



June 14, 2021

Dear students and families,

Congratulations on another successful school year; we are all incredibly proud of everything that you accomplished. As you start thinking about your summer plans, we wanted to share an exciting new initiative – a “Diocesan-Wide Read.” All students, teachers, and staff will be reading the same book as part of our summer reading program. Families are also more than welcome to read the book. The theme of the books is environmental awareness. Our hope is that these books will spark meaningful discussions about being good stewards of the Earth and help to create a stronger sense of community.

Middle School: Required Text and Assignments for All Students, Grades 6-8

Required reading: *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen

Brief synopsis from Amazon: “This Newbery Honor winner and #1 New York Times bestseller is a beloved modern classic. *Hoot* features a new kid and his new bully, alligators, some burrowing owls, a renegade eco-avenger, and several extremely poisonous snakes.”

Required assignment: After reading the book, please research endangered species. A separate list of endangered species will be provided for you to choose one to focus on. Your assignment is to create a poster board about the animal, with a minimum of answers to the following questions:

1. What genus and species?
2. Where is your animal from?
3. What does it eat?
4. Why is it endangered?

You must include photographs and/or drawings of your chosen endangered creature. You may include more information. We are looking for accuracy, creativity, and demonstration of knowledge. For extra points, create a diorama of your creature’s natural habitat.

High School: Required Text and Assignments for All Students, Grades 9-12

Required reading: *Dry* by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman

Brief synopsis from Amazon: “When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family in this harrowing story of survival from New York Times bestselling authors.”

Required assignment: After reading the book, please choose a current environmental concern or crisis to research. You will identify the problem as it exists in the world today and offer a sustainable solution to the problem. You must find a scholarly article that explains your problem. If evidence of the problem is something present in your everyday environment, you should take photographs. If it is not present in your everyday environment, you should obtain images to show the harmful effects of the crisis on the earth. Incorporate your findings into a final project of your choice: a Google slide presentation, a PowerPoint, an actual poster, etc. Please incorporate citations from any outside sources.

2021 Summer Reading
Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons School
English Department

High School (grades 9-12)

Directions: Your summer reading assignment will be different this year. In addition to reading *Dry* and completing the Diocesan Wide Read program assignment, you will be reading a book that is of interest to you. You are going to find a fiction or non-fiction book that makes you want to read. Once you have read your book, complete 8 (eight) dialectical journal entries.

How To Keep a Dialectic Journal

You will keep a dialectical journal as you read the novel. A dialectical journal is another name for a double-entry journal or a reader-response journal. In your journal, have a conversation with the text and with yourself.

Dialectical Journal Requirements

1. Each entry must be a half-page in length.
2. Divide the page into two columns. On the left, enter a quote from the text that you are going to write about. Give page number. On the right, write about 60 words responding to the quote
3. Your entries **MUST** be handwritten.
4. Be sure to elaborate with specific examples from the text as you express your thoughts.
5. Make clear connections to the prompt selected.

Journal Prompts

The following are possible starter sentences for your response to quoted passages in your journal:

1. I do not understand...
2. I noticed that...
3. I now understand...
4. This character reminds me of myself...
5. I think the setting is important because...
6. I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because...
7. I really like this (idea, person, attitude, etc.) because...
8. Something I noticed (appreciated, wondered, etc.) is...
9. My favorite passage (or quote) is _____ because...
10. I like (dislike) _____ because.

Here is what your journal should look like:

