## CAC H.S. ENGLISH DEPARTMENT - SUMMER READING 2017

**For grades 9, 10, and American Literature, make an informed choice and read at least one of these titles before the first day of school. For World Literature and IB classes, read the assigned texts.**

**An asterisk \* indicates that we have copies of the book in the English Department collection.**

**ENGLISH 9**

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*,\* Mark Haddon**

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

***The Laughing Sutra,\** Mark Salzman**

Salzman’s novel follows the adventures of Hsun-ching, a naive but courageous orphan, and the formidable and mysterious Colonel Sun, who together travel from mainland China to San Francisco, risking everything to track down an elusive Buddhist scripture called The Laughing Sutra. Part Tom Sawyer, part Tom Jones, The Laughing Sutra draws us into an irresistible narrative of danger and comedy that speaks volumes about the nature of freedom and the meaning of loyalty.

***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close,* Jonathan Safran Foer**Nine-year-old Oskar Schell has embarked on an urgent, secret mission that will take him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This seemingly impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts on an exhilarating, affecting, often hilarious, and ultimately healing journey.

**ENGLISH 10**

***The Bean Trees,* Barbara Kingsolver**

Clear-eyed and spirited, Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity for putting down roots.

***Childhood's End,* Arthur C. Clarke**

The Overlords appeared suddenly over every city--intellectually, technologically, and militarily superior to humankind. Benevolent, they made few demands: unify earth, eliminate poverty, and end war. With little rebellion, humankind agreed, and a golden age began. But at what cost? With the advent of peace, man ceases to strive for creative greatness, and a malaise settles over the human race. To those who resist, it becomes evident that the Overlords have an agenda of their own. As civilization approaches the crossroads, will the Overlords spell the end for humankind . . . or the beginning?

***Escape from Slavery,\** Francis Bok**

Seven-year-old Francis Piol Bol Buk was living happily on his family's southern Sudan farm. One day in 1986, he was sent on errands to the marketplace. There, a slave raid ripped him from his contented life and threw him into a wretched existence serving under a northern Sudanese Arab. After he escaped at age 17, Buk made his way to Cairo with a black market passport incorrectly listing his name as Bok and became a U.N. refugee allowed to settle in the U.S. in 1999. Although he found contentment in Iowa among other refugees, the following year Bok decided to work with an American antislavery organization, and testified before Congress about the atrocities in Sudan

**AMERICAN LITERATURE (Grade 11)**

***The Color Purple,\** Alice Walker**

Celie is a poor black woman whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, beginning at age 14 when she is being abused and raped by her father and attempting to protect her sister from the same fate, and continuing over the course of her marriage to "Mister," a brutal man who terrorizes her. Celie eventually learns that her abusive husband has been keeping her sister's letters from her and the rage she feels, combined with an example of love and independence provided by her close friend Shug, pushes her finally toward an awakening of her creative and loving self.

***Americanah,*Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

The bestselling novel—a love story of race and identity—from the award-winning author of We Should All Be Feminists and Dear Ijeawele.Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion—for each other and for their homeland.

**WORLD LITERATURE (Grade 12)**

***A Week Like Any Other,* Natalya Baranskaya**

One of Russia's finest short story writers makes her U.S. debut in this enthralling collection of fiction. Women's lives are the central preoccupation of Natalya Baranskaya: A scientist frantically juggles her professional life with her duties as wife and mother; a woman writer who regrets never marrying is finally glad of it; a delinquent girl is brought before the people's court for her "anti-social" behavior. With candor and satirical wit, Baranskaya captures perfectly everyday realities of family and society. *(A scanned copy of this book will be available on Moodle.)*

**IB COURSES**

All IB English students are encouraged (but not required) to purchase a copy of the *IB Course Companion: English A Literature* by Hannah Tyson and Mark Beverley (Oxford University Press, 2011).

**ENGLISH IB – HL1 and SL 1 (Grade 11)**

***Men in the Sun and Other Palestinian Stories,\** Ghassan Kanafani and Hilary Kilpatrick (translator)**

This collection of important stories by novelist, journalist, teacher, and Palestinian activist Ghassan Kanafani includes the stunning novella Men in the Sun (1962), the basis of the film The Deceived. In the unsparing clarity of his writing, Kanafani offers the reader a gritty look at the agonized world of Palestine and the adjoining Middle East.

**ENGLISH IB - SL2 (Grade 12)**

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,\** Maya Angelou**

***ENGLISH IB - HL2 (Grade 12)***

***The Awakening*,\* Kate Chopin**

**These texts should be available locally, though they may need to be ordered. Local resources include: Al Khotob Khan (behind CAC in Maadi) and Diwan (behind CAC in Maadi, Zamalek, Heliopolis). Most of the bookstores have a website for online ordering and will deliver to your home. If you intend to order locally, do so right away to better ensure getting the book soon.**