



June 10, 2011

Dear Seniors,

Here is your summer reading letter!

We will begin the Humanities Seminar with a unit on Existentialism. Please read the following books before September rolls around:

Camus: *The Stranger*

Sartre: *No Exit*

Solzhenitsyn: *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

I will quote Mr. Sumner here:

“You will notice that while all of the characters in these works find themselves in circumstances we would describe as uncomfortable at best, none of them seems particularly unhappy; one of our jobs will be to figure out why they are not unhappy with their circumstances.”

Please read also this summer:

Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Jane Austen does not fall into the Existential camp! We will discuss this novel later in the semester, but by then you will be happy to have read it during the leisure months (If “beach reading” had been invented in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, this would have been read on many chilly English beaches, from Brighton to Lyme Regis).

And then of course finish *Invisible Man*, if you haven’t yet. We’ll get back to that ASAP (and this one does fit into existentialism).

Cornelia Reid