

# 2019 Summer Reading at Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons School English Department

## Middle School (grades 6-8)

Mrs Fingerhut (fingerhutk@nd-bg.org)

### The Assignment

Choose **one** chapter book (fiction or non-fiction) you have not already read but believe you can enjoy. Read it and select a project-based response for the book. When you return to school in September, your English teacher will give you the date (usually 2nd or 3rd week of September) for presentation of your project. **You should also expect to write or explain how and why you chose both of your books and your project, and the challenges (if any) you faced while doing it.**

**How to choose a book:** (Remember, the goal is for you to actually find a book you like and can read!)

There are a gazillion great books out there, and so many factors influence which books will cause any reader to say "This is a great book." Some people like certain genres (mystery, science fiction, fantasy, dystopias, historical fiction, biographies). Some people like certain styles (first person, fast paced action, descriptive, informal, classic, sad, funny). Some people like certain topics (sports, science, history). We want you to find the books that speak to you. Here are some tips on how to pick a good book:

*Read another book by an author you already know and enjoy*

*Read a sequel or related book to a book you read in school*

- If you go to Amazon and type in the title of a book you have already enjoyed, you will find a feature that recommends "Frequently Bought Together" or "Customers Who Bought This Also Bought...." titles. These other titles appealed to people who also liked your book. It's a good bet these titles will appeal to you too.

*Ask others for advice:*

- Ask friends and family who know you and your interests or abilities to make a suggestion.
- Go to the library or bookstore and ask the librarian or bookseller in the Young Adult section to make some suggestions.
- Go on line to [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com)'s Top 100 Middle School Must Reads. If a cover or title appeals to you, click on the title to get a brief description of the book. If you are still interested, go to [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and type in the title. Once you find the title, click again for more specific product info. In many cases, you can "Look Inside" and actually "test read" several pages to determine if you like the writing style and level of difficulty. You can also read other readers' reviews and questions about the book.

### Project-based Responses

Just as different books appeal to different people, so do different projects that involve different skills. Some people like to act; others draw, write, build, research. Below are listed several suggestions for your projects. You may design a project not listed below, but **do not write a book report**. Your project **MUST** be visually engaging so as to invite others to share in your books in some way.

1. *Drawing Response:* Select at least 10 moments from the book and illustrate them. You might
  - make a "coloring book" that your teacher can photocopy for classmates to use while you answer questions or tell them about your book.
  - or, create posters of your book that can hang in our library or hallways.
  - or, make a comic book or "graphic novel" format of the book
  - or, make a display board that mimics a Facebook or Instagram page, where you "post" a profile and picture of a character in the book. Include appropriate text-based "friends," "recent activities," "information," and if possible, "Ads" showing products and/or services your character might be interested in.
2. *Acting Response:*

- Come to school on the assigned day with a costume and some props related to a character in the book. Be ready to "get into character" and be interviewed by your teachers and classmates
- Or, make a video version of a scene in the book, or film yourself in character being interviewed by a "reporter" who is covering a "major development" in the story. (For this project, you may seek the help of others. If you have a schoolmate or two reading the same book, you may work together on this project. You may also use friends and family who do not attend NDBG)

### *3. Building Response*

- Design a board game relevant to your book. You must create Directions which include an Objective (how to win) and Rules of Play. You must supply a game board (perhaps adapted from Monopoly or Trivial Pursuit), tokens, playing cards or whatever pieces classmates will need to play the game

### *4. Research Response*

Select some aspect of something referenced in or associated with the book that you want to know more about and do some research on that topic. Figure out an interesting way to share your research with your classmates. You might research a historical event, place, person, or technology that was mentioned in the book. You might want to research more about the author. Or, if your book is one that has stirred up controversy, look into the issues surrounding the controversy.

- Prepare a "Newspaper" page displaying several articles, ads, editorials reporting on the topic
- Or, make a video newscast - show yourself as an anchorperson orally reporting on the topic
- Or, interview (and film or record) an expert or eyewitness on the topic. For example, if you read a book about a person with a disability, you might interview someone with the disability, a health care professional who knows about this topic, or a family member of someone who has struggled with this topic. You might approach it from multiple perspectives.
- Or, prepare relevant graphic posters and or power point images, graphs, maps, timelines related to your research.

Again, the goal is for you to create a response to the book that is visually appealing. You want to create a response that will encourage a conversation with others about your book and its effect on you.

