



# *Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School*

## **The 2022 Summer Reading Program**

“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.” –*F. Scott Fitzgerald*

- Bishop McGuinness values the transformational growth that takes place when teachers and students experience the *joy of learning together*. A collaborative academic culture nurtures intellectual courage, curiosity, and creativity.
- Bishop McGuinness values *relationships that connect members of the school community to each other and to the larger world*. BMHS aspires to be a nurturing community that *respects the dignity of every human being*.
- Bishop McGuinness is an academically talented and *diverse community* that prepares students for college and *active citizenship in a global society*.

For this year’s summer reading, students will read and complete assignments for the English classes they have enrolled in for the fall semester.

**Incoming freshmen and all other new students receive the summer reading assignment at New Villain Night on Thursday, May 19. Returning students will receive the summer reading assignment in class on May 19.**

***Parents should help students select a book or books they consider appropriate. Parental involvement assures us that the book’s theme and content are suitable and respect a family’s values and interests.***

*All book descriptions come from amazon.com. and washingtonpost.com.*

## AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

You **MUST** read the following book. Please note that it and the other books on this list have appeared at least once on AP Literature and Composition exams; read your choices carefully. You will write an essay and/or take a test during the first week of class in August.

### ***Jane Eyre*** (Charlotte Brontë)

Jane Eyre possesses neither the great beauty nor entrancing charm that her fictional predecessors used to make their way in the world. Instead, Jane relies upon her powers of diligence and perception, conducting herself with dignity animated by passion. The novel follows the emotions and experiences of its title character, including her growth to adulthood, and her love for Mr. Rochester, the master of Thornfield Hall.

Choose **ONE** of the following to read in addition to *Jane Eyre*.

### ***Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*** (Tom Stoppard)

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* is one of the most enduring and frequently performed plays of contemporary theater and has firmly established itself in the dramatic canon. Acclaimed as a modern masterpiece, it is the fabulously inventive tale of *Hamlet* as told from the worm's-eye view of the bewildered Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, two minor characters in Shakespeare's play.

### ***The End of the Affair*** (Graham Greene)

Maurice Bendrix, a writer in Clapham during the Blitz, develops an acquaintance with Sarah Miles, the bored, beautiful wife of a dull civil servant named Henry. Maurice claims it's to divine a character for his novel-in-progress. That's the first deception. What he really wants is Sarah, and what Sarah needs is a man with passion. So begins a series of reckless trysts doomed by Maurice's increasing romantic demands and Sarah's tortured sense of guilt. Then, after Maurice miraculously survives a bombing, Sarah ends the affair—quickly, absolutely, and without explanation. It's only when Maurice crosses paths with Sarah's husband that he discovers the fallout of their duplicity—and it's more unexpected than Maurice, Henry, or Sarah herself could have imagined.

### ***Wuthering Heights*** (Emily Brontë)

*Wuthering Heights* is a wild, passionate story of the intense and almost demonic love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a foundling adopted by Catherine's father. After Mr. Earnshaw's death, Heathcliff is bullied and humiliated by Catherine's brother Hindley and wrongly believing that his love for Catherine is not reciprocated, leaves Wuthering Heights, only to return years later as a wealthy and polished man. He proceeds to exact a terrible revenge for his former miseries.

***Catch-22*** (Joseph Heller)

Set in Italy during World War II, this is the story of the incomparable, malingering bombardier, Yossarian, a hero who is furious because thousands of people he has never met are trying to kill him. But his real problem is not the enemy—it is his own army, which keeps increasing the number of missions the men must fly to complete their service. Yet if Yossarian makes any attempt to excuse himself from the perilous missions he's assigned, he'll be in violation of Catch-22, a hilariously sinister bureaucratic rule: a man is considered insane if he willingly continues to fly dangerous combat missions, but if he makes a formal request to be removed from duty, he is proven sane and therefore ineligible to be relieved.

***The Awakening*** (Kate Chopin)

Originally titled *A Solitary Soul*, this is a novel set in New Orleans and on the Louisiana Gulf coast at the end of the 19th century. The plot centers on Edna Pontellier and her struggle to reconcile her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing social attitudes of the turn-of-the-century American South. It is one of the earliest American novels that focuses on women's issues without condescension. It is also widely seen as a landmark work of early feminism.

