

June 1, 2009

Dear Parents and Students,

Summer is a time for friends, for family, and for getting outdoors and exploring nature, but it is also, we hope, a time to read.

Reading, increasingly, is a lost art, and at times it seems as if American culture is conspiring against the printed word. Nearly half of all Americans aged 18 to 24 read no books for pleasure, and the percentage of 17-year-olds who read nothing at all for pleasure has doubled over a twenty-year period. Newspapers are losing their readerships, with some migrating to the Web, pale versions of their paper selves. While there is certainly a great deal of reading happening on the Internet, this reading, studies have demonstrated, is a lesser form of literacy, especially when compared to the close, concentrated engagement demanded by longer works of fiction, history, and argument.

For anyone who cares about the printed word and fabric of our civic culture, these trends are cause for concern. Learning to read—not simply for comprehension but for pleasure and understanding—is at the core of what it means to be educated, and for that reason, it is at the center of the St. Andrew’s experience.

This summer we ask that each student read a minimum of three books (four for the IV Form) over the course of the summer: the all-school read, Steve Lopez’s, *The Soloist*, which was selected from a list of books nominated by students at the school; one required book for each Form (two for the IV Form); and one other book from the attached reading list.

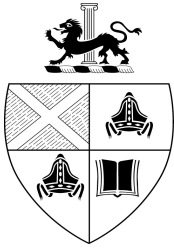
It should be said that we consider these assigned books a minimum, and we hope that students, with the help and guidance of their parents, will read well beyond them, seeking out titles that reflect their own interests and passions.

Here are some suggestions that might help you develop your own reading list and cultivate the habit of reading:

1. Seek out recommendations from people you trust. Ask parents, your friends, your teachers, and librarians for suggestions.
2. Go to the library or a good bookstore, and spend some time there browsing.
3. Read everyday. Develop the habit of reading a major newspaper.
4. Trust the book. A former teacher of mine, Robert Bell of Williams College, exhorts his students to become what he calls “magnanimous readers,” pointing out that magnanimity means not simply “generosity” but “largeness of spirit.” He writes, “A good reader is or becomes magnanimous, moving beyond the narrow confines of self to heed multiple possibilities, develop empathy, and exercise compassion.”
5. Be patient. A good novel or work of history may take 50-100 pages to bring you into its world. Allow yourself to become absorbed.

Best wishes for a great summer.

John Austin  
Academic Dean



## 2009 St. Andrew's School Summer Reading

**All-School Read:** Steve Lopez, *The Soloist*

### Required Reading, by Form:

#### III Form:

- Tobias Wolff, *Old School*
- Two books from the list below.

#### IV Form:

- Julia Alvarez, *In the Time of the Butterflies*
- Bruce Feiler, *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*
- One book from the list below

#### V Form:

- Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
- Two books from the list below

#### VI Form:

- Exhibition texts (TBA)

- 
- Roy Arundhati, *The God of Small Things*.
  - Margaret Atwood, *A Handmaid's Tale*.
  - James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*
  - Madison Smartt Bell, *All Souls' Rising*
  - A.S. Byatt, *Possession*
  - Philip Caputo, *A Rumor of War*
  - Peter Carey, *Jack Maggs*
  - James Carroll, *An American Requiem*
  - Anton Chekhov, *The Cherry Orchard*
  - Anton Chekhov, *Three Sisters*
  - Thurston Clarke, *The Last Campaign*
  - Betty Collins, *The Art of Drowning*
  - Michael Cunningham, *The Hours*
  - Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*
  - Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*.
  - Isak Dinesen, *Seven Gothic Tales*
  - Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*
  - Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
  - Euripides, *The Bacchae*
  - Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*
  - Gustave Flaubert, *The Temptation of Saint Anthony*
  - E. M. Forster, *Howards End*
  - Jonathan Franzen, *The Corrections*
  - Ernest Gaines, *A Lesson Before Dying*
  - Glenda Gilmore, *Defying Dixie: The Radical Roots of Civil Rights, 1919-1950*
  - David Guterson, *Snow Falling on Cedars*.
  - Kent Haruf, *Plainsong*.
  - Shirley Hazard, *The Transit of Venus*
  - Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House*
  - Henrik Ibsen, *Master Builder*
  - Edward P. Jones, *The Known World*
  - James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
  - Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*
  - Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*
  - Adrian Nicole LeBlanc, *Random Family*
  - Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
  - David Mason, *Ludlow*
  - Cormac McCarthy, *All the Pretty Horses*
  - Rohinton Mistry, *A Fine Balance*
  - Toni Morrison, *Sula*
  - Iris Murdoch, *The Good Apprentice*
  - Patrick O'Brien, *Master and Commander*
  - Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
  - Malika Oufkir, *Stolen Lives*

- Walker Percy, *Lost in the Cosmos*
- Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*
- Anthony Powell, *A Dance to the Music of Time*
- Steven Pressfield, *Gates of Fire*
- Annie Proulx, *The Shipping News*
- Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- J. D. Salinger, *Franny and Zooey*
- Steven Saylor, *Roman Blood*
- William Shakespeare, *King Lear*
- William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
- Ahdaf Soueif, *The Map of Love*
- John Steinbeck, *East of Eden*
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Ron Suskind, *A Hope in the Unseen*
- Graham Swift, *Waterland*
- Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- Barry Unsworth, *Sacred Hunger*
- John Updike, *Rabbit, Run*
- Gore Vidal, *Lincoln*
- Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
- T.H. White, *The Once and Future King*
- Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
- Richard Wright, *Black Boy*