

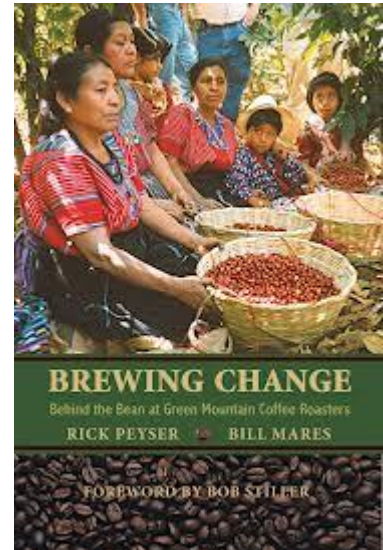
Vermont Commons School Summer Reading List 2013



Dear Parents, Students, and Friends,

We are pleased to announce the 2013 Common Text at Vermont Commons School! The Language Arts department has selected *Brewing Change: Behind the Bean at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters*, by Rick Peyser and Bill Mares. The book chronicles Peyser's efforts to bring the practice of fair trade to Green Mountain Coffee. Phoenix Books, a local bookstore with branches in Burlington and Essex, synthesizes the book as follows:

“Part travelogue, part inspiring social commentary, and part motivating business model, *Brewing Change* is about one middle manager's quiet, dogged crusade to change the world of coffee. Long-time friends Bill Mares and Rick Peyser team up to tell the story of Peyser's career within industry pioneer Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, and of his travels throughout the coffee lands of Latin America and East Africa. Eye-opening and heart-wrenching, *Brewing Change* is a story with the power to remind us of the indomitable nature of the human spirit, and the dramatic change that is possible when individuals fight for an equitable global community.” (www.phoenixbooks.biz)



This book speaks to the mission statement at VCS, connecting to the ideas of global engagement, sustainability, as well as the power of the individual to make lasting change. We anticipate an engaging and informative Common Text Day on October 11th, 2013, when we will meet as a community to discuss and celebrate the book.

The VCS Summer Reading List and associated assignments are included below. Feel free to email with any questions.

Enjoy your summer reading!

Christie K. Beveridge

Cara M. Simone

Jennifer B. Cohen

2013 VCS Summer Reading List

Once again, we have divided the reading list into three categories:

- (1) Classics and Prize Winners
- (2) Books that Speak to the VCS Mission Statement
- (3) Other Books for Summer

We are asking students to *choose a book from two of the categories, as well as the Common Text*, for a total of **three** books to be read this summer.

We've put asterisks next to the texts that may be more appropriate for 7th and 8th graders, and the abbreviation (NF) next to nonfiction texts. We have also highlighted books that the members of the faculty particularly enjoy!

For summaries of the books, we encourage students **to browse** the bookstore or an online bookseller such as Barnes & Noble.com. There are many choices on the list, and we're confident that each student will find at least two books that spark his or her interests. When students return in the fall, they will complete one assignment for each of their summer reading books.

1. **Quiz** on the Common Text, given in the first week of school.
2. A five-ten minute **Presentation** on a second book, due the second week of school.
3. **Author imitation/Deleted scene and Reflection** on one book, due the third week of school.

Details about these assignments are below.

Quiz on Common Text

A 20 question multiple-choice quiz on the experiences Rick Peyser and Bill Mares discuss in their book.

Presentation

Requirements and Grading:

You must speak from between five to ten pages about your book. You should touch on the following elements.

1. Describe the protagonist, the main conflict, and a little about the plot, but do not reveal the ending.

2. Discuss an important image, scene, or character that you connect with, and explain why you find this part significant.
3. Comment on whether you would recommend or not recommend this book to others, and be specific. Why would you recommend it (or not recommend it)? Who would like this book?

You will be assessed on the content of your presentation, your preparedness, and your presenting style (did you speak slowly, clearly and with confidence, and make eye contact with your audience?)