***Atonement*** (Ian McEwan)

On a hot summer day in 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis witnesses a moment's flirtation between her older sister, Cecilia, and Robbie Turner, the son of a servant and Cecilia's childhood friend. But Briony's incomplete grasp of adult motives—together with her precocious literary gifts—brings about a crime that will change all their lives.

## HONORS ENGLISH IV AND ENGLISH IV

**Students in Honors English IV must choose TWO books to read.**

**Students in English IV must choose ONE book to read.**

**All students will write an essay and/or take a test during the first week of class in August.**

### ***Fast Food Nation*** (Eric Schlosser)

This fascinating study reveals how the fast food industry has altered the landscape of America, widened the gap between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and transformed food production throughout the world. Schlosser inspires readers to look beneath the surface of our food system, consider its impact on society and, most of all, think for themselves.

### ***The Help*** (Kathryn Stockett)

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated from college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town.

### ***Hamnet*** (Maggie O'Farrell)

Agnes is a wild creature who walks her family's land with a falcon on her glove and is known throughout the countryside for her unusual gifts as a healer, understanding plants and potions better than she does people. Once she settles with her husband on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon, she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadfast, centrifugal force in the life of her young husband, whose career on the London stage is taking off when his beloved young son succumbs to sudden fever.

### ***Silas Marner*** (George Eliot)

When Silas is falsely accused of stealing the funds of the small Calvinist congregation to which he belongs, his fiancée breaks off their engagement and he flees in shame to the English Midlands. Here he lives alone quietly plying his trade in the pursuit of gold. After a while Silas has amassed a small fortune but when he returns one day to his cottage, he finds his stash of gold stolen. Devastated by this loss, Silas sinks into a deep state of gloom. His life soon changes when he finds a young girl resting in his home.

### ***Klara and the Sun*** (Kazuo Ishiguro)

Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. This is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

***Romeo and Juliet*** (William Shakespeare)

In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare creates a violent world in which two young people fall in love. It is not simply that their families disapprove; the Montagues and the Capulets are engaged in a blood feud. In this death-filled setting, the movement from love at first sight to the lovers' final union in death seems almost inevitable. And yet, this play has become the quintessential story of young love.

## AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION, HONORS ENGLISH III, ENGLISH III

Students in AP Language and Honors English III must choose TWO books to read.

Students in English III must choose ONE book to read.

All students will write an essay and/or take a test during the first week of class in August.

### *Between the World and Me* (Ta-Nehesi Coates)

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion.

### *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (Rebecca Skloot)

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine: the first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, which are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

### *Someone Knows My Name* (Lawrence Hill)

Kidnapped from Africa as a child, Aminata Diallo is enslaved in South Carolina but escapes during the chaos of the Revolutionary War. In Manhattan she becomes a scribe for the British, recording the names of blacks who have served the King and earned their freedom in Nova Scotia. But the hardship and prejudice of the new colony prompt her to follow her heart back to Africa, then on to London, where she bears witness to the injustices of slavery and its toll on her life and a whole people.

### *The Things They Carried* (Tim O'Brien)

This collection is a classic, life-changing meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. Depicting the men of Alpha Company—Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three—the stories in *The Things They Carried* open our eyes to the nature of war in a way we will never forget.

***Immigrant Voices: Twenty-Four Narratives on Becoming an American*** (Gordon Hunter)

From Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur's defining statement of Americanism to Harlem Renaissance figure Claude McKay's observations on race, here are both rousing and heartbreaking impressions of those who departed from their homelands in the hopes of making a new life. Reconciling their old traditions with their new land, these immigrants faced such adversity as assimilation, prejudice, poverty, homesickness, and identity. Filled with inspiring stories of immigrants who traveled from Mexico, India, China, Korea, Syria, and beyond, *Immigrant Voices* reveals—in their own words—how these newcomers were able to persevere and make their mark on the “New World.”

***Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women*** (Kate Moore)

In the dark years of the First World War, radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright. Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies from head to toe; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" are the luckiest alive — until they begin to fall mysteriously ill.

## HONORS ENGLISH II AND ENGLISH II

**Students in Honors English II must choose TWO books to read.**

**Students in English II must choose ONE book to read.**

**All students will write an essay and/or take a test during the first week of class in August.**

### ***Operation Mincemeat*** (Ben Macintyre)

Near the end of World War II, two British naval officers came up with a brilliant and slightly mad scheme to mislead the Nazi armies about where the Allies would attack southern Europe. To carry out the plan, they would have to rely on the most unlikely of secret agents: a dead man. Macintyre's dazzling, critically acclaimed bestseller chronicles the extraordinary story of what happened after British officials planted this dead body—outfitted in a British military uniform with a briefcase containing false intelligence documents—in Nazi territory, and how this secret mission fooled Hitler into changing military positioning, paving the way for the Allies' drive to victory.

