

## Royal West Academy

### Grade 10: Summer Reading for 2015

#### Selections:

*The Humans* by Matt Haig

*The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

*A Short History of Progress* by Ronald Wright

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

*Jerusalem: Chronicles from the Holy City* by Guy Delisle

*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Students are free to read as many books as they wish from the summer reading list, but are **required to read two (2)**. No other titles may be substituted.

Summer reading assessment will cover the first few weeks of September. In addition to a summer reading test, students should be prepared to participate in other class activities related to the novels (for example, class discussions or writing assignments). Students are encouraged to take notes as they read as this will help them with their summer reading assessment. Although notes will not be collected, it is in the student's best interest to prepare notes as the vague memory of an uncritical reading of a book two months before will surely not result in success. Students can take notes in whatever form they are comfortable with (ex: hand written, typed, highlight important passages, use Post-it notes, etc.). In addition to preparing notes, students are encouraged to share opinions, thoughts, and critiques of the books with parents and friends.

For the grade 10 summer reading test, **each question will be customized for the individual book**. In other words, rather than a general question about theme, there will be a specific question. For example, on the theme of *The Secret Life of Bees* and how it relates to a specific event or character in the book. (\*\*Please note that this is **just an example**. This does not mean that you must read *The Secret Life of Bees* nor that the question for *The Secret Life of Bees* will be based on theme.)

Some guidelines for notes:

- Record the author and title; be sure to put the title in italics or to underline it. Include a short, relevant biography of the writer and speculation as to what makes him/her ideally suited to write this book.
- Character: take note of the motivation of the main character(s) and how he/she may be differentiated from other characters in the work.
- Identify the audience of the book and how that author reaches it.
- Record notes on the setting (time, place, and circumstance of the characters).

- Record notes on the theme(s) of the book. A theme is an objective observation that can be made about human kind and/or society at large. Theme is not to be confused with the subject or topic of a novel (For example, “friendship” is not a theme –what the author states, implicitly or explicitly, about friendship is the theme).
- Be able to identify the conflict(s) in the book and make sure to state whether the conflict is internal, external, or interpersonal.
- Be able to identify something memorable about each work that resonates, for whatever reason, with you and expand upon what that is and why it is of significance. The memorable thing could be, but is not limited to, a quotation, a situation, a plot twist, or a technique.