



**School of the Arts Commencement
Academy Summer Reading Program**

45 Prince Street
Rochester NY 14607

A Letter to Parents/Guardians and Students

Dear Parents/Guardians and Incoming Tenth graders:

This letter outlines the expectations for the Summer Reading Program for 2010. **All students are expected to complete the summer reading assignment REGARDLESS of the course in which they are enrolled.**

Students are required to read 2 novels:

- Select two novels from the book list provided
- The novels are categorized according to level of difficulty.
- Students are encouraged to take notes as they read the novels because they will be able to use them when they write their essay.

In September...

- Students will be completing an in class critical lens essay beginning on September 13th, that will serve as a writing baseline for teachers.
- Students may use any notes that they have taken on the novels that they read over the summer.

Students are responsible for obtaining the novels from a public library or retail bookseller.

Although all the novels in this summer reading program are pre-approved by a panel of teachers, parents, and administrators, please be aware that some novels may contain mature themes or scenes. It is strongly recommended that you consider reading the novels along with your child to ensure proper interpretation of the content of these novels. This interaction can ensure greater retention of the main ideas and characters of the novels.

Thank you for your support of the **SOTA Summer Reading Program!**

Sincerely,

The SOTA English Department



Summer Reading List for 10th Grade

☺☺☺☺ Most Difficult ☺☺☺ More Difficult ☺☺ Less Difficult
 ☺ Least Difficult

TITLE OF NOVEL	AUTHOR OF NOVEL	DESCRIPTION OF NOVEL
<u>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time</u> ☺☺☺☺	Mark Haddon	Late one night, Christopher comes across his neighbor's poodle, Wellington, impaled on a garden fork. Wellington's owner finds him cradling her dead dog in his arms, and has him arrested. After spending a night in jail, Christopher resolves--against the objection of his father and neighbors--to discover just who has murdered Wellington.
<u>The Graveyard Book</u> ☺☺☺	Neil Gaiman	Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be <i>completely</i> normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family . . .
<u>Tuesdays With Morrie</u> ☺☺	Mitch Albom	How would you feel if you knew you were dying? Mitch Albom tells a true story of Morrie Schwartz who is dying of ALS. A brave man with a positive view of life, Morrie believes one cannot learn how to live unless one knows how to die. One of his students from long ago learns of Morrie's situation and begins to visit Morrie. Morrie, once again, teaches his former student, Mitch Albom, this time inspiring Albom with life's final lesson.
<u>We Beat the Street</u> ☺☺	Sampson Davis	Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors.
<u>Black Boy</u> ☺☺☺	Richard Wright	Life in the pre—civil rights South was intensely alienating for young Richard. At every turn, his desire to communicate was stunted, whether by family members who insisted he "hush!" or by teachers who harassed and mocked him. <i>Black Boy</i> is Richard Wright's unforgettable story of growing up in the Jim Crow South.
<u>The Absolutely True Diaray of a Part-Time Indian</u> ☺☺☺	Sherman Alexie	In his nationally acclaimed, semi-autobiographical YA debut, author Sherman Alexie tells the heartbreaking, hilarious, and beautifully written story of a young Native American teen as he attempts to break free from the life he was destined to live.