**HIGH SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS ON NEXT PAGE**

## HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS

**YOU MUST OWN A HARD COPY OF THE REQUIRED TEXTS (AUDIO and DIGITAL FORMATS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR CLASSROOM USE). You will need to be able to write in your text.**

### Grade 9

- *Lord of the Flies*, a novel by William Golding

Maintain a dialectic journal, making an entry approximately every 15 pages. See directions for How to Keep a Dialectic Journal below.

- Selection from suggested list

Take notes as you read and be prepared to complete an assignment at the start of the school year

### Grade 10

- *Fahrenheit 451*, a novel by Ray Bradbury

Maintain a dialectic journal, making an entry approximately every 15 pages. See directions for How to Keep a Dialectic Journal below.

- Selection from suggested list

Take notes as you read and be prepared to complete an assignment at the start of the school year

### Grade 10 Accelerated

- *Fahrenheit 451*, a novel by Ray Bradbury
- *Animal Farm*, a novel by George Orwell

For both books, maintain a dialectic journal, making an entry approximately every 15 pages. See directions for How to Keep a Dialectic Journal below.

- Article on annotation

### Grade 11

- *The Catcher in the Rye*, a novel by JD Salinger

Maintain a dialectic journal, making an entry approximately every 15 pages. See directions for How to Keep a Dialectic Journal below.

- Selection from suggested list

Take notes as you read and be prepared to complete an assignment at the start of the school year

- Article on annotation

### AP Language/ College in the High School ENG. 123

- *The Catcher in the Rye*, a novel by JD Salinger
- *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

For both books, maintain a dialectic journal, making an entry approximately every 15 pages. See directions for How to Keep a Dialectic Journal below.

- Article on annotation

### Grade 12

- *Montana, 1948* by Larry Watson

Maintain a dialectic journal, making an entry approximately every 15 pages. See directions for How to Keep a Dialectic Journal below.

- Selection from suggested list

Take notes as you read and be prepared to complete an assignment at the start of the school year

### AP Literature/ College in the High School ENG. 123 & 124

- *Montana, 1948* by Larry Watson

- *How to Read Literature like a Professor*

Write a well-developed literary analysis (3-5 pgs.) of *Montana 1948* using the techniques and insights discussed in *How to Read Literature*. Your response should be typed and reflect college-level work.

<b>Dialectical Journal Example Taking Notes</b> (quotations taken from <i>The House on Mango Street</i> )	<b>Making Notes</b> (response to the quotations selected)
<b>August 22, 2009</b> "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).	<b>I noticed that</b> 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

## 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 approximately 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.

**Here is what your journal entry should look like:**

<p>Citation includes the <b>author's last name</b> and <b>page number</b> where quote was found.</p>	<p>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><b>August 25, 2009</b>          "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 pincurls 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><b>Something I concluded</b> 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>

Source:  
[www.latinacademy.org](http://www.latinacademy.org)



## Suggested Books for Grades 9, 10, 12

*You will note that there is a range of reading levels, and topics. We have students reading at different levels within a grade. Choose a book that will interest you, and also challenge you. Be the best you.*

***If you do not find a book on this list that sparks your interest, or if you are reading a series, and wish to begin the next book, you may. You need to be sure that the book is within your reading level, and is considered a high school work.***

**Mrs. White**

### **Non Fiction**

**Sold** by Patricia McCormick Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. Though she is desperately poor, her life is full of simple pleasures, like playing hopscotch with her best friend from school, and having her mother brush her hair by the light of an oil lamp. But when the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family.

**Never Fall Down** by Patricia McCormick This National Book Award nominee from two-time finalist Patricia McCormick is the unforgettable story of Arn Chorn-Pond, who defied the odds to survive the Cambodian genocide of 1975-1979 and the labor camps of the Khmer Rouge.

Based on the true story of Cambodian advocate Arn Chorn-Pond, and authentically told from his point of view as a young boy, this is an achingly raw and powerful historical novel about a child of war who becomes a man of peace. It includes an author's note and acknowledgments from Arn Chorn-Pond himself.

When soldiers arrive in his hometown, Arn is just a normal little boy. But after the soldiers march the entire population into the countryside, his life is changed forever.