Author Imitation/Deleted Scene and Reflection

Requirements and Grading:

In this assignment, students should try to approximate the voice and style of the author of one book from the Summer Reading List. This assignment lends itself to fiction, but some nonfiction could work. Write a “deleted scene”, or a scene that occurs after the ending. After writing the imitation, students should write a *half page* reflection that identifies which literary devices they used.

Author Imitation (75 points)

The length of the imitation should be one and a half pages, double spaced. Consider some of the literary devices in the list below before you begin.

- Point of view (1st person or 3rd person). From what perspective is this story being told?
- Tense (past or present). Is the action unfolding in the moment, or is the story being told after the fact, perhaps many years later?
- The length of your author’s sentences, as well as his or her word choice. Does this author write long sentences with lots of adjectives? Short, clipped sentences? Both?
- Does your author use dialogue? Internal monologue? Letters?
- Description. Does your author use ornate descriptions? Was there concrete detail that allows the reader to conjure an image of a scene?

Reflection (25 points)

In a follow-up, please discuss how the author’s choices affected the meaning of the text. In addition, identify which literary devices you chose to imitate and why. (*half a page*)

Classics and Prize Winners

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women (Christie’s choice)**

Austen, Jane. *Emma* (Cara’s choice)

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*

Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*

Capote, Truman. *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*

Chekhov, Anton. *The Seagull*

Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage**

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe**

Desai, Kirin. *The Inheritance of Loss*

Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*

Doctorow, E.L. *Ragtime*

Doig, Ivan. *The Whistling Season*

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Crime and Punishment (Jennifer's choice)*

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *Sherlock Holmes*

Dumas, Alexander. *The Count of Monte Cristo*

Eliot, George. *Middlemarch*

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*

Farmer, Nancy. *House of the Scorpion**

Faulkner, William. *As I Lay Dying*

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *This Side of Paradise*

Fowles, John. *The French Lieutenant's Woman*

Greene, Bette. *Summer of My German Soldier**

Hardy, Thomas. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

Heller, Joseph. *Catch-22*

Hemingway, Ernest. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*,

Hesse, Herman. *Siddhartha*

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Dust Tracks on the Road (Mark's choice)*

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Remains of the Day*

Keller, Helen. *The Story of My Life**

Keyes, Daniel. *Flowers for Algernon* *

Knowles, John. *A Separate Peace**

L'Engle, Madeline. *A Wrinkle in Time**

Lewis, C.S. *The Chronicles of Narnia**

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia *Love in the Time of Cholera, One Hundred Years of Solitude*

Melville, Herman. *Benito Cereno*

Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables**

Morrison, Toni. *Song of Solomon, The Bluest Eye, and Home (Christie's choice)*

O'Neil, Eugene. *Long Days Journey Into Night*

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm, 1984**

Penn Warren, Robert. *All the King's Men*

Roth, Phillip. *Goodbye Columbus*

Sewell, Anna. *Black Beauty* *

Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado about Nothing, All's Well that Ends Well*

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus*

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath (Mark's choice)*

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island**

Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*

Stoppard, Tom. *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*

Tolstoy, Leo. *Anna Karenina*

Trumbo, Dalton. *Johnny Got His Gun (Mark's choice)*

Verne, Jules. *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea**

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse Five*
Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*
Wells, H. G. *War of the Worlds*
Wharton, Edith. *Ethan Frome, House of Mirth*
White, T.H. *The Once and Future King*
Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse*
Wright, Richard. *Native Son, Black Boy*

