**Summer Reading Selections for Rising Sophomores**

**May 2017**

Reading provides many benefits besides the obvious increase in vocabulary skills and general knowledge. Therefore, as we prepare to instruct your son or daughter as a sophomore at South Gwinnett High School in the fall, we want to inform you of your child’s assignment for the Summer Reading Program.

All rising sophomores are required to read one of the following titles, and complete the assignments listed.

**The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho [ISBN 0061122416 or 0062502174 or 0060834838]**

Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and inspiring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within.

**Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea [ISBN 13: 9780316025270]**

Nineteen-year-old Nayeli works at a taco shop in her Mexican village and dreams about her father, who journeyed to the United States to find work. Recently, it has dawned on her that he isn't the only man who has left town. In fact, there are almost no men in the village--they've all gone north. While watching *The Magnificent Seven,* Nayeli decides to go north herself and recruit seven men--her own "Siete Magníficos"--to repopulate her hometown and protect it from the bandidos who plan on taking it over.

**A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah [ISBN 0374105235 or 13: 9780374105235]**

What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived. In A Long Way Gone, Beah, now twenty-five years old, tells a riveting story: how at the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts.

**A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini [ISBN 9781594489501]**

Mariam and Laila are two women from different generations surrounded by the history of Afghanistan—

from the Soviet invasion, to the Taliban, to post-Taliban struggle. They form a bond to help each other

survive war and oppression, raise families, and find happiness despite the turmoil around them. This novel

paints a very harsh reality of the treatment of women during the reign of the Taliban, but shows how a

woman’s love for family can move her to heroic acts of self-sacrifice that may be the key to survival.

\*\*\*Parents should be advised that this novel contains mature themes and situations based on historical

events.

These novels are easily found through local public libraries, at most area bookstores, as well as through online ordering sources.

**Assignments**

* CP and HONORS STUDENTS: Come to school on the first day with the MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET (attached) completed for your choice novel. ALL WORK MUST BE HANDWRITTEN.
* GIFTED STUDENTS: Come to school on the first day with the MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET (attached) completed for your choice novel. In addition, find, print, and include a critical review of the book you read from a reputable source. Either refute or support the critics analysis using textual evidence to support your response.

**Major Works Data Sheet**

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| Novel: Author: |
| Biographical information about the author |
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| Detailed Plot summary |
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| Memorable Quotes- Select at least 5 |  |
| Quote | Why is the quote important to the overall context of the novel? |
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| Symbols-Identify 3 and what they represent | Setting/s- Identify and describe the setting of the novel. |
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| Characters- choose at least 2 characters aside from the main character to analyze. |
| Name | Role in the story | Why is he/she important to the plot?  | What influence does he/she have on the development of the main character? | 5 adjectives to describe the character |
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| Literary Connections- How is your summer reading novel similar to another novel you have read? Name the title and author and explain. |

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| The theme of a novel is the idea the author wishes to convey about a subject. It is expressed as a sentence or general statement about life or human nature. Write a theme statement for your choice novel. Explain your choice. |