

St. Paul's Episcopal School
2019-2020 English Summer Reading Instructions
For All Rising Sophomores

St. Paul's Episcopal School views summer assignments as a valuable pursuit for the college preparatory student. Summer assignments provide the student with the opportunity for reading enrichment, independent study, time-management and continuity of content review. An additional advantage is that the students begin the school year with a common body of knowledge.

Summer reading books for all grades are available at St. Paul's Campus Store.

Orwell, George – 1984
(ISBN 0451524934)

Sophomore English Instructions: You will participate in class discussion pertaining to the novel and explore its many themes with a project. You will also write a formal paper and take a test over this text.

“The year 1984 has come and gone, but George Orwell’s prophetic, nightmarish vision in 1949 of the world we were becoming is timelier than ever. *1984* is still the great modern classic of “negative utopia” – a startlingly original and haunting novel that creates an imaginary world that is completely convincing, from the first sentence to the last four words. No one can deny the novel’s hold on the imaginations of whole generations, or the power of its admonitions – a power that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time.”

Winston Smith lives in the dystopian society of Oceania, a terrifying place where Big Brother is always watching and the Party scrutinizes every action. Our protagonist dares to be an individual in a culture defined by conformity and fear. If you enjoyed *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, or *The Giver*, you will love this dystopian nightmare of a novel.