

Bishop Kearney High School
English Department
Summer Reading 2017

Reading over the summer provides a myriad of benefits, including vocabulary enhancement, the continuing development of analytical and communication skills, and the strengthening of student writing. Studies show that reading also reduces stress and increases empathy. Plus, reading is fun! It is in this spirit that the English Department requires each incoming student at Bishop Kearney to read at least one book of their choice over the summer months.

Students should be encouraged to read age-appropriate novels, non-fiction texts, plays, or poetry collections. While student choice is important, and students can choose books outside of these lists, below are some selected age-appropriate titles per grade level.

In the first weeks of class, students will be assigned a “book talk” in which they will need to present an oral report to the class on their chosen book.

Please note that students going into AP Language and AP Literature will have different summer reading assignments and projects.

Grade 6

[*Wonder*](#), by R.J. Palacio

[*Fish in a Tree*](#), by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

[*Short*](#), by Holly Goldberg Sloan

[*Hour of the Bees*](#), by Lindsay Eagar

[*The Westing Game*](#) – Ellen Raskin (Mystery)--**Recommended by Mr. Simoni**

[*Homeless Bird*](#), by Gloria Whelan--**Recommended by Ms. Yatteau**

[*The Lightning Thief*](#) by Rick Riordan--**Recommended by Ms. Yatteau**

[*Flipped*](#) by Wendelin Van Draanen - **Recommended by Mrs. Aldridge**

Grade 7

[*Firegirl*](#), by Tony Abbott

[*Rules*](#), by Cynthia Lord

[*Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*](#), by Wendy Mass

[*The Girl Who Drank the Moon*](#), by Kelly Barnhill

[*Gossamer*](#) by Lois Lowry--**Recommended by Mrs. Aldridge**

[*My Brother Sam is Dead*](#) by James Lincoln Collier--**Recommended by Ms. Yatteau**

[*The Witch of Blackbird Pond*](#) by Elizabeth George Speare--**Recommended by Mrs. Aldridge**

Grade 8

[*Loser*](#), by Jerry Spinelli

[*The Inquisitor's Tale, or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*](#), by Adam Gidwitz

[*Booked*](#), by Kwame Alexander

[*Dream On, Amber*](#), by Emma Shevah

[*Ashes of Roses*](#) by Mary Jane Auch--**Recommended by Ms. Yatteau**

[*Touching Spirit Bear*](#) by Ben Mikaelson--**Recommended by Mrs. Aldridge**

[*The Fires of Jubilee, by Stephen Oates*](#)--**Recommended by Mr. Goetz**

Grades 9-10

[*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*](#), by Mark Haddon

[*The Boy In the Striped Pajamas*](#), by John Boyne

[*The Alchemist*](#), by Paulo Coelho

[*The House On Mango Street*](#), by Sandra Cisneros

[*Monster*](#), by Walter Dean Myers

[*The Lovely Bones*](#), by Alice Sebold

[*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*](#), by Ishmael Beah (memoir)

[*The Fault in Our Stars*](#), by John Green

[*The Catcher In the Rye*](#), by JD Salinger

[*All The Bright Places*](#), by Jennifer Niven

[*We Were Liars*](#), by E. Lockhart

[*My Sister's Keeper*](#), by Jodi Picoult

[*The Book Thief*](#), by Mark Zusak

[*The Bean Trees*](#), by Barbara Kingsolver

[*Heart of Darkness*](#), by Joseph Conrad

[*The Martian*](#), by Andy Weir--**Recommended by Mrs. Hansen**

[*Sold*](#) by Patricia McCormick--**Recommended by Ms. Yatteau**

[*The Age of Miracles*](#), by Karen Thompson Walker--**Recommended by Mrs. Hansen**

[*The Count of Monte Cristo*](#) – Alexandre Dumas (History/Revenge)--**Recommended by Mr. Simoni**

[*The Chosen*](#), [*I Am Asher Lev*](#), [*I Am the Clay*](#), [*Davita's Harp*](#), all by Chaim Potok--**Recommended by Mrs. Feller**

Grades 11-12

[*A Thousand Splendid Suns*](#), by Khaled Hosseini

[*The Kite Runner*](#), by Khaled Hosseini

[*The Life of Pi*](#), by Yann Martel

[*Dreams From My Father*](#), by Barack Obama (non-fiction)

[*Fast Food Nation*](#), by Eric Schlosser (non-fiction)

[*All The Light We Cannot See*](#), by Anthony Doerr

[*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*](#), by Ken Kesey

[*Outliers: The Story of Success*](#), by Malcolm Gladwell

[*Old School*](#), by Tobias Wolff

[*Ghostbread*](#), by Sonja Livingston (non-fiction/memoir)

[*Prodigal Summer*](#), by Barbara Kingsolver--**Recommended by Mrs. Dobbins** (one of her “Top Five Books Of All Time!”)

