

KILLARNEY SUMMER READING 2011

11

KILLARNEY SECONDARY SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST - GRADE 11

Reading is an essential ingredient for success in any student's education. Summer reading should not be viewed as a chore, but rather for leisure and interest. Enjoy!

FICTION

The Blind Assassin - Atwood, Margaret

This novel combines drama, romantic suspense, and science fiction fantasy as Atwood, through three interwoven stories, reveals the secrets surrounding the Chase family, especially the lives of two sisters.

A Tale of Two Cities - Dickens, Charles

A Tale of Two Cities begins on a muddy English road in an atmosphere charged with mystery and drama, and it ends in the Paris of the French Revolution with one of the most famous acts of self-sacrifice in literature.

A Farewell to Arms - Hemingway, Earnest

The best American novel to emerge from World War I, *A Farewell to Arms* is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Hemingway's frank portrayal of the love between Lieutenant Henry and Catherine Barkley, caught in the inexorable sweep of war, glows with an intensity unrivaled in modern literature, while his description of the German attack on Caporetto -- of lines of fired men marching in the rain, hungry, weary, and demoralized -- is one of the greatest moments in literary history.

The Jade Peony - Choy, Wayson

A lyrical tale of growing up in Vancouver's early Chinatown, Choy's novel unfolds through the reminiscences of three children in an immigrant family. The reality of life in Canada is tempered by magic and ghosts, and by the secrets and stories of their grandmother, Poh-Poh.

The Wars - Findley, Timothy

Young Robert Ross signs up to fight in WWI and is completely unprepared for the devastation he will witness and undergo. A masterpiece.

Conceit - Novik, Mary

Rich and interesting historical novel based on the life of the daughter of 17th Century rockstar poet John Donne's. Bawdy and fascinating. Winner of the BC Book Prize.

The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz - Richler, Mordecai

This novel is about a self-absorbed, upwardly mobile young man who strives for success and wealth in order to prove himself to his family and the Montreal Jewish community in which he lives.

Persuasion - Austen, Jane

Eight years ago, Anne Elliot refused the hand of a handsome but poor young man. Suddenly, he is parachuted back into her life – now wealthy and most eligible. Very witty.

Possession - Byatt, A.S.

If you are fascinated by the Victorian Age, this is the book for you! Two contemporary academic researchers reluctantly join forces to locate long-hidden personal correspondence between two Victorian poets. The characters are wonderful and the story is special!

KILLARNEY SUMMER READING 2011

11

Medicine River - King, Thomas

Magic realism, humour, great characters and family dynamic on a First Nations reserve on the Canadian prairies. An entertaining and heartwarming book.

Lies of Silence - Moore, Brian

Set in Belfast, during the height of The Troubles. The IRA kidnaps a man's wife and forces him to carry out an operation for them. Moore introduces the personal dimensions behind terrorists and their victims.

The Outsider - Camus, Albert

An important novel that typifies the French existentialist movement. What does it mean when a man kills another for no reason? Why should he feel guilty? Where does morality come from in a secular society?

The Big Sleep - Chandler, Raymond

The most famous novel by the acknowledged king of noir fiction. Tough dames, pickled detectives and savvy dialogue. If you wondered where the look and content of Sin City came from, look no further. 4 The Songlines

Crime and Punishment - Dostoevsky, Fyodor

A passionate investigation of the human psyche by a great Russian writer. Can a man kill someone he thinks is worthless and get away with it? Is his action outside moral boundaries? A big, thick, intellectual book.

The Name of the Rose - Eco, Umberto

Who says that books can't be dangerous? In a Medieval monastery, the library is apparently killing the monks who work in it. Enter: Brother William of Baskerville, rational man and friend of renown intellectual Erasmus. Eerie, suspenseful and surprising – from a historian by trade.

Adam Bede - Eliot, George

What if you were the best and most successful man in town and you fell in love with the most beautiful and manipulative woman? A murder trial, perhaps?

Night Soldiers - Furst, Allan

Quite possibly the best historical spy novel about recruitment and manipulation of KJB operatives in Eastern Europe and Germany in the period 1922-1945. Suspense, war, fear. A great read.

The Polish Officer - Furst, Allan

The Nazis and the Soviet Union marched into Poland in September 1939, and WWII began. What was the fate of the Polish army? Espionage and politics in pre-WWII Europe. Historically accurate and literate.

Smilla's Sense of Snow - Hoeg, Peter

A murder mystery that is also an investigation of the human heart. Smilla, the protagonist, is one of the most powerful characters in contemporary literature.

The Known World - Jones, Edward P.

In the deep South, freed negroes often owned slaves and even their own family members. A fascinating look into the day-to-day politics of race in America circa 1830.

To Play the Fool - King, Laurie R.

In contemporary Berkeley, Detective Inspector Kate Martinelli investigates murder and becomes fascinated with a homeless man, who plays the role of the "holy fool." A great read, and historically and philosophically deep.

