

Summer 2020 Reading Requirements for Rising Vth-VIIth Formers

I like to imagine the literary marketplace as if it were precisely that, a place where a market is being held, a busy open space with a lot of people buying and selling... and in this corner there's someone playing a fiddle, and over there is a juggler, and here's a storyteller on his square of a carpet with his hat in front of him, telling a story. And some people have gathered to listen. – From Philip Pullman's "Children's Literature Without Borders"

Dear Parents,

As we conclude the first term of distance learning in Rumsey Hall School's history, our teachers have taken time to reflect on the lessons to be gleaned from this challenging experience. Among those teachings, we have come to understand that parents and students value both structure and personal agency in these uncertain times. To support these sentiments as well as the development of your child's literacy, Rumsey Hall has created a Summer Reading Program that includes a balance of choice and accountability.

Students must read at least three books over the summer, one of which must have been nominated for the Nutmeg 2021 Book Award. You will find this year's nominees ([Intermediate](#) and [Middle School](#)) attached to this letter. We recognize that our students read across a variety of grade levels, and so their choices are not limited to titles designated for their age range. VIIth Form students are particularly encouraged to select books from the [High School](#) category if they feel comfortable doing so. Please read through the book summaries with your child to gauge their interest level in each story premise. In addition to their reading, English teachers ask that their incoming students complete a "One Pager" assignment before the onset of the 2020-2021 school year. Borrowed from Lisa Page, a One Pager combines written and artistic responses to a student's book of choice. Please see [Lisa Page's presentation](#) and the English Department's [grading rubric](#) for more information about this assignment.

While the ability to independently select summer reading titles will be an exciting prospect for many students, we recognize that it may present unease for some. Rumsey Hall encourages you to reach out to Valerie DiLorenzo, Library Media Specialist vdilorenzo@rumseyhall.org or me if you experience difficulty selecting engaging books for your child. At its best, the reading experience is a partnership between student, parent and educator, and we hope that you enjoy taking part in it.

Sincerely,

Roddy Pratt

English Department Chair

rpratt@rumseyhall.org