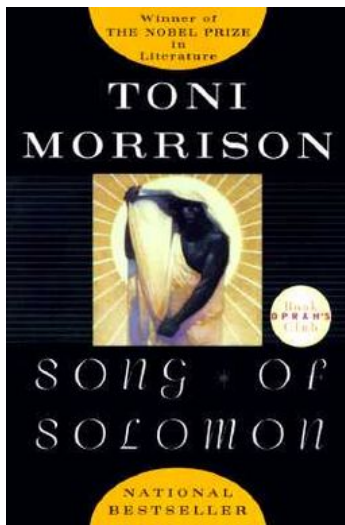


## ***GISB Summer Reading for Incoming 12th Graders , 2023***

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Dear Incoming Twelfth Graders,

It's been a pleasure to work with you and watch your growth. We are a school of great readers and keeping this pastime up over the summer will keep your reading muscles in good shape. Keep a reading log of titles to share when we return.



Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly. With this brilliantly imagined novel, Toni Morrison transfigures the coming-of-age story as audaciously as Saul Bellow or Gabriel García Márquez. As she follows Milkman from his rustbelt city to the place of his family's origins, Morrison introduces an entire cast of strivers and seeresses, liars and assassins, the inhabitants of a fully realized world.

***Overarching Question: How is Song of Solomon a novel of growth? How does it explore the idea of transgression?***

***We'll use this book as our first text when we return, so make sure you read it during the second half of the summer. You'll be expected to know the plot, characters and general themes.***

***Tips for annotating: At least 40%-50% of the pages should have annotations.***

- ***Underline or highlight compelling passages and write some notes in the margins.***
- ***Underline some challenging words—particularly words that repeat—and write their definitions in the margins.***

- **Note passages where the language is particularly memorable or compelling or beautiful and try to make note of why, e.g., is it the imagery or perhaps a particular syntactic structure?**
- **Note patterns and connections. If a particular passage on page “x” reminds you of something on page “y,” make a note of it. Also note connections among texts.**
- **Think deeply and widely about the text. Consider the themes and methods of writing this author uses to reveal his/her meanings and think about how it might be compared with other books - structurally, stylistically, and thematically.**

Incoming 12th graders, here is a link to a list of contemporary texts as well as some other more classic titles you might enjoy, but remember, the library is a great free resource and browsing the shelves of a bookstore is always nice on a hot day! I'd suggest looking over the lists with an adult or friend to share input as well as reading summaries of titles that interest you.

Here is a link with more contemporary texts and a link with books written, specifically, by authors of color.

<https://bookriot.com/books-for-12th-graders/>

<https://www.boredteachers.com/books/50-must-read-books-for-twelfth-graders>

Here is a link with more classic novels:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/top-books-for-high-school-seniors-740078>

***Here are some other titles you might enjoy ...***

***The Long Good-Bye - Raymond Chandler  
Atonement, McEwan, Ian***

***Giovanni's Room, James Baldwin***

***The Three Musketeers, Andre Dumas***

***Austen, Jane, Sense and Sensibility , Jane Austen Ragtime - E.L. Doctorow***

***Native Son, Ralph Ellison***

***Middlemarch, George Eliot***

***The Handmaid's Tale - Margaret Atwood***

***David Copperfield - Charles Dickens ( anything by him, actually) Orlando - Virginia Woolf***

***Gut Symmetries - Jeanette Winterson***

***Fairyland - Alysia Abbot***

***The Maltese Falcon - Dashiell Hammet***

***Stories about Sherlock Holmes - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle***

***The Turn of the Screw, Henry James***

***King, Queen, Knave, Vladimir Nabakov***

***The Real Life of Sebastian Knight, Vladimir Nabakov***

***Everything that Rises Must Converge, Flannery O'Connor***

***Nine Stories, J.D. Salinger***

***Selected Stories, Andre Dubus II***

***Ariel, Sylvia Plath***

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou***

***Lucy, Jamaica Kincaid***

***The House of Mirth, Edith Wharton***

***Unaccustomed Earth, Jhumpa Lahiri***

***The Great War and Modern Memory Paul Fussel***

***A Woman's Place, Golden, Marita***

***The Glass Castle, Jeanette Walls***

***Collected Stories, John Cheever***

***A Thousand Acres, Jane Smiley***

***Have a wonderful summer!***