

# 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Assignment

## THEME: THE PROBLEM OF TRUTH

Rationale: In a world of fake news and polarized political expression, it is difficult to apprehend what is real, and to know what is true. And then there is the problem of perspective, and the daunting reality that we can never truly understand what it is like to stand in another person's shoes. With these compelling issues in mind, the senior English faculty has curated a summer reading list for you that tackles these issues head-on, and through the power of imagination and some pretty amazing detective work, these titles might offer a glimpse of the elusive truth that we all are seeking. Therefore:

Required reading by all:

1. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon ISBN-13: 978-1-400-03271-6

Told from the perspective of a young man on the autism spectrum, this modern detective story places us at the heart of our theme for the year: how do I know what is real and who can I trust to help me find the truth?

Selected titles: (CHOOSE ONE FOR YOUR SECOND REQUIRED TEXT)

2. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.  
If you've always wanted to dive into this classic, now is the time! It is showcased in the required reading as well.
3. *The Dead Father's Club* by Matt Haig.  
Get a preview of the issues at the heart of the incomparable Shakespearean tragedy that awaits you in the fall semester – *Hamlet* - with this modern take on the mother of all tragedies.
4. *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell.  
(The enhanced audio version is highly recommended.) If you prefer non-fiction, this is the one for you! Using moments taken right out of today's news, the author highlights the difficulties that stand in the way of our earnest attempts to understand other human beings.
5. *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.  
If you love animals, and you have a desire to go on an amazing journey with a truly compelling young hero, then this one is for you. We promise that the final chapters will leave you astonished!