All Laguna Blanca students entering grades 5-12 in the fall are required to read at least two books this summer. Because these works will form the basis for class discussion and writing assignments in English classes during the opening weeks of school, we ask that students use post-its or a pen/pencil to mark passages that they think are important. You do not need to annotate (in other words, you don’t need to write notes in the margins). Please buy only new books or used books that have no marking in them at all. The required books (the specific required edition as indicated by the ISBN # listed below) can be purchased at Chaucer’s Bookstore, 3321 State Street, Loreto Plaza, Santa Barbara, CA.

TWO REQUIRED READINGS:

William Golding's dystopian novel about a group of English schoolboys who are plane-wrecked on a deserted island is just as chilling and relevant today as when it was first published in 1954. At first, the stranded boys cooperate, attempting to gather food, make shelters, and maintain signal fires. The situation deteriorates as the trappings of civilization continue to fall away, until Ralph discovers that instead of being hunters, he and Piggy have become the hunted: "He forgot his words, his hunger and thirst, and became fear; hopeless fear on flying feet." Golding's gripping novel explores the boundary between human reason and animal instinct, all on the brutal playing field of adolescent competition.

“Lord of the Flies is one of my favorite books. That was a big influence on me as a teenager, and I still read it every couple of years.” ~Suzanne Collins, author of *The Hunger Games*

**THE SUN ALSO RISES**  Ernest Hemingway (1926) ISBN-10: 0743297334
The quintessential novel of the Lost Generation, *The Sun Also Rises* is one of Ernest Hemingway's masterpieces and a classic example of his spare but powerful writing style. A poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I generation, the novel introduces two of Hemingway's most unforgettable characters: Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley. The story follows the flamboyant Brett and the hapless Jake as they journey from the wild nightlife of 1920s Paris to the brutal bullfighting rings of Spain with a motley group of expatriates. It is an age of moral bankruptcy, spiritual dissolution, unrealized love, and vanishing illusions. First published in 1926, *The Sun Also Rises* helped to establish Hemingway as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century.

IN ADDITION, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO READ ONE BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST, OR ANOTHER BOOK YOU LIKE. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO READ AS MANY BOOKS AS YOU CAN!
(Any edition is acceptable.)

**THE ALCHEMIST**  Paulo Coelho (1993)
Paulo Coelho’s masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far
different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.

**A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS** Khaled Hosseini (2007)

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss, and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation.

**ETHICS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM** Dalai Lama (2009)

In a difficult, uncertain time, it takes a person of great courage, such as the Dalai Lama, to give us hope. According to the Dalai Lama, our survival has depended and will continue to depend on our basic goodness. The book presents a moral system based on universal rather than religious beliefs. Though he is himself a practicing Buddhist, the Dalai Lama's teachings can lead each of us -- Christian, Muslim, Jew, Buddhist, or atheist -- to a happier, more fulfilling life.

**LIFE OF PI** Yann Martel (2001)

When Pi was sixteen, his family emigrated from India to North America aboard a Japanese cargo ship, along with their zoo animals bound for new homes. When the ship sinks, Pi finds himself alone in a lifeboat, his only companions a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi, whose fear, knowledge, and cunning allow him to coexist with Richard Parker for 227 days while lost at sea. When they finally reach the coast of Mexico, Richard Parker flees to the jungle, never to be seen again. The Japanese authorities who interrogate Pi refuse to believe his story and press him to tell them "the truth." After hours of coercion, Pi tells a second story, a story much less fantastical, much more conventional—but is it more true?

**PERSEPOLIS** (graphic novel) Marjane Satrapi (2007)

*Persepolis* is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming—both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

**THE WALL: GROWING UP BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN** (graphic novel) Peter Sis (2007)

"I was born at the beginning of it all, on the Red side—the Communist side—of the Iron Curtain." Through annotated illustrations, journals, maps, and dreamscapes, Peter Sís shows what life was like for a child who loved to draw, proudly wore the red scarf of a Young Pioneer, stood guard at the giant statue of Stalin, and believed whatever he was told to believe. But adolescence brought questions. Cracks began to appear in the Iron Curtain, and news from the West slowly filtered into the country. Sís learned about beat poetry, rock 'n' roll, blue jeans, and Coca-Cola. He let his hair grow long, secretly read banned books, and joined a rock band. Then
came the Prague Spring of 1968, and for a teenager who wanted to see the world and meet the Beatles, this was a magical time. It was short-lived, however, brought to a sudden and brutal end by the Soviet-led invasion. But this brief flowering had provided a glimpse of new possibilities—creativity could be discouraged but not easily killed.

**THE HELP** Kathryn Stockett (2011)
Aibileen is a black maid in 1962, Jackson, Mississippi, who’s always taken orders quietly, but lately she’s unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She’s full of ambition, but without a husband, she’s considered a failure. These seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town.

**THIS ONE SUMMER** (graphic novel) Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki (2015)
Every summer, Rose goes with her mom and dad to a lake house in Awago Beach. It's their getaway, their refuge. Rosie's friend Windy is always there, too, like the little sister she never had. But this summer is different. Rose's mom and dad won't stop fighting, and when Rose and Windy seek a distraction from the drama, they find themselves with a whole new set of problems. One of the local teens - just a couple of years older than Rose and Windy - is caught up in something bad... Something life threatening. It's a summer of secrets and sorrow and growing up, and it's a good thing Rose and Windy have each other.

An illustrated edition of the enchanting prequel to *The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit*—the classic fantasy that inspired Peter Jackson’s major motion picture trilogy—in a newly expanded edition.

If you like adventure stories, you will also enjoy any of the following three 19th century novels by Jules Verne, a “Father of Science-Fiction,” or the classic by H.G. Wells:

**AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS** Jules Verne (1873)
When Phileas Fogg accepts the challenge to circumnavigate the globe in eighty days, even he cannot anticipate the exotic adventures his race will initiate.

**20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** Jules Verne (1870)
Piloting his submarine, the Nautilus, Captain Nemo makes extraordinary discoveries of undersea flora and fauna, even as he plots to undermine the land-based civilization that he believes has betrayed him.

**A JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH** Jules Verne (1864)
In a subterranean world accessed through a dormant volcano, explorers find a primeval land where the prehistoric still holds sway.

**THE WAR OF THE WORLDS** H.G. Wells (1897)
A classic science-fiction novel about the Martian invasion on Earth.