

**ENGLISH IV
DR. VAN GUNTEN
SUMMER READING 2017**

Instructions: Choose and carefully read one book from this list. You will have a written-response type test on your chosen book during the first three days of class in August, 2017.

Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*.

Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, one night dreams of a distant treasure in the Egyptian pyramids. And so he's off, leaving Spain to literally follow his dream. Along the way he meets many spiritual messengers who come in unassuming forms, such as a camel driver and a well-read Englishman. In one of the Englishman's books, Santiago first learns about the alchemists--men who believed that if a metal were heated for many years, it would free itself of all its individual properties, and what was left would be the "Soul of the World." Santiago does eventually meet an alchemist, and the ensuing student-teacher relationship clarifies much of the boy's misguided agenda while also emboldening him to stay true to his dreams.

Faiza Guene, *Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow*. The Paradise Housing Projects are only a few metro stops from Paris, but here it's a whole different kind of France. Doria's father, "The Beard," has headed back to their hometown in Morocco, leaving her and her mom to cope with their *mektoub*--their destiny--alone. They have a little help from a social worker sent by the city, a psychiatrist sent by the school, and a thug friend who recites the French poet Rimbaud. It seems like fate has dealt them an impossible hand, but Doria might still make a new life. She'll prove the projects aren't only about rap, soccer, and religious tension. She'll take the Arabic word *kif-kif* (same old, same old) and mix it up with the French verb *kiffer* (to really like something). And she'll have a whole new motto: *Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow*.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*. A man returns to the town where a baffling murder took place 27 years earlier, determined to get to the bottom of the story. Just hours after marrying the beautiful Angela Vicario, everyone agrees, Bayardo San Roman returned his bride in disgrace to her parents. Her distraught family forced her to name her first lover; and her twin brothers announced their intention to murder Santiago Nasar for dishonoring their sister. Yet if everyone knew the murder was going to happen, why did no one intervene to stop it? The more that is learned, the less is understood, and as the story races to its inexplicable conclusion, an entire society--not just a pair of murderers—is put on trial.