

SPSG Upper School Summer Reading Assignments 2020



Each year, SPSG Upper School students are assigned summer reading for their English class. Families are responsible for purchasing summer reading books, students may read any print edition of the assigned book/s. Faculty will dedicate time to the discussion of the assigned summer reading in class, and thus books and written work should be completed before returning to school.

English 9: *A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea* by Melissa Fleming

English 9 Honors: *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier

English 10 and 10 Honors: *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

English 11: *Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson

English 11 AP Language and Composition: *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf

English 12: Three (3) senior term paper selections

English 12 AP Literature and Composition: Three (3) term paper selections
and *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

Written Component

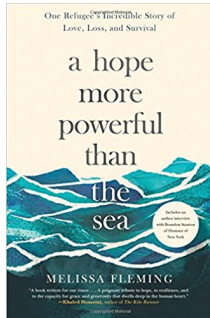
Grades 9-11: On or after August 15th, students should **visit their course Padlet site** where a discussion question(s) about their summer reading will be posted. **Please use the links posted on the Summer Work website to access this information.**

<https://www.stpaulsummer.org/st-paul-s-school-for-girls>

Book Summaries

Grade 9 English

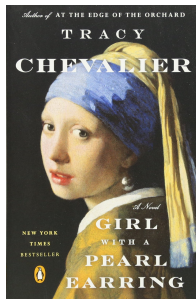
***A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea* by Melissa Fleming**



Doaa Al Zamel was once an average Syrian girl growing up in a crowded house in a bustling city near the Jordanian border. But in 2011, her life was upended. Inspired by the events of the Arab Spring, Syrians began to stand up against their own oppressive regime...*A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea* is an emotionally charged, eye-opening true story that represents the millions of unheard voices of refugees who risk everything in a desperate search for the promise of a safe future. Melissa Fleming sheds light on the most pressing humanitarian crisis of our time and paints a vivid, unforgettable portrait of the triumph of the human spirit.

Grade 9 Honors English

***Girl with the Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier**

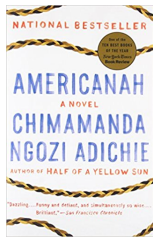


Tracy Chevalier transports readers to a bygone time and place in this richly-imagined portrait of the young woman who inspired one of Vermeer's most celebrated paintings.

History and fiction merge seamlessly in this luminous novel about artistic vision and sensual awakening. *Girl with a Pearl Earring* tells the story of sixteen-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her brief encounter with genius . . . even as she herself is immortalized in canvas and oil.

Grade 10 and 10 Honors English

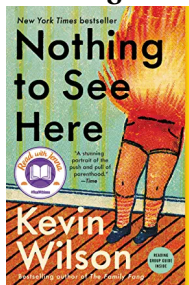
***Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**



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.

Grade 11 English

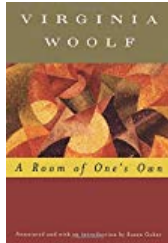
***Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson**



Nothing to See Here is a lot of fun to read—and despite its improbable premise (children who spontaneously burst into flames) it is an incredibly moving and surprisingly authentic portrait of parenthood. There is a lightness and joy that permeates every page, even as Kevin Wilson tackles moments that are sure to tug at your heartstrings, if not your tear ducts...*Nothing to See Here* is an incredibly rewarding and entertaining novel about how we control ourselves, how we learn to protect the ones we love, and how to have fun in the process.

Grade 11 AP English Language and Composition

***A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf**



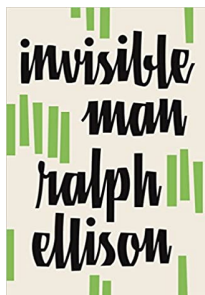
In *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf imagines that Shakespeare had a sister: a sister equal to Shakespeare in talent, equal in genius, but whose legacy is radically different. This imaginary woman never writes a word and dies by her own hand, her genius unexpressed. But if only she had found the means to create, urges Woolf, she would have reached the same heights as her immortal sibling. In this classic essay, Virginia Woolf takes on the establishment, using her gift of language to dissect the world around her and give a voice to those who have none. Her message is simple: A woman must have a fixed income and a room of her own in order to have the freedom to create.

Grade 12 English *See Senior Term Paper description.

Three (3) senior term paper selections and annotated bibliography.

Grade 12 AP English Literature

Three (3) senior term paper selections, annotated bibliography, and *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison



A first novel by an unknown writer, it remained on the bestseller list for sixteen weeks, won the National Book Award for fiction, and established Ralph Ellison as one of the key writers of the century. The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a HBC from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be. The book is a passionate and witty tour de force of style, strongly influenced by T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, Joyce, and Dostoevsky.

Summaries excerpted from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com)