

Welcome to World Literature Honors!

In this inquiry-based and writing intensive course we will examine ancient and contemporary masterworks from around the globe as we explore themes and questions that cross national boundaries and time. Over the summer, we encourage you to read to keep your reading skills sharp and learn about the world—but more importantly, we just want you to read a good book. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to promote literacy by recommending high-interest texts that are relevant to our specific curriculum. Below, you will find a list of suggested books that we have enjoyed and think would be helpful to ready yourself for next school year.

For your convenience, here is a summary of each suggested summer reading novel:

- **And the Mountains Echoed** by Khaled Hosseini. Hosseini, the #1 New York Times-bestselling author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, has a new novel about how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations. In this tale revolving around parents and children, brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers, Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most. Following its characters and the ramifications of their lives and choices and loves around the globe—from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos—the story expands gradually outward, becoming more emotionally complex and powerful with each turning page.

- **Life of Pi** by Yann Martel. After the sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a wounded zebra, an orangutan—and a 450-pound royal bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and beloved works of fiction in recent years.
- **The Good Earth** by Pearl S. Buck. This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel paints an indelible portrait of China in the 1920s, when the last emperor reigned and the vast political and social upheavals of the twentieth century were but distant rumblings. This moving, classic story of the honest farmer Wang Lung and his selfless wife O-Lan is must reading for those who would fully appreciate the sweeping changes that have occurred in the lives of the Chinese people during the last century. Nobel Prize winner Buck traces the whole cycle of life: its terrors, its passions, its ambitions and rewards. Her brilliant novel—beloved by millions of readers—is a universal tale of an ordinary family caught in the tide of history.

We hope you will enjoy your summer reading, and we look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Sincerely,

The 10th Grade Honor World Lit Team (Ms. Hawver, Mrs. LeMaistre, and Mrs. Schoenbeck