

## Welcome to Contemporary Fiction!

You have enrolled in one of the most original and interesting electives that we offer! The variety of offerings, subject matter, and the profoundly original voices of the writers we study are unlike almost anything you've ever had to read for school. The course focuses on short stories, but novels, ultra-short fiction pieces, poems, and other modern storytelling methods will find their way into the mix. As long as it is post-WWII, we will consider it.

A gentle reminder: this is a college prep class for mature readers. The reading load can be heavy. If you keep up with the reading and keep an open mind, you will do just fine and (hopefully) enjoy every day of our class!

Because I love to read so much, I'm hoping my enthusiasm for reading will spread to you as well. I have put together a list of book suggestions of some titles that you might want to read this summer. They will introduce you to many themes and ideas presented throughout modern fiction, and hopefully if you read any of them, you will enjoy them as much as I have. I have included the names and authors for each of the books I think you'll enjoy. Depending on which book you might end up choosing, you will encounter stories that have humor, romance, mystery, or tragedy. Some of the novels may also include dark themes and subject matter (as does most modern fiction). These books have all been on Best Sellers lists, and I hope you find them to be worthy of such an accolade. When you come back in the fall, and you are excited about any of the books you read on this list and would like even more suggestions, I'd be happy to give them to you.

*The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay  
Fountain

*Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult  
Zafon

*I Was Here* by Gayle Forman

*Finders Keepers* by Stephen King

*Memorial Day* by Vince Flynn

*The Last Child* by John Hart

*Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* by Ben

*The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz

*I Hunt Killers* by Barry Lyga

*The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

*Me Before You* by JoJo Moyes

*The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins

Have a great summer! I look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Mr. Hironimus