is Asher Lev* presents a heartbreaking and exultant vision of what it means to be an artist. --Publisher's Comments

The Last Sin Eater

By Francine Rivers

All that matters for Cadi Forbes is finding the one man who can set her free from the sin that plagues her, the sin that has stolen her mother's love from her and made her wish she could flee life and its terrible injustice. But Cadi doesn't know that the "sin eater" is seeking as well. Before their journeys are over, Cadi and the sin eater must face themselves, each other, and the One who will demand everything from them in exchange for the answers they seek. A captivating tale of suffering, seeking, and redemption. *Amazon.com*

The Great Controversy

By Ellen G. White

Satan, the very first creation from the hand of He who created all things - Jesus Christ - was the most beautiful, perfect being ever created. Why did he rebel? Why did God create humans? Does God experience human-like emotions? What's happening to this planet, and is there an ultimate solution anywhere?

This fast-moving book covers the important topics of history from God's viewpoint from the entrance of sin in heaven to its final eradication in the creation of the new earth. *www.earlysda.com*

Qi

By David Aikman

Richard Ireton is a Hong Kong-based foreign correspondent for an American weekly news magazine. When he is sent to Guangdong, the Chinese province adjacent to Hong Kong, to investigate the disappearance of Chuck McHale, a missing American, he discovers there are dangerous new political currents flowing through South China.

In the middle of these developments are practitioners of Qigong, a Taoist meditation and martial arts movement, who are rallying around their Great Master Wu. These fiercely anti-foreign Qigong adherents have allied with renegade forces of the Chinese army, and Ireton learns that together they pose a dangerous new threat to peace in Asia and relations with the United States. Ireton's hunt for McHale, who has run afoul of these Qigong army elements, brings him into the heart of China's underground "house church" movement, where McHale has sought refuge. *Amazon.com*