Books that Speak to the VCS Mission

Abbey, Edward. *Desert Solitaire (NF)*
Ali, Saleem. *Treasures of the Earth: Need Greed and a Sustainable Future*
Barr, Nevada. *Track of the Cat*
Brown, Tom. *The Tracker**
Buck, Pearl S. *The Good Earth*
Callenbach, Ernest. *Ecotopia*
Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*
Cartright, Paul Russell. *Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists (NF)*
Craighead George, Jean. *Missing 'Gator of Gumbo Limbo: An Ecological Mystery*
De Rosnay, Tatiana. Sarah's Key*(Sarah's choice)
Duncan, David James. *The River Why*
Gould, Steven J. *The Panda's Thumb*
Elder, John. Reading the Mountains of Home. (NF) (Christie's choice)
Eggers, Dave. *What is the What?, Zeitoun*
Eiseley, Loren. *The Night Country*
Hall, Ron and Denver Moore. *Same Kind of Different As Me*
Heiligman, Deborah. *Charles and Emma : The Darwins' Leap of Faith**
Heinrich, Berndt. *Winter World*
Hestler, Peter. *Country Driving* (recommended for students who take Chinese)
Holmes, Hannah. *Suburban Safari*
Kimball, Kristin. The Dirty Life (NF) (Sarah's choice)
Kingsolver, Barbara. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle (NF)*
Kingsolver, Barbara. The Poisonwood Bible
Lawrence, Gale. *The Beginning*
Lear, Linda. *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature* (NF)*
Leopold, Aldo. *Sand County Almanac*
Mayer, Jack. *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project(NF)*
McKibben, Bill. End of Nature *, Eearth, and Wandering Home (NF) (Christie's choices)
McPhee, John. *Encounters with the Archdruid*
Pfeffer, Susan. *The Dead and the Gone**
Pollan, Michael. *The Botany of Desire, Omnivore's Dilemma (NF)*
Quammen, David. *Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions, Wild Thoughts from Wild Places*
Ransome, Arthur. *Swallows and Amazons*
Redniss, Lauren. *Radioactive*

Roberts, Paul. *The End of Oil (NF)*
Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation (NF)*
Sobel, Dava. *Longitude*
Stephenson, Neal. *Zodiac*
Storm, Heymehyohsts. *Seven Arrows**
Tempest Williams, Terry. Red: Passion and Patience in the Desert (NF)
Theroux, Paul. *The Mosquito Coast*
Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden (NF)*
Tolan, Sandy. *Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East (NF)*
Van Matre, Steve. *The Earth Speaks*
Weisman, Alan. *Gaviotas*

Other Books for Summer

Abbey, Edward. *The Monkey Wrench Gang*
Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*
Adams, Douglas. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*
Adams, Richard. *Watership Down*
Allende, Isabel. *The House of the Spirits*
Alvarez, Julia. *Return to Sender**
Amado, Jorge. *Gabriela, Cloves, and Cinnamon*
Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
Asimov, Isaac. *Foundation**
Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale, Oryx and Crake*
Baldwin, James. *Go Tell it on the Mountain*
Barry, Lynda. *The Greatest of Marlys*
Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier(NF)*
Boo, Katherine. *Beyond the Beautiful Forever: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity.(Sarah's choice)*
Boyle, T.C. *The Tortilla Curtain*
Bryson, Bill, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*
Brown, Mike. *How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming (NF)*
Butler, Octavia. *Bloodchild and Other Stories**
Cain, Susan. *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop. (NF)*
Card, Orsen Scott. *Ender's Game*, Ender's Shadow**
Carr, Nicholas. *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains (NF)*
Cashore, Kristin. *Graceling**
Chabon, Michael. *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*
Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower**
Chen, Da. *Colors of the Mountain*
Christie, Agatha. *Murder on the Orient Express**
Clare, Cassandra. *Clockwork Angel**
Coelho, Paulo. *The Alchemist*
Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Last of the Mohicans*
Cunningham, Michael. *The Hours*

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe**

Delany, Sarah L. et al. *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*

de Rosnay, Tatiana. *Sarah's Key (Sarah's choice)*

Diamant, Anita. *The Red Tent*

Diaz, Junot. *The Brief, Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao (Chance's Choice)*

Duncan, David James. *The River Why*

Eggers, David. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*

Ende, Michael. *Momo (Bradley's choice)**

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*

Erdich, Louise. *Love Medicine (Cara's Choice)*

Farmer, Nancy. *The House of the Scorpion**

Ford, Jamie. *The Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet. (Sarah Soule's choice.)*

