

# Santa Monica High School ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



## SMMUSD Summer Reading 2006

### One School, One Book 2006:



For our "One School, One Book" program, all students should read Firoozeh Dumas' *Funny in Farsi*. Copies of the book will be available at Santa Monica Public Libraries as well as in local bookstores. Our goal is to help students develop a love for reading and to foster critical discussion about a common text across the school.

**In addition to this common text, all students are required to read one book of their own choosing.**

*Funny in Farsi* chronicles the American journey of Dumas's wonderfully engaging family: her engineer father, a sweetly quixotic dreamer who first sought riches on *Bowling for Dollars*; her elegant mother, who never fully mastered English (nor cared to); her uncle, who combated the effects of American fast food with an army of miraculous American weight-loss gadgets; and Firoozeh herself, who as a girl changed her name to Julie. In a series of deftly drawn scenes, we watch the family grapple with American English (hot dogs and hush puppies?), American traditions (Thanksgiving turkey?), and American culture (Firoozeh's parents laugh uproariously at Bob Hope on television, although they don't get the jokes even when she translates them into Farsi). This is an unforgettable story of identity, discovery, and the power of family love. It is a book that will leave us all laughing—without an accent.

### Students enrolling in honors classes must also read the following texts:

**Incoming 9HP:** *Sophie's World*, Jostein Gaarder

**Incoming 10HP:** *The Chosen*, Chaim Potok

**Incoming 11AP:** *The Grapes of Wrath* (Penguin), John Steinbeck

**Incoming 12AP:** *Candide*, Voltaire (Penguin) and the following selections from the Old and New Testaments:

- Genesis 1-9 (Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah)
- Genesis 11 (Tower of Babel)
- Genesis 22 (Abraham and Isaac)
- Judges 13-16 (Samson)
- Ruth (1 - 4)
- Jonah (1 - 4)
- Job (1 - 4, 38 -42)
- Song of Solomon (1 - 4)
- Ecclesiastes 1 - 3
- Revelation (10 - 13)
- Matthew (1 - 7, 26 - 28)
- Luke (1, 2)
- John (1)

All students will also read one other book of their choice. The list of suggested titles below was compiled by both students and teachers.

In order to insure that students come to class in September ready to discuss and write about what they have read, students should consider

- marking the text if the book is their own to record comments and questions;
- using *Post-it Notes* if they borrow the book and saving these notes for future reference;
- keeping a chart of key quotations with commentary.

During the first week of school in September all students will be talking and writing about *Funny in Farsi*.

## Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror

*Dune*, Frank Herbert  
*The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien  
*Foundation*, Isaac Asimov  
*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Douglas Adams  
*The Crystal Cave*, Mary Stewart  
*The Left Hand of Darkness*, Ursula K. LeGuin

## Classics

*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Victor Hugo  
*Doctor Zhivago*, Boris Pasternak  
*Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte  
*Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte  
*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Alexander Solzhenitsyn

## Thriller/Mystery

*The Andromeda Strain*, Michael Crichton  
*Dance Hall of the Dead*, Tony Hillerman  
*Misery*, Stephen King  
*Angel's Flight*, Michael Connelly  
*The Day of the Jackal*, Frederick Forsyth  
*The Body Farm*, Patricia Cornwall

## Sports

*The Contender*, Robert Lipsyte  
*Stotan!*, Chris Crutcher  
*Moves Make the Man*, Bruce Brooks  
*Hoop Dreams*, Paul Robert Walker  
*Shoeless Joe*, W. P. Kinsella  
*The Natural*, Bernard Malamud

## Humor

*Big Trouble*, Dave Barry  
*Microserfs*, Douglas Coupland  
*The Snapper*, Roddy Doyle

## Non-fiction

*Seabiscuit*, Laura Hillenbrand  
*Hoop Roots*, John Edgar Widemen  
*Friday Night Lights*, H.G. Bissinger  
*Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*, Barbara Ehrenreich  
*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, Dave Eggers  
*Woman in the Mists*, Farley Mowat  
*Reviving Ophelia*, Mary Pipher  
*Fast Food Nation*, Eric Schlosser  
*Winterdance*, Gary Paulsen  
*The Hot Zone*, Richard Preston  
*John Adams*, David McCullough  
*Savage Inequalities*, Jonathan Kozol/ul

## African American Authors

African American Authors  
*Brown Girl, Brownstones*, Paule Marshall  
*Women of Brewster Place*, Gloria Naylor  
*A Lesson Before Dying*, Ernest Gaines  
*Song of Solomon*, Toni Morrison  
*Native Son*, Richard Wright  
*Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Malcom X and Alex Haley  
*The Disappearance*, Rosa Guy

## Asian American Authors

*Bone*, Fae Mynne Ng  
*Wild Swans*, Jung Chang  
*Native Speaker*, Chang Rae Lee  
*Still Life with Rice*, Helie Lee  
*When the Emperor Was Divine*, Julie Otsuka  
*Obasan*, Joy Kogawa

