



# BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

## Summer Reading List 2023: 9<sup>th</sup> Honors Literature and Composition

*“A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading.”*  
-William Styron

### A Rationale for Summer Reading

- To generate interest and pleasure that enriches literary and philosophical experience
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy

### Required Texts

- *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles ISBN 978-0743253970  
Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual; Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. Set at a boys' boarding school during World War II, what happens between them banishes the innocence of the boys and their world.
- *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys ISBN 9780593524152  
This novel is a cleverly written historical fiction set in Romania in 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe, and seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He risks everything to unmask the truth behind the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is truly happening in his country.
- *Of Mice and Men* John Steinbeck ISBN-10:0140177396  
Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* examines the complexities of friendship, labor, and ethics within the context of Depression era America. Although concise, the novel is profound and moving and provides a great introduction to the salient themes of Freshman Honors Literature and Composition.

### General Instruction

1. Annotation of books is strongly encouraged; margin notes, highlighting, and summaries are valuable.
2. Students should bring all summer reading books the first day of class.
3. All writing assignments are due the first day of class.
4. Students will test over the works on the first day of class. Essays, seminars, and journals will focus on summer reading during the first few weeks of class.

**Specific Writing Instructions**

Write two thesis statements over each of the three books listed above.

*Please remember the BA English Department policy: Do not consult internet novel guides, any other electronic or printed summaries, or movies; read the texts themselves.*