

MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT – MIRA COSTA HIGH SCHOOL  
2009 SUMMER READING for INCOMING College Prep SOPHOMORES  
(English 3-4 CP)

- Please select ONE of the texts below and read it in its entirety before school starts in the fall.
- Be prepared to bring in a marked-up text and write a paper analyzing the book during the first week of school.

- **KITE RUNNER by Khaled Hosseini** ISBN: 1594480001

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"The Kite Runner follows the story of Amir, the privileged son of a wealthy businessman in Kabul, and Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant. As children in the relatively stable Afghanistan of the early 1970s, the boys are inseparable. They spend idyllic days running kites and telling stories of mystical places and powerful warriors until an unspeakable event changes the nature of their relationship forever, and eventually cements their bond in ways neither boy could have ever predicted." Amazon.com

- **THE NAMESAKE by Jhumpa Lahiri** ISBN: 0618485228

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"The Namesake is a novel about an Indian family struggling between two cultures. The focus is on a first generation son who displaces all things Indian for those American. His family, disappointed about his disinterest in their culture, stands aside. He becomes an Indian only as namesake. Ironically, this young man is without a real Indian name because of a series of events that prevented the naming ceremony." Amazon.com

- **SATURDAY by Ian McEwan** ISBN: 9781400076192

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"In the predawn sky on a Saturday morning, London neurosurgeon Henry Perowne sees a plane with a wing afire streaking toward Heathrow. His first thought is terrorism--especially since this is the day of a public demonstration against the pending Iraq war. Eventually, danger to Perowne and his family will come from another source, but the plane, like the balloon in the first scene of *Enduring Love*, turns out to be a harbinger of a world forever changed." Amazon.com

- **DAUGHTER OF FORTUNE by Isabel Allende** ISBN: 038082101X

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"An orphan raised in Valparaiso, Chile, by a Victorian spinster and her rigid brother, young, vivacious Eliza Sommers follows her lover to California during the Gold Rush of 1849. She enters a rough-and-tumble world whose newly arrived inhabitants are driven mad by gold fever. With the help of her good friend and savior, the Chinese doctor Tao Chi'en, Eliza moves freely in a society of single men and prostitutes, creating an unconventional but independent life for herself." Amazon.com

- **TALE of TWO CITIES by Charles Dickens** ISBN: 9780486406510

Genre: Classical Fiction

"A Tale of Two Cities is one of Charles Dickens's most exciting novels. Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, it tells the story of a family threatened by the terrible events of the past." Amazon.com

- **ORLANDO by Virginia Woolf** ISBN: 015670160X

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"In 1928, Virginia Woolf wrote her comic masterpiece, a fantastic, fanciful love letter disguised as a biography, to Vita Sackville-West. Orlando enters the book as an Elizabethan nobleman and leaves the book three centuries later as a liberated woman of the 1920s. Along the way Orlando engages in sword fights, trades barbs with 18th century wits, has a baby, and drives a car." Amazon.com

- **ZORBA the GREEK by Nikos Kazantzakis** ISBN: 0684825546

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"The unnamed narrator is a scholarly, introspective writer who opens a coal mine on the fertile island of Crete. He is gradually drawn out of his ascetic shell by an elderly employee named Zorba, an ebullient man who revels in the social pleasures of eating, drinking, and dancing." Amazon.com

- **PILLARS of the EARTH by Ken Follet** ISBN: 0451225244

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

"Tom Builder's dream is to build a cathedral, but in the meantime, he must scrounge about to find a lord that will hire him. His search pulls him and his family into the politics of 12th-century England, as different lords vie to gain control of the throne in the wake of the recently deceased king. Prior Phillip, a man raised in the monastery since childhood, also finds himself drafted into the brewing storm as he must protect the interests of a declining church." Amazon.com

*\* Attention Parents: This list represents a diversity of reading levels and interest areas. Some books, especially those published after 1960, may contain profanity and/or sexual material. Please work closely with your child to make the appropriate selections.*