## Vietnam War

*In Country*, Bobbie Ann Mason  
*The Sorrow of War*, Bao Ninh  
*Fallen Angels*, Walter Dean Myers  
*Bloods*, Wallace Terry

## MEChA Recommends:

*Song of the Hummingbird*, Graciela Limon  
*Chicano*, Richard Vasquez  
*Rain of Gold*, Victor Villaseñor  
*Pocho*, JoséAntonio Villareal  
*Locas*, Yxta Maya Murray  
*Gods Go Begging*, Alfredo Vea

## PenPusher (Samohi Literary Magazine Club) Recommends:

*What My Mother Doesn't Know*, Sonya Sones  
*Siddhartha*, Herman Hesse  
*Skinny Legs and All*, Tom Robbins  
*Bright Lights, Big City*, Jay McInerney  
*Jim the Boy*, Tony Earley  
*Riddley Walker*, Russell Hoban

## The Art Department Recommends:

*The Diary of Frida Kahlo*  
*Letters to a Young Poet*, Rainer Maria Rilke  
*The Artist's Way*, Julia Cameron  
*The Harlem Renaissance*, Steven Watson  
*Mixed Blessings: New Art in a Multicultural America*, Lucy Lippard  
*Women Artists: An Illustrated History*, Nancy Heller

## The German Program Recommends:

*Doctor Faustus*, Thomas Mann  
*Beneath the Wheel*, Hermann Hesse  
*Steppenwolf*, Hermann Hesse  
*Narcissus and Goldmund*, Hermann Hesse  
*The Tin Drum*, Gunter Grass

## College Career Center Recommends:

*The College Admissions Mystique*, Bill Mayer  
*The College Finder*, Steven Antonoff  
*College Match*, Steven R. Antonoff and Marie Friedemann  
*Don't Miss Out*, Anna and Rober Leider

## Boys' Water Polo Recommends:

*Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card  
*Pet Sematary*, Stephen King  
*On the Road*, Jack Kerouac  
*Interview with the Vampire*, Anne Rice

## Santa Monica Public Library Recommends:

*Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Tracy Chevalier  
*Group of One*, Rachna Gilmore  
*Plainsong*, Kent Haruf  
*Typical American*, Gish Jen  
*The Greatest: Muhammad Ali*, Walter Dean Myers  
*Sabriel*, Garth Nix  
*The Gospel According to Larry*, Janet Tashjian  
*Hard Love*, Ellen Wittlinger

## Dutton's Bookstore Recommends:

*Death of Vishnu*, Manil Suri  
*Bel Canto*, Ann Patchett  
*Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, Michael Chabon  
*A Small Death in Lisbon*, Robert Wilson  
*Out of the Girls' Room and into the Night*, Thisbe Nissen  
*Slammerkin*, Emma Donoghue

## Challenged/Banned Books

*The House of Spirits*, Isabel Allende  
*Letters from the Inside*, John Marsden

## Girls' Softball Recommends:

*The Tribes of Palos Verdes*, Joy Nicholson  
*Maus & Maus II*, Art Spiegelman

## BSU (Black Student Union) Recommends:

*Mama and Disappearing Acts*, by Terry McMillan  
*Family and The Wake of the Wind*, by J. California Cooper  
*The Haunting of Hip Hop*, by Bertice Berry  
*Blessings and Caught Up in the Rapture*, by Sheneska Jackson

## Yearbook Staff Recommends:

*A Persian Requiem*, Simin Daneshvar  
*The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan  
*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

## Samohi "Mortensen" Library Recommends the American Library Association's "Best Books for Young Adults, 2002:"

*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, by Ann Brashares  
*The Rag and Bone Shop*, by Robert Cormier  
*Whale Talk*, by Chris Crutcher  
*Breathing Underwater*, by Alex Flinn  
*Damage*, by A.M. Jenkins  
*Zazoo*, by Richard Mosher  
*The Land*, by Mildred Taylor  
*Every Time a Rainbow Dies*, by Rita Williams-Garcia  
*True Believer*, by Virginia Euwer Wolff

## Libros en español:

*El llano en llamas*, Juan Rulfo  
*Ficciones*, Jorge Luis Borges  
*Eva Luna*, Isabel Allende  
*La balada de Gregorio Cortez*, Américo Paredes  
*Doce cuentos peregrinos*, Gabriel García Márquez  
*Gringo viejo*, Carlos Fuentes  
*La Cuentista*, (traditional tales), Teresa Pijoan (bilingual)

## Children's Book World Recommends:

*If You Come Softly*, Jacqueline Woodson  
*True Adventures of Avenger*, Norma Howe  
*The Tricksters*, Margaret Mahy

## Incoming 12th Grade AP Students: Bible as Literature

Genesis 1 - 9 (Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah)  
Genesis 11 (Tower of Babel)  
Genesis 22 (Abraham and Isaac)  
Judges 13 - 16 (Samson)  
Job (Chapters 1 - 3, 36 - 42)  
Song of Solomon  
Proverbs (all)  
Psalms 1, 7, 22, 23, 47, 61  
Ecclesiastes 1 - 3  
Matthew (entire Gospel)