

**Holy Cross High School
September 2019 Senior English
Summer Reading Assignment**

As part of the educational program at Holy Cross High School, **all students who are entering 12th grade in September 2019 are required to read** the following two books during the summer recess:

The Island of Doctor Moreau by H.G. Wells

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah

Students who are entering **College English in September 2019 must instead read the following three books:**

A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking

The Screwtape Letters - C.S. Lewis

Shakespeare - The World As Stage by Bill Bryson

There are three basic reasons for this activity:

- a) to improve reading skills
- b) to increase the student's knowledge base
- c) to prepare students for their English teacher's introductory lessons

Please note:

- All students will take the Summer Reading Exam in English class within the first few days of school. The exam will incorporate explicit elements of theme and author intention, so students should take responsible and thorough notes on the texts while they are reading.
- The Summer Reading Exam grade counts as a significant percentage of all students' first quarter grade in English class; therefore, all must take this assignment seriously.
- Regardless of which senior English course(s) students are taking, the above texts all cover the breadth of contextual and thematic elements that all courses and electives have in common. Those enrolled in genre-specific electives should pay particular attention to the authors' execution of genre expectations and detail. ***The AP classes reading lists are separate and different from those above.***