Evangelical Christian Academy
12th Grade Summer Reading
2011 Annotated Reading List

Required Reading: Golding, William. *The Lord of the Flies.* Thirty schoolboys lost on a tropical island after a plane crash revert to savagery in their efforts to survive.

Supplemental Reading List (18):

Austen, Jane: *Sense and Sensibility.* When Mr. Dashwood dies, he must leave the bulk of his estate to the son by his first marriage, which leaves his second wife and three daughters (Elinor, Marianne, and Margaret) in straitened circumstances. They are taken in by a kindly cousin, but their lack of fortune affects the marriageability of both practical Elinor and romantic Marianne. When Elinor forms an attachment for the wealthy Edward Ferrars, his family disapproves and separates them. And though Mrs. Jennings tries to match the worthy (and rich) Colonel Brandon to her, Marianne finds the dashing and fiery Willoughby more to her taste. Both relationships are sorely tried. But this is a romance, and through the hardships and heartbreak, true love and a happy ending will find their way for both the sister who is all sense and the one who is all sensibility.

Bronte, Emily: *Wuthering Heights.* The story of two generations of the Earnshaw and Linton families, as their lives and fortunes intertwine in a complex web dominated by the passionate relationship between doomed lovers Heathcliff and Cathy.

Conrad, Joseph: *The Heart of Darkness.* A journey up the river in the Belgian Congo is also a journey into the darkest part of a man's soul.

Defoe, Daniel: *Robinson Crusoe.* The diary of an Englishman shipwrecked for almost thirty years on a small isolated island where, using wit and industry, he manages to build a new life.

Dickens, Charles: *David Copperfield.* David Copperfield is the quintessential novel by England's most beloved novelist. Based in part on Dickens's own life, it is the story of a young man's journey from an unhappy and impoverished childhood to the discovery of his vocation as a successful novelist. Among its gloriously vivid cast of characters, he encounters his tyrannical stepfather, Mr. Murdstone; his formidable aunt, Betsey Trotwood; the eternally humble yet treacherous Uriah Heep; the frivolous, enchanting Dora; and one of literature's great comic creations, the magnificently impecunious Mr. Micawber--a character resembling Dickens' own father.

DuMaurier, Daphne: *Rebecca.* In the great English estate of which she is the new mistress, maxim de Winter's young and frightened second wife gradually realizes that a mystery surrounds the death of Rebecca, the glamorous former mistress, who has been dead for eight months.

Forester, E.M: *Howard's End.* Margaret and Helen Schlegel are sisters from a well-educated European family. A series of events brings them into a relationship with the very English Wilcox family. Both families also come into contact with Leonard Bast and his wife, a couple near the

lowest tier of the rigid class system. Leonard's desire for cultural and intellectual status attracts the attention of Helen. Margaret must reconcile her independent spirit with her desire for companionship and a comfortable place in Edwardian society. Her moral strength is eventually able to resolve the tangle of opposites.

Goldsmith, Oliver: *The Vicar of Wakefield.* Dr. Primrose, the vicar of Wakefield, enjoys life with his wife and five children. His two daughters, Olivia and Sophia, are courted by two apparent gentlemen, Mr. Burchell and Squire Thornhill, who is Dr. Primrose's landlord. But when Mr. Burchell is supposed to have seduced and abandoned Olivia, the Primrose family finds its fortunes dwindling in every sense. It is learned that Burchell is innocent of the seduction, and the real villain is unmasked, but not before Primrose and his family come very near disaster.

Hardy, Thomas: *The Return of the Native.* Returning to Egdon Heath from Paris, Clym Yeobright intends to settle down and improve the lives of his townspeople. But the alluring and mysterious Eustacia Vye has other plans. She believes Clym can provide the cosmopolitan life she craves, if only they return to Paris. When their ideals prove incompatible, desperation breeds tragedy, and lives are changed in ways Clym and Eustacia never could have foretold.

Marlowe, Christopher: *Dr. Faustus.* Concerns the tragic figure of Doctor Faustus, who in exploring paganism for power, promises his soul to Lucifer.

Miller, Calvin: *The Singer.* Retelling the story of Christ through an allegorical and poetic narrative of a Singer whose Song could not be silenced, Miller's work reinvigorated Christian literature and offered believers and seekers the world over a deeply personal encounter with the gospel.

Shaw, George Bernard: *Pygmalion.* Professor Henry Higgins works to make a pretty flower girl into a young lady of society.

Shelley, Mary: *Frankenstein.* Dr. Frankenstein dares to tamper with life and death by creating a human monster in his laboratory but his dreams of perfection are thwarted when the monster becomes an uncontrollable beast.

Stockett, Kathryn. *The Help.* It's 1962, a time when escalating tensions are rising between African-Americans (then known as "coloreds") and their white employers and neighbors. Told from three different points of view, this story probes the intimate thoughts about what it's like for the maids of wealthy and middle class white people in Jackson, Mississippi. It's more than just hard, hard work; it's trying to survive in a constantly demeaning, life or death survival environment.

Stoker, Bram: *Dracula.* After Jonathan Harker attacks Dracula at his castle (apparently somewhere in Germany), the vampire travels to a nearby city, where he preys on the family of Harker's fiancée. The only one who may be able to protect them is Dr. van Helsing, Harker's friend and fellow-student of vampires, who is determined to destroy Dracula, whatever the cost.

Swift, Jonathan: *Gulliver's Travels.* The voyages of an eighteenth-century Englishman carry him to such strange places as Lilliput, where people are six inches tall, and Brobdingnag, a land peopled by giants.

Thackeray, William: *Vanity Fair.* Becky is determined to make something of herself. She accepts a job as a nanny for the children of Sir Pitt Crawley. Becky catches the eye of Crawley's son Rawdon. Becky is introduced to London's most exclusive social circle, where she becomes re-acquainted with Amelia. Becky weds Rawdon, but the social and economic stability she dreamed of begins to collapse when he begins drowning his troubles, and soon she turns to the powerful Marquess of Steyne for support. Meanwhile, Amelia's fortunes fall even harder following the death of her husband.

Wilde, Oscar: *The Picture of Dorian Gray.* In late Victorian London, a beautiful young man is given a portrait of himself by an admiring artist. Soon after this he treats a young woman cruelly and then notices that his portrait seems to look meaner than it used to. Eventually he cannot endure the portrait and hides it in the attic. As the years pass, he becomes ever more unscrupulous and dissolute. His friends remark how he is as handsome as ever and never seems to age. But up in the attic his picture becomes uglier and uglier.