



**School of the Arts Commencement
Academy Summer Reading Program**

45 Prince Street
Rochester, NY 14607

A Letter to Parents/Guardians and Students

Dear Parents/Guardians and Incoming Eleventh graders:

This letter outlines the expectations for the Summer Reading Program for 2010. **All students are expected to complete the summer reading assignment REGARDLESS of the course in which they are enrolled.**

Students are required to read 2 novels:

- Select two novels from the book list provided
- The novels are categorized according to level of difficulty.
- Students are encouraged to take notes as they read the novels because they will be able to use them when they write their essay.

In September...

- Students will be completing an in class critical lens essay on September 13th, that will serve as a writing baseline for teachers.
- Students may use any notes that they have taken on the novels that they read over the summer.

Students are responsible for obtaining the novels from a public library or retail bookseller.

Although all the novels in this summer reading program are pre-approved by a panel of teachers, parents, and administrators, please be aware that some novels may contain mature themes or scenes. It is strongly recommended that you consider reading the novels along with your child to ensure proper interpretation of the content of these novels. This interaction can ensure greater retention of the main ideas and characters of the novels.

Thank you for your support of the **SOTA Summer Reading Program!**

Sincerely,

The SOTA English Department



Summer Reading List for 11th Grade

☺☺☺☺ Most Difficult ☺☺☺ More Difficult ☺☺ Less Difficult
 ☺ Least Difficult

TITLE OF NOVEL	AUTHOR OF NOVEL	DESCRIPTION OF NOVEL
<u>The Color of Water</u> ☺☺☺☺	James McBride	This national bestseller tells the story of James McBride and his mother-- a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a church, and put 12 children through college.
<u>The Bell Jar</u> ☺☺☺☺	Sylvia Plath	Step by careful step, Sylvia Plath takes us with Esther through a painful month in New York as a contest-winning junior editor on a magazine, her increasingly strained relationships with her mother and the boy she dated in college, and eventually, devastatingly, into the madness itself.
<u>The Time Traveler's Wife</u> ☺☺☺	Audrey Niffenegger	This bestselling and innovative debut novel from Audrey Niffenegger explores the perfect marriage, one that is tested by challenges the couple can neither control nor predict. An imaginative extension of everyday life, the story asks: What if two people who loved each other deeply, married, and faced a life in which one person remained constant while the other slipped fluidly in and out of time? A modern love story with a twist that invites us to linger over questions of how life and love change over time.
<u>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</u> ☺☺	Stephen Chbosky	This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. More intimate than a diary, Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating. We may not know where he lives. We may not know to whom he is writing. All we know is the world he shares. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it puts him on a strange course through uncharted territory. Through Charlie, Stephen Chbosky has created a deeply affecting coming-of-age story, a powerful novel that will spirit you back to those wild and poignant roller coaster days known as growing up.
<u>The First Part Last</u> ☺	Angela Johnson	Bobby's a classic urban teenager. He's restless. He's impulsive. But the thing that makes him different is this: He's going to be a father. His girlfriend, Nia, is pregnant, and their lives are about to change forever. Instead of spending time with friends, they'll be spending time with doctors, and next, diapers. They have options: keeping the baby, adoption. They want to do the right thing. If only it was clear what the right thing was.
<u>Eat, Love, Pray</u> ☺☺☺	Elizabeth Gilbert	A memoir of self-discovery, <i>Eat, Pray, Love</i> is about what can happen when you claim responsibility for your own contentment. It is also about the adventures that can transpire when a woman stops trying to live in imitation of society's ideals. This is a story certain to touch anyone who has ever woken up to the unrelenting need for change.