



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**  
**Summer Reading List**  
**For Students Entering Grade 10**



**Essential Questions:**

1. What can a book teach about the many dimensions of global culture (family, food, religions, gender, education, art, entertainment, etc.) at a particular place and time?
2. How do important historical or political shifts affect the lives of the people in a culture or society?
3. What character traits are considered noble, heroic, or admirable in a particular culture or society?
4. How does *fitting in with* or *clashing with* the cultural values of a society affect the individual?
5. What does reading about the culture and society of a different global area teach you about your own culture and society?

<b>Selections:</b>			
<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>Global Area</b>
Adichie	<i>Purple Hibiscus</i>  <b>Required for all students entering grade 10</b>	Adichie's novel tells the compelling story of fifteen-year-old Kambili. She is the dutiful daughter of a rich man, a religious fanatic and domestic tyrant who has the public image of a politically courageous newspaper publisher and philanthropist. When a widowed aunt takes an interest in Kambili, her family begins to unravel and re-form itself in unpredictable ways. <b>Amazon.com Review</b>	Nigeria
Bronte	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	As an orphan, Jane's childhood is not an easy one, but her independence and strength of character sustain her through the miseries inflicted by cruel relatives and a brutal education system. Taking a job as a governess in a house containing dangerous secrets and a passionate man she finds increasingly attractive, Jane is ultimately forced to call on all her resources in order to hold fast to her beliefs. <b>Amazon.com (product description)</b>	United Kingdom
Dumas	<i>The Three Musketeers</i>	The Three Musketeers tells the story of D'Artagnan and his three friends from the regiment of the King's Musketeers - Athos, Porthos and Aramis. Under the watchful eye of their patron, the four defend the honour of the regiment and the queen as the power struggles of seventeenth century France are played out in the background. <b>Amazon.com (product description)</b>	France
Eire	<i>Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy</i>	In the early nineteen-sixties, an operation called Pedro Pan deposited more than fourteen thousand Cuban children, without their parents, in Miami. Eire, now a professor at Yale, was one of them. In his deeply moving memoir Eire delivers unsparing indictments of practically everyone concerned, including himself. <b>From The New Yorker</b>	Cuba
Jin	<i>In the Pond</i>	<i>In the Pond</i> tackles some very big issues: power, vanity, art, injustice, and politics. Set in modern Communist China, the book's hero, Shao Bin, is an employee at a fertilizer plant and a self-taught artist. When Bin publishes a satirical cartoon protesting official corruption, the consequences of this simple act snowball, and in self-defense, Bin finds himself aiming his attacks ever higher up the bureaucratic ladder. <b>Amazon.com Review</b>	China

Kim	<i>Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood</i>	Kim's fictionalized memoir tells the story of one family's experience during the Japanese occupation of Korea. The narrative starts in 1933 with a dramatic river crossing into Manchuria. By 1938 the family has moved back to Korea, where the boy must learn to bow his head toward the Japanese emperor in Tokyo. A few years later, the Koreans must renounce their family names and take Japanese ones instead. <i>Lost Names</i> is a beautifully written tribute to the people of Korea, mingling the experiences of childhood with the history of the occupation. <b>Amazon.com Review</b>	Korea
Kincaid	<i>My Brother</i>	In <i>My Brother</i> , Jamaica Kincaid's searing account of her younger brother Devon's 1996 death from AIDS, the author is ruthlessly honest about her ambivalence toward the impoverished Caribbean nation from which she fled, her restrictive family, and the culture that imprisoned Devon. <b>Amazon.com Review</b>	Antigua and Barbuda
Mehran	<i>Pomegranate Soup</i>	The three Aminpour sisters escape the Iranian Revolution and make their way west to a small Irish village. There they take over an abandoned Italian bakery and open the Babylon Cafe. Although they manage to make a success of their restaurant, they never do span the gulf separating them from Thomas McGuire, owner of the town pub, who plots to shutter their restaurant. Stark contrasts between the sisters' lives in Iran and Ireland and between the Irish and Persian cultures energize Mehran's tale. <b>From Booklist</b>	Iran, Ireland
See	<i>Snow Flower and the Secret Fan</i>	Set in remote 19th-century China, this novel details the story of lifelong friends Lily and Snow Flower. See's in-depth research into women's ceremonies and duties brings fascinating revelations about arranged marriages, women's inferior status in both their natal and married homes, and the Confucian proverbs and myriad superstitions that informed daily life in China's rural interior. <b>From Publishers Weekly</b>	China
Rachlin	<i>Persian Girls: A Memoir</i>	This memoir tells the story of an Iranian girl growing up in a culture where, despite the Westernizing reforms of the Shah, women had little power or autonomy. As an infant in 1946, Rachlin was given to her mother's childless and widowed sister. But at the age of nine, Rachlin is returned to her birth family. Eventually Rachlin manages to escape the typical female fate, convincing her father to send her to college in the U.S. <b>From Publishers Weekly</b>	Iran
Remarque	<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>	Paul Baumer enlisted with his classmates in the German army of World War I. Youthful, enthusiastic, they become soldiers. But despite what they have learned, they break into pieces under the first bombardment in the trenches. And as horrible war plods on year after year, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principles of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other--if only he can come out of the war alive. <b>The New York Times Book Review</b>	Germany
Sidhwa	<i>Water</i>	Set in 1938, against the backdrop of Gandhi's rise to power, <i>Water</i> follows the life of eight-year-old Chuyia, abandoned at a widow's ashram after the death of her elderly husband. There, she must live in penitence until her death. This riveting look at the lives of widows in colonial India is ultimately a haunting and lyrical story of love, faith, and redemption. <b>Amazon.com (product description)</b>	India