

Xavier Summer Reading

2008

Summer reading is an integral part of your Xavier education. Before each academic year, every student is required to read several novels or plays. Each reading selection chosen for incoming freshmen deals with themes which will be discussed in English and/or World History classes. Every student will be tested on the summer books during the first full week of school. The test score will count as a major test grade in English I. The test is comprised of multiple-choice questions about each book and a reading related essay question. It is not only important to attentively read the books, but also be able to retain what you read. We, therefore, strongly encourage that you take notes in the text of the book and also follow the "Tips for Summer Reading" on the reverse side of this sheet. The summer reading books will be available as listed and described below, on Registration Day, Sunday, March 2, 2008, as well as, thereafter, at the Xavier bookstore. They may also be purchased at local bookstores or checked out from the public library.

Freshman Reading Selections

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

\$7.00

A Southern lawyer is asked to defend an African-American man accused of committing a crime against a white girl in the South in the 1950's. The story of the loss of innocence and the triumph of dignity is told by the lawyer's daughter who faces not only the hatred of a society toward a black man, but toward her gentle father, her brother, and herself.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

\$14.00

Set in the American South in 1964, the year of the Civil Rights Act and intensifying racial unrest, Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* is a powerful story of coming-of-age, the ability of love to transform our lives, and the often unacknowledged longing for the universal feminine divine. Addressing the wounds of loss, betrayal, and the scarcity of love, Kidd demonstrates the power of women coming together to heal those wounds, to mother each other and themselves, and to create a sanctuary of true family and home.

Isolated on a South Carolina peach farm with a neglectful and harsh father, fourteen-year-old Lily Owens has spent much of her life longing for her mother, Deborah, who died amid mysterious circumstances when Lily was four years old. To make matters worse, her father, T. Ray, tells Lily that she accidentally killed her mother.

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

\$8.00

In this novella based on a Mexican folktale, the main characters, Kino and his wife, Juana, go through an emotional and tragic journey, which takes them far from their simple village. This pilgrimage brings them home again, however, where they reject the riches of the world of their oppressors and renew their affirmation of the lasting, human values of life itself and the struggles necessary to sustain it.
