



COLLEGE BOUND

YOUR APPLICATION MENTORSM

Summer 2007

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Application Checklist

1. Finalize list.
2. Request applications so you get them as soon as released.
3. Ask teachers to write letters of recommendation who can write well and reveal a different piece of your puzzle.
4. If applicable, put together portfolio, tapes, etc.
5. Work on Personal Statement and essays.
6. Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite!
7. Visit schools
8. Try to enjoy the process; this is your road to a great 4 years!

Good Summer Reading

This summer is a great time to read a few good books. Many colleges will ask you on the application or during the interview what you've read, so make it something you really enjoyed and can talk about. Reading is also a great way to improve SAT scores. Here are a few great reads:

***Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky**

If you liked the movie *Matchpoint* by Woody Allen, you'll love C&P. I read it in college with initial dread, but once I started reading it, I was hooked.

***Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger**

Another classic, short and sweet. It's an easy read and perhaps some of you can relate to Holden.

***The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lumpari**

A great book that traces the coming of age of an Indian boy. Great writing and an excellent portrayal of the culture. It was made into a movie this spring.

***Summerland* by Michael Chabon**

Baseball meets Harry Potter in this baseball fantasy story. This is Chabon's first foray into kids' literature. He is best known his amazing storytelling in his Pulitzer Prize winning book, ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay***, which traces two young comic book writers in the 40s and beyond. Both are great books.

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

Amazingly written and told coming of age story about an Afghan boy set against the politics of Afghanistan. His newest book, ***A Thousand Splendid Suns***, is supposed to be even better about two Afghan women. It is on my summer reading list.

***Joe College* by Tom Perrotta**

A light read about a college student from New Jersey and his experiences at Yale and at home driving his father's lunch truck.

***He, She, and It* by Marge Piercy**

Sci-fi about a world where everyone is connected to computers. I read it in college, but you may find it less sci-fi and more realistic.

***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See and *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck**

The first chronicles two women's friendship in the nineteenth-century China from their childhood days of footbinding to their later arranged marriages. This is a wonderful story about friendship and quite literally, the ties that bind and how they can be broken. The second book, ***The Good Earth***, was first published in 1931 and won a Pulitzer Prize. It tells the story of an honest, hard-working farmer during the early part of the twentieth century. The historical context adds to the richness of both of these stories.

Personal Statement



It's your job to reveal what's in "your" box to the admissions director through your personal statement. The best personal statements speak from the heart and share something about you that college admissions' officers cannot tell from your application. Think about what you want them to know about you and then keep asking yourself: "Does my essay communicate this?" If not, keep writing!

If you have not done so yet, please call or e-mail to schedule an appointment to work on your essays, finalize your lists, or plan out next year.

Enjoy your summer!

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