### ***Cyrano de Bergerac*** (Edmond Rostand)

Cyrano, a cadet in the French Army, is a talented duelist, poet, and musician; however, he has extreme self-doubt in matters of love due to the large size of his nose. Cyrano is conflicted by his inability to summon the confidence to tell the woman that he adores, Roxane, how he truly feels. He writes her a letter expressing his love with the intent of giving it to her during a rendezvous, but when he learns that Roxane is in love with another, a handsome new cadet, Christian de Neuvillette, he withholds his admission.

### ***The Secret Life of Bees*** (Sue Monk Kidd)

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted Black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of Black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna.

### ***The Road to Devotion*** (Cameron Kent)

When Sarah Talton's father suddenly passes away in the summer of 1860, she is left with a teenaged sister to care for and the family farm and slaves to oversee. Determined to keep their land out of the hands of opportunists, she embraces her father's iron will and hardhearted demeanor. But when she falls in love with a French merchant who speaks no English and is given charge of a runaway slave who brings them both together, Sarah begins to question the values and beliefs instilled by her father and upheld by her Winston, North Carolina community. When the Civil War looms and community leaders clamor for blood and obedience, Sarah finds herself traveling a road that will lead either to her ruin or to her freedom.

***The Thursday Murder Club*** (Richard Osman)

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?

***The Vanishing American Adult*** (Ben Sasse)

Raised by well-meaning but overprotective parents and coddled by well-meaning but misbegotten government programs, America's youth are ill-equipped to survive in our highly-competitive global economy. Many of the coming-of-age rituals that have defined the American experience--learning the value of working with your hands, leaving home to start a family, becoming economically self-reliant—are being delayed or skipped altogether. The statistics are daunting: 30% of college students drop out after the first year, and only 4 in 10 graduate. One in three 18-to-34 year-olds lives with their parents. Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse, who as president of a Midwestern college observed the trials of this generation up close, sees an existential threat to the American way of life.

***The Storyteller*** (Dave Grohl)

We all secretly want to believe that fame is awful and famous people are miserable. But Dave Grohl, superstar rock drummer, cheerful avatar of suburban averageness, and puppy in human form, is here to tell you it's actually pretty great. "Believe me," he writes in his amiable, conversational new memoir, life as a rock star "is all that it's cracked up to be and more."

## HONORS ENGLISH I AND ENGLISH I

**Students in Honors English I must choose TWO books to read.**

**Students in English I must choose ONE book to read.**

**All students will write an essay and/or take a test during the first week of class in August.**

***Golden: The Miraculous Rise of Steph Curry*** (Marcus Thompson)

Combining the competitive grit and fun-loving spirit of his mother with the mild demeanor, easy charm, and sharp shooting of his father, former NBA player Dell Curry, Steph Curry derives support and strength from his close-knit kin and his commitment to Christianity. This hard-working, wholesome image, however, is both a blessing and curse in a league of big personalities.

***A Separate Peace*** (John Knowles)

Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, *A Separate Peace* is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.

***Pygmalion*** (George Bernard Shaw)

Professor of phonetics Henry Higgins makes a bet that he can train a bedraggled Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, to pass for a duchess at an ambassador's garden party by teaching her to assume a veneer of gentility, the most important element of which, he believes, is impeccable speech.

***Between Shades of Grey*** (Ruta Sepetys)

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life -- until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive?

***Hidden Figures*** (Margot Lee Shetterly)

Before John Glenn orbited the earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets and astronauts into space. Among these problem-solvers were some exceptionally talented African-American women, some of the brightest minds of their generation. Originally relegated to teaching math in the South's segregated public schools, they were called into service during the labor shortages of World War II, when America's aeronautics industry was in dire need of anyone who had the right stuff.

***Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina*** (Michaela DePrince)

Michaela DePrince was known as girl Number 27 at the orphanage, where she was abandoned at a young age and tormented as a “devil child” for a skin condition that makes her skin appear spotted. But it was at the orphanage that Michaela would find a picture of a beautiful ballerina en pointe that would help change the course of her life.