[*I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and was Shot by the Taliban*](#), by Malala Yousafzai (non-fiction)--**Recommended by Mr. LaLiberte**

[*The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother*](#), by James McBride (non-fiction)--**Recommended by Mr. LaLiberte**

[*Teacher Man*](#), by Frank McCourt (memoir)--**Recommended by Mr. LaLiberte**

[*Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*](#)– Michael Lewis (Baseball/Statistics/Economics)--**Recommended by Mr. Simoni**

[*Blink: The power of Thinking Without Thinking*](#) – Malcolm Gladwell (Business/Motivation)--**Recommended by Mr. Simoni**

[*Room*](#), by Emma Donoghue

[*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*](#), by Jonathon Safran Foer

[*The Color Purple*](#), by Alice Walker

[*Angela's Ashes*](#), by Frank McCourt (memoir)

[*The Road*](#), by Cormac McCarthy

[*Never Let Me Go*](#), by Kazuo Ishiguro

[*Small Great Things*](#), by Jodi Picoult

[*The Joy Luck Club*](#), by Amy Tan

[*The Handmaid's Tale*](#), by Margaret Atwood

[*Oryx and Crake*](#), by Margaret Atwood

[*Siddhartha*](#), by Herman Hesse

[*Admissions Confidential: An Insider's Account of the Elite College Selection Process*](#), by Rachel Toor (non-fiction)

[*Atonement*](#), by Ian McEwan

[*Unbroken*](#) – Laura Hillenbrand (WWII Survival Story)--**Recommended by Mr. Simoni**

[*A Short History of Nearly Everything*](#) – Bill Bryson (Science/Humor)--**Recommended by Mr. Simoni**

Born to Run – Christopher McDougall (Running)--**Recommended by Mr. Simoni**

Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us – Daniel Pink (Business/Motivation)--**Recommended by Mr. Simoni**

Rich Dad, Poor Dad - Robert Kiyosaki
(Personal Finance, Business) - **Recommended by Mr. Boon**

The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America's Wealthy -
Thomas Stanley/William Danko (Personal Finance/Business) - **Recommended by Mr. Boon**

Survival of the Sickest by Dr. Sharon Moalem--**Recommended by Mrs. Greanier**

We Are Called to Rise by Laura McBride--**Recommended by Mrs. Aldridge**

The Nightingale, by Kristin Hannah--**Recommended by Mrs. McKee**

The Underground Railroad, by Colson Whitehead--**Recommended by Mrs. McKee**

The Invention of Wings, by Sue Monk Kidd--**Recommended by Mrs. McKee**

The Boys In the Boat, by Daniel Brown (non-fiction)--**Recommended by Mrs. McKee**

Into Thin Air, by John Krakauer (non-fiction)--**Recommended by Mr. Goetz**

The Man, by Irving Wallace--**Recommended by Mr. Goetz**

Book Talk

You will be required to give a short talk on your summer reading book.

A book talk is an informal presentation in which you tell us about the book **WITHOUT** summarizing it in its entirety. Tell us the major themes and concerns of the book. Why should others read the book? What did you, personally, learn about yourself and the world around you through the reading of this book? **Your book talk must include a short reading from the book—about 1 1/2 to 2 minute’s worth, and should help your audience get the idea of the writer’s style.**

Below is a suggested outline for how to best organize your book talk:

Attention getter options:

*Find an interesting, exciting, or mysterious famous quotation to start off your presentation.

Don’t just pick any old quote... choose carefully and deliberately to try to capture the attention of the audience. Also explain why you chose the quote.

*Begin with an open-ended question that gets your audience thinking about a crucial question or dilemma the book conveys.

*Start with a personal anecdote that relates in some way to your book.

Introduction:

Clearly introduce your book by giving the title, author and genre of the book. You must show the book to the class. Pass it around.

Body:

Describe the main components of your book. If it is a novel, who are the main characters? Where is the tension? What are the conflicts? What are the central themes? In other words, what do you learn about the world by the end? If it is a non-fiction book, what are the authors main arguments? Of what are they trying to persuade us? What are the central themes?

Don’t over-summarize. (Hint—you are doing this if you find yourself saying “and” too much.)

This is also where you should read a section of your book (2 minutes) to the class. Speak about **WHY** you chose this specific section and give some context to the reading.

Conclusion:

Without giving away any “spoilers,” convince the reader why they should read this book next.

Make sure to answer the “So What?” question. What does the book make you think about? Why should we read this book? How will it add value to our lives?

Tips:

Practice your presentation a few times before you present. Time yourself.
Use **note-cards or an outline**. This will prevent nerves.

Rubric

Content (40 points)

- _____ Audience gets good sense for the book's theme, major issues, style (15)
 DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE PLOT OF YOUR BOOK!
- _____ Presenter names title and author and shows book (5)
- _____ Reading selected is appropriate to showcase central theme (15)
 Presenter(s) indicate the reason the reading was selected
- _____ Presenter includes his/her opinion of book and justifies it (5)

Presentation (20 points)

- _____ Volume/Presence (no gum chewing, nervous movement, etc.) (5)
- _____ Eye Contact with Audience (5)
- _____ Inflection/Expression in reading and overall presentation (5)
- _____ Effective use of time (5) – (Book talks should last between 8-10 minutes)

TOTAL/GRADE _____/_____