

**Putnam Valley High School**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Summer Reading List**  
**2008**

**Please read one of the following texts in preparation for your year in 12<sup>th</sup> grade English. Each 12<sup>th</sup> grade course will incorporate these texts into the curriculum.**

**Siddhartha** by Hermann Hesse

In this story, Siddhartha is a young man who leaves his family for a life of thought and contemplation but leaves in pursuit of a life with more immediate gratification. This story traces his journey of self-discovery on which he questions the surrounding world and the purpose of humankind.

**Savage Inequalities** by Jonathon Kozol

This non-fiction book studies and exposes some of the horrid conditions of impoverished schools in the United States. Kozol examines some of the causes and results of the situation and discovers that while some wonderful and inspiring stories emerge from these schools, there is more that needs to be done.

**Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd

This moving story features a girl who struggles with her emotions and identity, in part, because of the death of her mother. Lily, the main character, meets a nurturing, fun, and positive group of women beekeepers. This group of beekeepers enlightens Lily on the strength and power of women.