

4 books to enjoy -- all of these books may be purchased or ordered from your favorite local book store. Be sure to allow two to four weeks for delivery if you must order any of the titles. The books should be available in libraries as well.

1. *Mythology*--Edith Hamilton. Reading Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* and having some Bible background will be invaluable sources for our discussions throughout the year.

2. Any book of poetry--an anthology with several selections by one poet of your choice, or a collection by a single poet

Suggested poets: Akhmatova, Ai, Alegría, Amichai, Ammons, Atwood, Auden, Basso, Baudelaire, Behn, Bishop, Blake, Bly, Boland, **Bradstreet**, **Braithwaite**, Brodsky, Brooks, Browning, Bukkowsky, Celan, Cisneros, **Clifton**, **Collins**, Corso, Creeley, Cummings, Curbelo, Dickey, **Dickinson**, Dobyns, **Donne**, Doty, Dove, Duhamel, Duffy, **Eberhart**, Edson, **Eliot**, Erdrich, Espada, Fairchild, Ferlinghetti, Forché, **Frost**, Ginsberg, Giovanni, Gluck, Graham, Gunn, Hall, Haskins, Hass, **H.D.**, **Heaney**, Hoagland, Hecht, Harjo, Ignatow, Jerome, Justice, Kabir, **Keats**, Kenyon, Kinnell, Kinsella, Kooser, Kumin, Kunitz, Lawrence, **Levis**, Lee, Lehman, Levertov, Levine, Lorca, Lorde, Lowell, Lux, Martinez, Meinke, Merwin, Millay, Milosz, (Susan) Mitchell, Neruda, Nye, Olds, (Mary) Oliver, Ondaatje, Padgett, Pastan, Pasternak, Paz, Piercy, Pinsky, **Plath**, **Poe**, **Rich**, Rilke, Rimbaud, **Roethke**, Rossetti, Rukeyser, Rumi, Samaras, Sappho, Sartre, Sexton, **Shakespeare**, Simic, Snyder, Stafford, Stern, Stevens, Strand, **Swenson**, Sze, **Szyborska**, Tate, **Tennyson**, Thomas, Tranströmer, Trethaway, Tsvetayeva, Updike, Whitman, Whyte, **Wilbur**, Williams, **Wordsworth**, Wright, **Yeats**, Yevtushenko, Zamora . . .

See http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets_contemporary.html

*As soon as we begin school this fall, I will provide you with an assignment to prepare a **10-minute oral reading and personal response** along with a written paper on the poet you have chosen for summer reading.

Reading assignment:

3. *The Wind-up Bird Chronicle* -- Haruki Murakami

4. *Inferno* -- Dante Alighieri

Writing assignment: Many writers, including the novelist, Haruki Murakami, and the epic poet, Dante Alighieri, explore the various and mysterious facets of the human condition through violence. The details and events of existing in a violent setting reveal true and believable **aspects of the human experience -- the purpose of all great literature.**

After carefully reading these two works and annotating them, write a single, unified essay (around four typed pages) with close to equal words devoted to each text. Your essay should explore how the authors' treatments of violence contributes to the meaning of each work as a whole. You will be comparing and contrasting the various techniques and purposes of each author. Be sure to structure your essay according to standard essay format: a thesis statement at the end of your introductory paragraph, **specific** supporting details from each text in your body paragraphs (including relevant quotations from the works), and a concluding paragraph beginning with an intensified thesis statement. Use appropriate transitional devices to ensure coherence. Use the quotations guide on the back for including quotations in your essay.

Because you will need quotations, mark significant sections of each work as you read. The tone of your paper should be persuasive, so be sure to support your thesis (**WITHOUT** using first person -- *I think, I feel, I believe, in my opinion, or in this writer's opinion*). Should you use secondary sources, document using MLA style.

DOUBLE-SPACE ALL TYPED WORK--12-point font, Times New Roman or equivalent, one-inch margins on all four sides. NO COVER SHEETS or PLASTIC FOLDERS, PLEASE!

In addition to the essay, compile a list of **twenty-five new-to-you vocabulary** words and their definitions from the three or four works.

This assignment is **due the first day of school** in the fall.

Essays and vocabulary will not be accepted after the first day of school in August, 2016.

AVOID PLOT SUMMARY. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE ONLINE or OTHER SOURCES.

Above all, read thoughtfully and enjoy.