

*Seeking Truth*  
Summer 2023 Reading

*The truth, however ugly in itself, is always curious and beautiful to the seeker after it.*

- Hercule Poirot in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie

This year's summer reading theme is "Seeking Truth." Tracing its modern origins to the Auguste Dupin stories by Edgar Allan Poe, the mystery genre has become one of the most multifaceted in literature, ranging from noir to gothic to locked room to cozy to hardboiled and more. In these works, as in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, the often ugly truth is uncovered in beautiful and astonishing ways. Select one of the mystery works listed below and begin seeking its ugly, beautiful truth!

*Classic Mysteries*

- *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie
- *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins
- *A Study in Scarlet* by Arthur Conan Doyle
- *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier
- *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett

*Contemporary Mysteries*

- *Rock, Paper, Scissors* by Alice Feeney
- *In the Woods* by Tana French
- *A is for Alibi* by Sue Grafton
- *Devil in a Blue Dress* by Walter Mosley
- *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman

*International Mysteries*

- *The Decagon House Murders* by Yukito Ayatsuji
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- *My Name is Red* by Orhan Pamuk
- *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith
- *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

*Literary Mysteries*

- *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley
- *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton
- *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng
- *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel
- *American Spy* by Lauren Wilkinson

*Genre-Blending Mysteries*

- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon
- *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern
- *The Cartographers* by Peng Shepherd
- *The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton
- *The Intuitionist* by Colson Whitehead

## SALEM ACADEMY SUMMER READING 2023

### *Overview*

Reading is fundamental, as the saying goes, but we in the English department also want it to be fun, especially during summer break. To accomplish this, we've created a summer reading list that steps a little outside of established literary canon. The following list is comprised of works that may not usually be studied in school, but that are worth reading.

Select one work from the list that you have not read before. The list includes works of varying mystery types, tones, and complexity, so take these factors into consideration when making your choice. Given the selected genre, the works also tackle serious subjects and themes, including murder. Learn a bit about the various titles before making your selection so that you can select a book that works best for you.

If you can, purchase a physical copy of your selected book. A physical copy of the book provides a break from looking at screens as well as the ability to annotate if you wish to do so. Similarly, if English is not your first language, try to acquire a copy of your selected work in English to give you further practice reading and learning in the English language.

You'll discuss your chosen book at the start of fall semester, and you may also complete an assignment (such as a presentation, creative project, or book review) about your book. Given this, you're advised to bring your book with you at the start of fall semester. No outside sources are permitted for summer reading, including online literary supplements such as *SparkNotes*, *Shmoop*, *Cliff Notes*, etc. These are not permitted for any text studied during the year in English classes as the focus of all reading is to develop your thoughts and analyses of the literature, which helps to improve your reading comprehension.

### *Five Book Challenge*

If you're up for a reading challenge this summer, consider completing the *Five Book Challenge*. For this challenge, select and read five books from the list. Extra challenging challenges include reading one book from each category or reading all five books in a single category.

As you read, jot down your thoughts in a reading journal. You're encouraged to write down your thoughts in a physical journal, but digital works, too. One suggestion for reading journal entries is to write your thoughts at every  $\frac{1}{3}$  mark: *First Impressions*  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the way through the book, *Further Reflections*  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way through the book, and *Final Thoughts* at the end. The goal is to reflect on what you've read, so feel free to use a different structure for your journal.

All participants who complete the challenge will receive a small gift commemorating their completion, such as a bookmark or stationary. The person who reads the most books from the list (and completes the journal entries) will receive top prize: the commemorative gift as well as a Barnes & Noble gift card and a small trophy.