

Discovery Core – Honors English
Mr. Jolly

Independent Reading: Short Stories

For the remainder of the semester, you will have your choice of books to read. All are collections of short stories. The focus will be on how short stories are constructed, how they differ from longer pieces, and what makes them powerful. In conjunction with this, you will be sketching, developing, refining, and writing a short story of your own. These stories will be published on our own Discovery Core weebly website.

You may choose any of the following titles to read. All are from the California Department of Education's list of Recommended Literature for high school students; all are highly regarded as fine literature. Be thoughtful about your choice – select a book which truly captures your interest. Find reviews of the works online and read them. If possible, read a sample of the books you're most interested in to find one which will hold your interest.

You must decide upon a title, acquire a copy, and begin reading before the end of Thanksgiving break (Nov. 28). You will need to finish reading your book by Dec. 16. Electronic copies are acceptable, as are copies checked out from the Sonoma County library; of course, you can buy a copy of your own if you'd prefer. You will need to bring your book or your e-reader (Kindle, Nook, iPad, etc.) with you to school every core day.

Akutagawa, Ryunosuke	<i>Rashomon and other stories</i>
Alvarez, Julia	<i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i>
Danticat, Edwidge	<i>The Dew Breaker</i>
de Maupassant, Guy	<i>Best Short Stories</i>
Gogol, Nikolai Vasilevich	<i>Diary of a Madman & other stories</i>
Gordimer, Nadine	<i>Jump and other stories</i>
Herriot, James	<i>All Creatures Great and Small</i>
Jin, Ha	<i>Ocean of Words</i>
Mukherjee, Bharati	<i>Middleman and other stories</i>
Naipaul, V. S.	<i>Miguel Street</i>
Packer, Z.Z.	<i>Drinking Coffee Elsewhere</i>
Poe, Edgar Allan	<i>18 Best Stories</i>
Salisbury, Graham	<i>Island Boyz</i>
van Gulik, Robert	<i>Judge Dee at Work: Eight Chinese Detective Stories</i>

Note: the following titles, while highly acclaimed by middle and high school teachers as well as educational periodicals such as *School Library Journal*, are not on the CDE Recommended Literature website. Thus, if you choose to read one, you must bring a signed note from a parent (due Nov. 28) granting you permission to do so.

Bauer, Marion Dane (ed.) *Am I Blue? Coming Out from the Silence*

Black, Holly (ed.)	<i>Geektastic: Stories from the Nerd Herd</i>
Cart, Michael (ed.)	<i>Tomorrowland: 10 Stories About the Future</i>
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan	<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>
Gallo, Donald (ed.)	<i>No Easy Answers: Short Stories about Teenagers Making Tough Choices</i>
Howe, James (ed.)	<i>Thirteen stories that capture the agony and ecstasy of being thirteen</i>
Noyes, Deborah (ed.)	<i>Sideshow: Ten Original Tales of Freaks, Illusionists, and Other Matters Odd and Magical</i>
Weiss, M. Jerry (ed.)	<i>Big City Cool: Short Stories about Urban Youth</i>
Weiss, M. Jerry (ed.)	<i>Dreams and Visions: Fourteen Flights of Fantasy</i>

You may also select another collection of short stories which you haven't read before. It must be grade-level appropriate (9th grade and up) and at least 200pp. As above, you must bring written permission from a parent if you choose to do so.