



# SHADY SIDE

---

## ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
500 Squaw Run Road East  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412-968-3100

May 2017

Dear Entering Form I Students:

I am so excited to have you all in Form I English next year, as you continue your journey through Shady Side Academy Middle School. Summer is almost here, when you will have plenty of time to explore some new texts. Hopefully, these will serve not only to entertain you over the holiday, but to continue to enrich your understanding of yourself and the world that surrounds you.

You are required to read four books from this list: the all-form book, which is *The Outsiders*, and three others. Your three self-selected books must be from at least two different genres. I would love it if you read even more than four books from the list. Please plan on having a copy of your four texts with you for the first two weeks of school. We will be using *The Outsiders* throughout the first month of school, so it would be advantageous to purchase a copy of the book, if possible. You will need to reference these texts for various writing assignments, book club discussions and other projects.

When you return to school, you will write about or discuss each of these four books. Complete the assignments described on the given “Summer Reading Mini Projects” handout in order to take note of the essential elements of the story and your personal reaction and opinion.

Those of you who worked with Mrs. Onest in sixth grade English spent a lot of time considering the big question “What is identity?” Next year in Form I English, we will also keep returning to a thematic question “What is empathy?” Empathy, the ability to imagine someone else’s situation, sounds simple but is a creative and complex part of being human. As you read your summer books, begin to think about how this concept might connect to them—and to your life.

The Form I Summer Reading List can be found on the Shady Side Academy Web site at [www.shadysideacademy.org/summerinfo](http://www.shadysideacademy.org/summerinfo). It can also be viewed through the Parent Portal and on the page for newly enrolled families at [www.shadysideacademy.org/welcome](http://www.shadysideacademy.org/welcome).

Enjoy your summer. Happy reading!

Ms. Castleman