

# Reading for Pleasure

*There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book.*

*—Marcel Proust*

## **Course Overview:**

Great books become personal and instrumental when we are able to share our thoughts and insights with others. Students will have ample opportunities to enjoy the simple pleasure of reading in a safe, structured environment while enjoying fresh air, sunshine, and the comfort of new friends. Mixing the rigors of a classroom with the yearnings of adolescents, students in this class will read and explore meaningful works of literature in the context of rigorous, engaging, thought-provoking classroom discussions. Readers in this class will enjoy the opportunity to select novels of their choice to read independently in a social, structured, engaging atmosphere. Students will engage in lively discussions with their peers through teacher-directed seminars while using their unique perspectives, as developed in the context of their own reading journeys, to inform their perspectives and positions on relevant topics.

## **Course Description:**

The vast majority of class time will be spent reading a selected novel (or novels) of each student's choosing outdoors with friends, under the beautiful trees near the Education building. Each class period will begin in the classroom with a starter activity designed to engage each learner and facilitate relevant discussions. Class time will also be dedicated to watching thought-provoking TED talks, investigating age-appropriate current events, and completing reading reflections. Students will have the opportunity to complete two projects over the course of the summer as culminating experiences.

## **Course Materials:**

1. An age-appropriate novel of choice, though some books will be provided if a student doesn't bring a book.