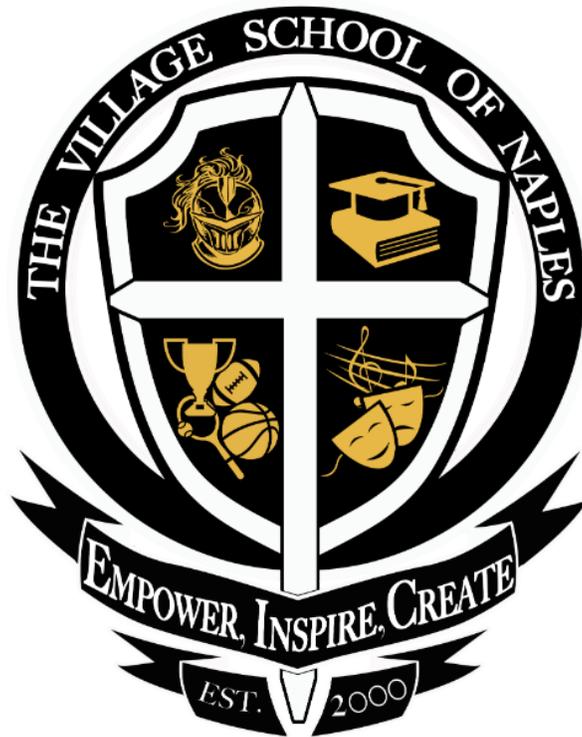


The Village School's Senior English Summer Reading



Please complete the following for the first day of school in August.

The Village School of Naples

Required Summer Reading for Senior English

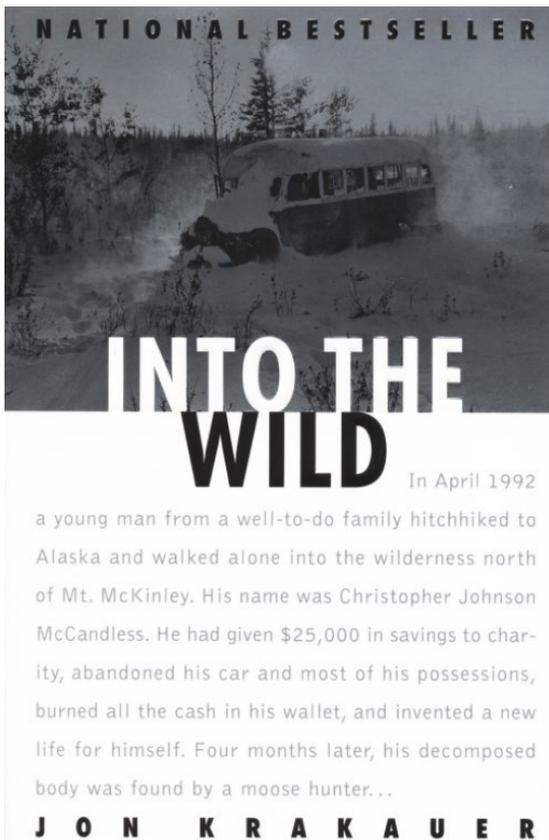
Dear Seniors,

Welcome to your final summer of high school reading! As you read the assigned books below, please annotate to **SUMMARIZE** what is happening and to **REFLECT** on characters, scenes, and ideas. If you own your copy of the book, write in it; if you are borrowing a copy, use sticky notes. Should you have any questions over the summer, I am always available via email (dbright@tvsnaples.org).

I am delighted to be spending your senior year at TVS with you, and I look forward to lots of laughing and learning as we read and think and write together.

Have a wonderful summer, and happy reading!
Ms. B.

All rising Seniors should read:



Into the Wild

Jon Krakauer

ISBN-13: 978-0385486804 / Available for purchase [HERE](#)

In 1992, just a year after graduating from college, Christopher McCandless changed his name, gave all away all his possessions, burned the money in his wallet, and hitchhiked into Alaska. Four months later, a hunter found his body in the wilderness. Krakauer's meticulously researched book attempts to answer all the obvious questions about why someone from a comfortable life would make such an apparently bizarre series of choices.