KILLARNEY SUMMER READING 2011

11

The Road - McCarthy, Cormac

In a post-apocalyptic world, a man and his son struggle to stay alive and human. This is a brutal book and a very beautiful one.

A Place of Greater Safety - Mantel, Hilary

A masterful reconstruction of the personal and political lives of Robespierre, Danton and Desmoulins – the architects of the French Revolution and the subsequent Terror. Thick, juicy, fascinating.

Wolf Hall - Mantel, Hilary

Booker Award-winning novel with Richard Cromwell – the architect of Henry VIII's divorce and seizure of the monasteries – as protagonist. The author set herself the task of imagining what type of man could have raised himself from poverty to be the English Lord Chamberlain in a world controlled by birthright. The result is compelling and a great read.

Bel Canto - Patchett, Ann

An opera singer is lured to a developing country to perform for potential financial investors. On the night of her performance, the country's rebels launch an offensive and kidnap the group. A romance, a political thriller, a bitter-sweet meditation on humanity.

The Painter of Battles - Perez-Reverte, Arturo

A war-zone photographer has retired to a corner of Spain to take up painting. All is quiet until a man he recognizes from the former Yugoslavia arrives.... to kill him.

The Dark Room - Seiffert, Rachel

A beautiful and evocative collection of three novellas all set in Germany and focused on the rise and consequences of Nazism. One of the most hope-filled and transcendent works of the last several years.

The Three Evangelists - Vargas, Fred

Philosophy and personality theory blend with novel characters in this translation of a mystery novel by France's favourite female sleuth-crafter.

NON-FICTION

Branded: the buying and selling of teenagers - Quart, Alissa

A lively investigation of the process that corporations use to attach young people to their products.

Fast Food Nation - Schlosser, Eric

The author attacks America's fast food industry, blaming it for the downfall of the contemporary American lifestyle. He blames burgers and shakes, readily available on the way home from work, for reducing quality time families once shared in their kitchens and dining rooms. He also condemns the industry for promoting high-fat diets, which he believes may be responsible for many health problems.

The Professor and the Madman - Winchester, Simon

Murder, madness and ... the Oxford English Dictionary??? Who would have thought that staid book had such a dark history?

The Beauty Myth - Wolf, Naomi

Are women victimized by the idea of beauty? Making a strong, feminist argument, Wolf investigates society's skin-deep value system.

KILLARNEY SUMMER READING 2011

11

West with the Night - Markham, Beryl

The matter-of-fact and yet poetic memoir of the first person to fly east to west across the Atlantic. Did I mention that she was also a thoroughbred horse trainer and a bush pilot in Africa in the period prior to WWII?

The Concubine's Children - Chong, Denise

This is a true story, taken from letters, photographs, and memories, of the author's grandmother, brought to Vancouver from China as a young concubine. It is also the story of her husband's first wife and children still living in a village in China, and of author Chong's discovery of those children sixty years later.

Missing Sarah - de Vries, Maggie

The heart-felt true life story of Sarah de Vries – one of the women whose DNA was discovered on the Picton pig farm. Written by Sarah's sister, this book humanely ponders the road to loss and addiction. Not sensational. Just right. Finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award.

The Triumph of Narrative - Fulford, Robert

Taken from his Massey Lecture series on how people tell stories in literature, journalism, gossip, etc. Sharply written and well-paced. If you want to be a journalist or a professional writer, this is an excellent foundation book. 2

No Logo - Klein, Naomi

This exhaustively researched and well-written book documents the dark side of multinational companies and their marketing efforts. A good companion piece is the documentary film *The Take*.

Better Living: In Pursuit of Happiness from Plato to Prozac - Kingwell, Mark

A witty and edgy analysis of our society's obsession with happiness in its many forms. Don't choose this book unless you are willing to read and ponder, read and ponder. Kingwell is a professor of philosophy.

Hello, I'm Special: How Individuality Became the New Conformity - Niedvicki, Hal

Young and hip Canadian social analyst asks why we are so obsessed with standing out by buying in.

The Tiger : a true story of vengeance and survival - Vaillant, John

It's close to the shortest, darkest day of 1997 and a man-eating tiger is hunting the residents of a small, isolated Siberian village, seeking revenge. This true account combines a history of human/predator relations, an assessment of international conservation efforts, an account of the breakdown of the former Soviet Union, and so much more.

The Consolations of Philosophy - de Botton, Alain

Who would have thought that a non-fiction book about six philosophers and their thoughts could be so fun and witty? Honestly, this book is a great read and a fabulous introduction to the practical uses of philosophy.

In a Sunburned Country - Bryson, Bill

A hilarious and darkly observed travel book. Bryson voyages to Australia, where there are more deadly creatures per square kilometre than anywhere else.

The Tipping Point - Gladwell, Malcolm

Groundswells and fads. Where do they come from? What are the proverbial straws that break the camel's back?