



## UPPER SCHOOL SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS – PART 2

### GRADE 9

#### **SUMMER READING: PART TWO**

This summer, you have the opportunity to read two books: one from the school-wide list and one from this grade-level list. To complete the requirements for the grade-level list, **please select one book** from the two titles suggested for your grade as listed below.

**When you return to school the first week, you will be asked to write, in class, a response to a question regarding the reading.** The in-class response will be factored into the first term of your English assessments as a quiz grade.

While teachers will design their own questions for their classes, **here are some examples of the kinds of questions you might encounter:** 1) explain how a key moment in the book helps one character discover a significant truth about him or herself, or 2) write a letter (from yourself) to one of the characters in the book giving some advice and demonstrating that you understand the situation that character is in.

#### **Ninth Grade Summer Reading List**

*Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver

When Marietta Greer's car breaks down in Taylorville, Illinois, she takes the name Taylor and sets out on a journey to find freedom. As the seats in Taylor's car fill with passengers that she picks up along the way, a story about taking risks, fulfilling responsibilities, and navigating the unexpected takes shape.

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

Arnold Spirit is a bright, funny fourteen-year-old who is trying to make sense of his life growing up on a Spokane Indian Reservation in Washington State. Despite some of the challenges of Arnold's physical abilities and the racial tensions of his environment, Arnold is determined to get a good education and overcome poverty. He chronicles this journey through high school, using illustrations and humorous stories. Readers and parents should take note that there are brief passages about sexual exploration in this novel.