Dialectical Journal Example Taking Notes (quotations taken from <i>The House on Mango Street</i>)	Making Notes (response to the quotations selected)
<p>August 22, 2009 “The house on Mango Street is ours, and we don’t have to pay rent to anybody, or share the yard with the people downstairs, or be careful not to make too much noise, and there isn’t a landlord banging on the ceiling with a broom” (Cisneros 3).</p> <p><u>Citation includes the author’s last name and page number where quote was found.</u></p>	<p>I noticed that she is listing experiences people who rent homes and apartments might have experienced as well. This might pull those readers closer to her through common experience. It also serves to pull the reader who has never rented into her narrative. She lists multiple inconveniences and negative aspects of this lifestyle (paying rent, sharing yard, having to be quiet) and this begins to create an image. While Esperanza’s family no longer has to deal with these problems their neighbors on Mango Street do. It provides a window into a lifestyle.</p>
<p>August 25, 2009 “But my mother’s hair, my mother’s hair, like little rosettes, like little candy circles all curly and pretty because she pinned it in pin curls all day, sweet to put your nose into when she is holding you, holding you and you feel safe, is the warm smell of bread before you bake it, is the smell when she makes room for you on her side of the bed” (Cisneros 6).</p>	<p>Something I concluded here is that the long list of similes and metaphors describing her mother’s hair must be important. She describes her father’s hair in one sentence— as well as the hair of the other family members. The repetition of “holding you” is a clue as well. She obviously has a strong connection to her mother and it must be the most important relationship in her life—at least in her family. Other evidence of this closeness is the association of a smell – the smell of bread – with her mother. Olfactory memories are some of the strongest. It reminds me of smell associations I have. Like Coppertone sunscreen and the trip my family and I took to Pie de la Cuesta just before we moved away from Mexico. Every time I smell it I am transported back to that carefree time – and for this reason I keep buying it. Warm bread connotes comfort and care. It takes time and patience to bake bread – just like being a mom.</p>

Students going into accelerated or college-level courses, your books are selected but feel free to read another book of your choice for enjoyment.

English 10 Accelerated (10th grade): *Fahrenheit 451*

AP Language (11th grade): *The Underground Railroad: A Novel*

AP Literature & College in the High School (12th grade): *Montana 1948*

Recommended Reading List

This is a listing of books that we feel offers a wide selection of choices from many genres and time periods. Perhaps you would like to try a classic piece, or a mystery, or fantasy, or historical fiction. Perhaps you aren't sure - look in the "General" category. Reading allows you to sit down, and walk into a different world, or way of thinking. Find a book, a comfy spot, with a cool breeze, have a glass of lemonade nearby, and enjoy.

Mysteries

The Best of Mystery: 63 Short Stories Chosen by Alfred Hitchcock

Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar

Murder on the Orient Express Agatha Christie:

The Magpie Mysteries by Anthony Horowitz

Mrs. Thistlethwaite and the Magpie by J.B. Hawker

General

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Sold on a Monday by Kristana McMorris

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

A Dog's Purpose by Bruce Cameron

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Fault of Our Stars by John Green

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell

Burn Baby Burn by Meg Medina

The Absolute True Story of a Part Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

Stars Go Blue by Laura Pritchett

Sparrow by Sarah Moon

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Goodbye Days by Jeff Zenner

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Classics

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
David Copperfield by Charles Dickens
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Wuthering Heights by Charlotte Bronte
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
The Lost World by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Emma by Jane Austen
Cannery Row by John Steibeck
Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemmingway

Sci-Fi

Enders Game by Orson Scott Card
Binti by Nnedi Okaofar (Nigerian)
The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
The Andromeda Strain by Michael Crichton

Dystopian

Unwind Series by Neal Shusterman
City of Ember Series by Jean DuPrau
Hunger Game Series by Suzanne Collins
The Man in the High Castle by Phillip K. Dick
Divergent by Veronica Roth Set
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Fantasy

Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle
Strange the Dreamer by Lani Taylor
The Reader by Traci Chee
The Shadow and Bone Trilogy by Leigh Bardugo
Six of Crows Duology by Leigh Bardugo
Percy Jackson and the Olympians set by Rick Riordan
The Builders of Rollrock Island by Margo Lnangan
Watership Down by Richard Adams
Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkein
Harry Potter Series by JK Rowling

Diversity

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson
Beloved by Toni Morrison
Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
The Help by Katherine Stockert

Non-Fiction

Looking for Alaska by John Green
The 59 Bus by Dashka Slater
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
Dead Mountain by Donnie Echar
Walk to Beautiful by Jimmy Wayne
Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
Flags of our Fathers by James Bradley
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
Shaken by Tim Tebow
Five Feet Apart by Rachel Lippincott
Malcolm X Autobiography as Told by Alex Haley
Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do

Holocaust

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Historical Fiction

Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan
The Passion of Dolssa by Julie Berry
Telegram for Mr. Mooney by Cate Ruane
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Foer