Forster, E.M. *A Passage to India*

Fusco, Kimberly. *Tending to Grace**

Gaiman, Neil. *American Gods*

Gaines, Ernest. *A Lesson Before Dying*

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Outliers: The Study of Success (NF)*

Gold, Glen. *Carter Beats the Devil*

Goldman, Emma. *Living My Life (Mark's choice)*

Goldman, William. *The Princess Bride**

Grant, Michael. *BZRR**

Graves, Robert. *Goodbye to All That (NF)*

Green, John. *The Fault in our Stars* *

Gruen, Sara. *Water for Elephants*

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**

Harris, Lynn E. *And This Too Shall Pass*

Hazzard, Shirley. *The Transit of Venus*

Hersey, John. *Hiroshima (Mark's choice).*

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Unbroken (NF)*

Holmes, Hannah. *Suburban Safari*

Hunter, Erin. *Return to the Wild**

Isaacson, Walter. *Steve Jobs*

Jewett, Sarah Orne. *The Country of the Pointed Firs*

Kesey, Ken. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Kidd, Ronald. *Monkey Town**

Kimball, Kristen. *The Dirty Life (NF)*

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees*

Kingston, Maxine Hong. *Woman Warrior*

Konigsburg, E.L. *Silent to the Bone**

Krakauer, John. *Into Thin Air(NF)*

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time**

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird (NF)*

Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies (Christie's choice)*

Larsen, Erik. *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*

Legrand, Claire. *The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls**

LeGuin, Ursula K. *The Wizard of Earthsea**
 Levitt, Steven. *Freakonomics (NF)*
Markham, Beryl. *West with the Night.(NF) (Sarah's choice)*
 Marshall, James Vance. *Walkabout*
 Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi**
 Matthiessen, Peter. *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*
 Michaelis, Antonia. *Tiger Moon**
 Mieville, China. *Railsea**
Morgenstern, Erin. *The Night Circus (Christie's choice)*
 Mosley, Walter. *Devil in a Blue Dress*
 Obrecht, Tea. *The Tiger's Wife.*
 O'Neill, Eugene. *Long Day's Journey into Night*
 Oe, Kenzaburo. *Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness*
 Orwell, George. *1984, Down and Out in Paris and London*
Patchett, Ann. *Bel Canto(Christie's choice)*
 Patchett, Ann. *State of Wonder*
 Pausch, Randy. *The Last Lecture (NF)*
 Pratchett, Terry. *Nation**
 Peck, Robert Newton. *The Day No Pigs Would Die*
 Philbrick, Nathaniel. *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex (NF)*
 Rushdie, Salman. *Luca and the Fire of Life**
 Roth, Veronica. *Divergent*
Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things (Christie's choice)*
 Rushdie, Salman. *East-West*
 Rylant, Cynthia. *Beautiful Stories of Life: Six Greek Myths Retold**
 Safran Foer, Jonathan. *Everything is Illuminated*
 Sepetys, Ruta. *Between Shades of Gray**
 Sobel, Dava. *Galileo's Daughter*
 Soto, Gary. *A Summer Life* *, *Accidental Love**
 Staples, Suzanne. *Under the Persimmon Tree**
 Stegner, Wallace. *All the Little Things*
Stockett, Kathryn. *The Help (Jasmine's choice)*
Strayed, Cheryl. *Wild: A Year on the Pacific Crest Trail (Jasmine's and Christie's choice)*
 Tan, Amy. *The Kitchen God's Wife*
 Thiongo, Ngugi wa. *A Grain of Wheat*
 Thurber, James. *My Life and Hard Times**
 Wallace, David Foster. *Infinite Jest*
 Wittlinger, Ellen. *Parrotfish**
Zusak, Marcus. *The Book Thief (Sarah's choice)*