

## ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL

### Summer reading for students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Dear Students,

Welcome to your first English course at St. Stephen's!

During the summer, you must read the following texts:

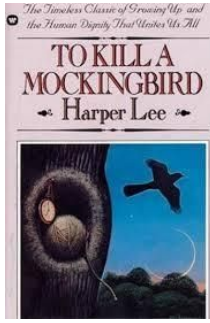
1. *The Catcher in the Rye*, a novel by J. D. Salinger, published in 1951. You can purchase the book either online from Amazon or in Rome from the Anglo-American Bookshop at via della Vite 120 (phone 06679222). **Please make sure you get the Penguin Books edition, ISBN-10: 3125738067 or ISBN-13: 978-3125738065**
2. Three non-fiction pieces of your choice, which you may download and print from either Longform (longform.org) or The Electric Typewriter (tetw.org), both of which offer free articles and essays on a variety of subjects. Click on "Topics" (longform) and "By Subject" (tetw), and look over pieces on subjects that interest you until you find three you want to read. Be prepared to discuss your selections at the beginning of the school year.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Battaglieri-Powers (jenni.battaglieri@sssrome.it).

See you in September!

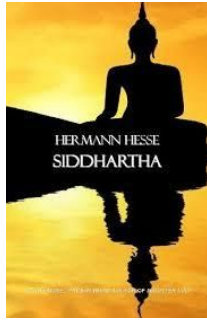
### **Incoming 9th grade Optional Supplementary Reading**

Our yearly texts will range from graphic novels, to narratives, to plays, and finally, to the great epic poem *The Odyssey*. Grade 9 English, therefore, also provides an introduction to literary genre. We encourage you to read one or more of the works below, in addition to the summer assignment, as they will enhance and extend your reading of our core curriculum.



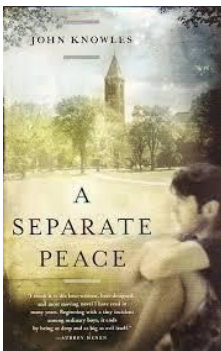
- ***To Kill a Mockingbird* -- Harper Lee**

Lee's great classic explores the dangers of ignorance and intolerance and how these human frailties undermine the hope for justice in a provincial southern American town.



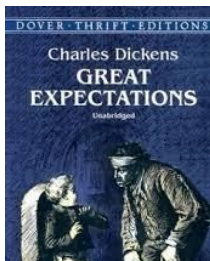
- ***Siddhartha* -- Herman Hesse**

Hesse's retelling of the life of Buddha Gotama is as rich in imagery and wonderful descriptions as it is replete with life's lessons. In its simple and direct prose, this novel poses many essential questions as keys to unlock the mystery of existence and the motives behind human behavior.



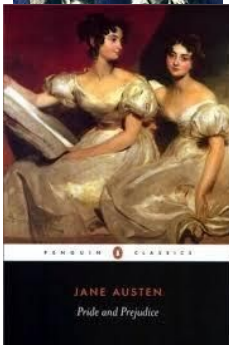
- ***A Separate Peace* -- John Knowles**

An instinctive jolting of a tree branch, one character's hidden desire to harm another human being, becomes the central symbolic act of Gene Forrester's life and of Knowles's classic novel. This coming of age tale presents the problem of evil as it resides in the vengeful feelings of the individual conscience.



- ***Great Expectations* -- Charles Dickens**

Dicken's novel is one of the greatest coming of age stories ever told. It is also one of the greatest single sources of unforgettable characters ever produced by a single author.



- ***Pride and Prejudice* -- Jane Austen**

Who can deny the ever-present, distinctively ironic voice of Austen as she presents the world of etiquette and manners in 19th century England? It is a truth universally acknowledged that this is one of the greatest novels ever written and that the love between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth rivals that of Romeo and Juliet.