Students enrolled in Honors should also choose and read a book from the list below:

1984, by George Orwell

The year itself might have passed decades ago, but Orwell's classic still offers sobering reminders not to take for granted the cherished freedoms we all hold so dear. To say that Orwell was prescient would be an understatement; to read *1984* in an age of facial recognition and dashcams and surveillance cameras is to understand on the most basic level that "truth may be stranger than fiction, but fiction is truer" (Joseph Joubert).

A Tale of Two Cities, by Charles Dickens

My favorite Dickens, from beginning--"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times"--to end-- "It is a far, far better thing I do than I have ever done." The French Revolution is the tumultuous backdrop to the story of amnesiac shoemakers and vengeful knitters and entitled noblemen and angry peasants and embroidered hankchieves and gargoyles and guillotines and so many other cool things that you're just going to have to experience the book to read it all!

The Circle, by Dave Eggers

Mae just landed a plum job at a fictional company that sounds a lot like a cross between Apple and Google. This fast-paced thriller touches on very contemporary issues of privacy and internet freedom, identity, and security as it explores the sometime alarming complexities of our relationship with and dependence on technology. The scariest thing about this work of fiction just might be how true it is.

The Great Gatsby, by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald's novel has always been branded the archetypal portrayal of The American Dream, though it's interesting to consider how or whether its reputation will change in an age of #MeToo, COVID-19, and worldwide economic uncertainty. Whether you admire the title character or pity him, his larger-than-life gestures in the name of a misbegotten devotion stick with us well beyond the Jazz Age he typified.

Homegoing, by Yaa Gyasi

I'm hearing so many good reports about this book from high school readers that it's at the top of my summer reading list. The novel traces the stories, through several generations, of two sisters separated in the most unlikely way: one married to a slave trader, the other sold as a slave.

A Prayer for Owen Meany, by John Irving

John Wheelwright and Owen Meany grow up together in a small town in New Hampshire, and despite the many differences in their backgrounds and temperaments, their fast friendship sees them through the challenges of teenage years through the Vietnam War and beyond. The title character is interesting for so many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that he believes he is an instrument of God and that he knows—sort of—the date and circumstances of his own death. You'll have to read the book to find out whether he's right.

Never Let Me Go, by Kazuo Ishiguro

It's hard to figure out why the atmosphere at Hailsham, an exclusive prep school in England, is so strained, so strange, so strangely strained. Once the students start figuring out the ultimate purpose of their education, things get a lot clearer. Or not.

Mudbound, by Hillary Jordan

Two men who fight side by side for their country in World War II return home to the Jim Crow South to be reminded that their friendship flies in the face of the racist code that still rules in Mississippi. If you enjoyed *To Kill a Mockingbird*, this might be a good read for you.

The Poisonwood Bible, by Barbara Kingsolver

Five women--four sisters and their mother--tell the story of their misbegotten adventures in the Congo courtesy of their father, a proud and stubborn man determined to convert an entire continent to his way of thinking through sheer force of will. By turns funny, tragic, and lyrical, their narratives weave together the splendid cloth of one of the best books I have ever read. Ever.

The Namesake, by Jhumpha Lahiri

Gogol Ganguli faces a triple burden: child of Indian immigrants, first-born of an arranged marriage, and bearer of a vexing name, he strives for his whole life to Americanize himself, to discover a comfortable place for himself and his dreams. His missteps and his triumphs are the stuff of this tender and immensely readable novel.

Circe, by Madeline Miller

Miller's gorgeous re-telling of Odysseus's journey from the vantage point of Circe, witch of Aiaia, will change your take on this epic tale forever. The novel was at the very top of almost all of the notable "Best Of" lists of 2018., and for very good reason.