



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

45 Prince Street
Rochester, NY 14607

A Letter to Parents/Guardians and Students

Dear Students/Parents/Guardians :

This letter outlines the expectations for the Summer Reading Program for 2011. **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
- 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 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

TITLE OF NOVEL	AUTHOR OF NOVEL	DESCRIPTION OF NOVEL
<u>The Help</u>	Kathryn Stockett	Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone. Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way.
<u>Miracle at St. Anna</u>	James McBride	<i>Miracle at St. Anna</i> is a tale of courage and redemption inspired by the famed Buffalo soldiers of the 92nd Division and a little-known historic event in a small Tuscan village at the end of World War II-the massacre at St. Anna di Stazzema.
<u>A Thousand Splendid Suns</u>	Khaled Hosseini	Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate.
<u>Handle With Care</u>	Jodi Picoult	Every expectant parent will tell you that they don't want a perfect baby, just a healthy one. Charlotte and Sean O'Keefe would have asked for a healthy baby, too, if they'd been given the choice. Instead, their lives are made up of sleepless nights, mounting bills, the pitying stares of "luckier" parents, and maybe worst of all, the what-ifs.