

ENGLISH II HONORS
2018 - 2019 SUMMER READING BOOK LIST

REQUIRED BOOK:

The House of the Spirits, by Isabel Allende (See attached assignment)

CHOOSE ONE: all are highly recommended by Mr. Harris **

THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT WALTER TEVIS – Young girl learns chess, overcomes life in an orphanage and becomes grandmaster (one of my favs – knowledge of chess piece needed)

CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE – TOMI ADEYEM - a dark, magic-filled quest for power. Their journey is accompanied by violence and betrayal, but friendship and even star-crossed love play a part

THE BEET QUEEN – LOUISE ERDRICH - After being orphaned in a most peculiar way, Mary seeks refuge in the butcher shop of their aunt and her husband; an exhilarating forty-year saga brimming with colorful, unforgettable characters: ordinary Mary, who will cause a miracle; Karl, who lacks his sister's gift for survival; Sita, their lovely but disturbed cousin; and the half-Native American Celestine James, who will become Mary's best friend.

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES – SUE MONK KID - quirky, highly perceptive portrayal of life in the deep south; the serious issues of racism and religion are shown - not in the usual hackneyed way, but with an irreverence and humor; a colorful group of eccentric sisters with a love for life

HOW THE GARCIA GIRLS LOST THEIR ACCENTS – JULIA ALVAREZ- Four sisters sharing a childhood ,needing to flee their politically oppressive Dominican Republic for the safety and uncertainty of the United States.

BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS – DAI SIJIE – two hapless boys are Exiled to a remote village for re-education during China's Cultural revolution. There they find a stash of banned Western Classic books and enter worlds they never imagined

**ENGLISH II HONORS SUMMER READING:
WRITING ASSIGNMENT** Mr. Harris, aharris@salesian.com

Writing assignment - *The House of the Spirits*

Write two well written paragraphs for each of the following prompts, referring to and quoting from the text:

1. In *The House of the Spirits* the character of Esteban Trueba evokes many, many feelings from us - hatred, disgust, anger, even joy at his trials and tribulations. and perhaps even an affection for this complex character. In this story, besides the atrocities he commits against so many other characters, many good things come from his presence in his various communities. **Discuss the question of whether or not the good he does outweighs or at least mitigates the bad he does, or whether or not the bad negates the good.**

list the good/ bad, their results, how good outweighs the bad, or how the bad outweighs the good

2. In a course entitled “Tragedy and Redemption in Modern Literature” a particular group of students believed that the spirits, the psychic phenomena, and the telekinetic events in *The House of the Spirits* were explainable as agents of Satan, demons of the underworld, entities of the devil and general forces of darkness. Argue for or against these students’ beliefs, USING THE TEXT TO SUPPORT YOUR STANCE. Beware of overlaying the text with your own beliefs.

include examples of Clara’s powers - telekinesis, specific clairvoyance, seeing and being seen,

3. Discuss the effect of the supernatural phenomena on the meaning of the story. State what they add to the story, and what happens when they go away.

4. Compare and contrast the story - i.e., plot, tone, atmosphere - **before and after** the death of Clara.