



The greatest gift is a passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of the wide kind. It is a moral illumination.”

--Elizabeth Hardwick

At Portola High School, the junior and senior year Language and Literary Arts courses are referred to as “Passion Year” courses. This term derives from the fact that our learners have been and will continue to be instrumental in determining areas of literary study in which they are most interested on topics about which they have genuine passion

. We are not requiring summer reading, but we strongly encourage each of our Bulldogs to read two works of literature, one fiction and one non-fiction. (See below for a list of recommended titles.)

Suggested Reading: Fiction	Suggested Reading: Non-Fiction
<i>Tortilla Curtain</i> by T.C. Boyle	<i>Bird by Bird</i> by Anne Lamott
<i>Sister of My Heart</i> by Chitra Divakaruni	<i>Let Simile Be Your Umbrella</i> by William Safire
<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> by Ernest Gaines	<i>The Digital Divide</i> by Mark Bauerlein
<i>I Capture the Castle</i> by Dodie Smith	<i>Shakespeare: The World as Stage</i> by Bill Bryson
<i>Good Poems</i> , selected by Garrison Keillor	<i>Conversations on Writing</i> by Ursula Le Guin
If you did not read <i>The Joy Luck Club</i> by Amy Tan in the Spring, it is highly recommended to read over the summer.	<i>The Geek Feminist Revolution</i> by Kameron Hurley
<i>The Time Machine</i> by H.G. Wells	<i>The Gift of Imperfection</i> by Brené Brown
<i>Feed</i> by M.T. Anderson	<i>Outliers, Blink, The Tipping Point</i> by Malcolm Gladwell
<i>Siddhartha</i> by Hermann Hesse	Selections by Jon Krakauer

Honors-Level Announcement (READ BELOW)

****All incoming juniors enrolled in weighted honors-level courses are strongly urged to read the non-fiction text [*How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster](#). This book will serve as invaluable preparation for your advanced work next year, and it will provide you with an understanding of the “whys” and “hows” of literary analysis that will benefit you throughout your academic careers. It is also a fun read!**

For those students enrolling Asian and Asian-American Literature in the fall, please consider reading, if you have not already done so, *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan in its entirety over the summer.