**A Long Way Gone** by Ishmael Beah This is how wars are fought now: by children, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s. Children have become soldiers of choice. In the more than fifty conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

What is war like through the eyes of a child soldier? How does one become a killer? How does one stop? Child soldiers have been profiled by journalists, and novelists have struggled to imagine their lives. But until now, there has not been a first-person account from someone who came through this hell and survived.

**I Am Malala** by Malala Yousafzai "I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday."

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

### **Fantasy**

**Night Circus** by Erin Morgenstern Two star-crossed magicians engage in a deadly game of cunning in *The Night Circus*, the spellbinding bestseller that has captured the world's imagination.

The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amusements. It is called *Le Cirque des Rêves*, and it is only open at night.

**Harry Potter** by JK Rowling. We all know the story line: Harry, friendship, Hogwarts, magic, and bravery all twine together in one of the most well known series of the time. Many of us have read this, but there are some who have not due to time. It is summer. It is time. Start at the beginning, or if you are mid series, pick up the next book. FYI Watching the movie will not allow you to complete the project that will be assigned.

### **Dystopian**

**Divergent** by Veronica Roth One choice can transform you. Beatrice Prior's society is divided into five factions—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). Beatrice must choose between staying with her Abnegation family and transferring factions. Her choice will shock her community and herself. But the newly christened Tris also has a secret, one she's determined to keep hidden, because in this world, what makes you different makes you dangerous.

If you are already reading this series, you may pick the next book.



**Ready Player One** by Ernest Cline In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.

### **Classic**

**Oliver Twist** by Charles Dickens *Oliver Twist*, or *The Parish Boy's Progress*, is the second novel by Charles Dickens, and was first published as a serial 1837–9. The story is of the orphan Oliver Twist, who starts his life in a workhouse and is then apprenticed with an undertaker. He escapes from there and travels to London where he meets the Artful Dodger, a member of a gang of juvenile pickpockets, which is led by the elderly criminal Fagin. *Oliver Twist* is notable for Dickens's unromantic portrayal of criminals and their sordid lives, as well as exposing the cruel treatment of the many orphans in London in the mid–nineteenth century.

**The Hound of the Baskervilles** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is the third of the four crime novels written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featuring the detective Sherlock Holmes. Originally serialised in *The Strand Magazine* from August 1901 to April 1902, it is set largely on Dartmoor in Devon in England's West Country and tells the story of an attempted murder inspired by the legend of a fearsome, diabolical hound of supernatural origin. Sherlock Holmes and his companion Dr. Watson investigate the case. This was the first appearance of Holmes since his intended death in "The Final Problem", and the success of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* led to the character's eventual revival.

**Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Brontë Regarded as a revolutionary novel, Brontë's masterpiece introduced the world to a radical new type of heroine, one whose defiant virtue and moral courage departed sharply from the more acquiescent and malleable female characters of the day. Passionate, dramatic, and surprisingly modern, *Jane Eyre* endures as one of the world's most beloved novels.

### **Popular Drama/Mystery/Adventure**

**Congo** by Michael Crichton In the heart of Africa, three intrepid adventurers are desperate to find the fabulous diamonds of the lost city of Zinj. They encounter the Kigani cannibals, flaming volcanoes and ferocious gorillas - and Amy, the cuddly gorilla who's fluent in sign language.

**Turtles All The Way Down** by John Green Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis.

Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

In his long-awaited return, John Green, the acclaimed, award-winning author of *Looking for Alaska* and *The Fault in Our Stars*, shares Aza's story with shattering, unflinching clarity in this brilliant novel of love, resilience, and the power of lifelong friendship. **Grade 9 only**

**Dread Nation** by Justina Ireland At once provocative, terrifying, and darkly subversive, *Dread Nation* is Justina Ireland's stunning vision of an America both foreign and familiar—a country on the brink, at the explosive crossroads where race, humanity, and survival meet.

**The Help** by Kathryn Stockett Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure.

Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town...Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure.

Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town...

### **A Parable**

**Joshua** by Joseph F. Girzone Rooted in a scrupulously accurate reading of scripture, *Joshua* is a profoundly moving, deeply inspiring book that no reader will ever forget.

Sometimes it happens. After two thousand years, the human race may be given a second chance.

When Joshua moves to a small cabin on the edge of town, the local people are mystified by his presence. A quiet and simple man, Joshua appears to seek nothing for himself. He supports himself by working as a carpenter. He charges very little for his services, yet his craftsmanship is exquisite. The statue of Moses that he carves for the local synagogue prompts amazement as well as consternation.

