

Saint Bernard School Summer Reading Program

Dear Parents and students:

A goal of the Saint Bernard English curriculum is to encourage our students to explore the world of literature by reading books of their own choosing for personal enjoyment and enrichment, as well as those assigned for more formal class work. The benefits of reading are many, and we know parents will support our program. Undoubtedly over the summer you will have opportunities to encourage your children to read. A visit to a bookstore or library can be enjoyable and may afford you the chance to suggest a title or author that you have enjoyed.

The program for summer reading:

Students will be given **one assigned text** and will choose **two self-selected works**. (Honors-level courses will have additional assigned titles; AP English has a separate program.) The self-selected works may be from the list below, or works of similar literary merit. At the beginning of school, students will return the Parent Verification Form to their 2019-2020 English teachers, along with the following assignment:

-Select two passages (2-3 sentences minimum, preferably from 2 different books) and respond with your reaction to each passage, explaining why you felt as you did, and discussing how each passage connects to any important ideas, themes, or characters in the works in which they appear or in other works you have read.

-Write two questions about the ideas in each of the 3 books you read (six questions total). *Examples of good questions: Why does Atticus defend Tom Robinson, even if he knows his children might get hurt? What do Romeo and Juliet's rash actions reveal about young love?*

Examples of unacceptable questions: What did Scout like to wear? How old is Juliet?

The passages, responses, and questions, along with the parent verification forms, will be collected on the first full day of classes.

ASSIGNED TEXTS (BY YEAR): (These books are widely available in libraries and both new and used on Amazon.com.)

Incoming 6th graders - *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick

Incoming 7th graders – *The Orphan Train Girl* by Christina Baker Kline

Incoming 8th graders – –*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

Incoming 9th graders World Literature- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

Honors World Literature- *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse and *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

Incoming 10th graders British Literature- *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens

Honors British Literature- *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White and *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

Incoming 11th graders American Literature - *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

AP Language and Composition- separate program (list given to students at the end of 2018-2019 school year and available online)

Incoming 12th graders Literature of the Sea - *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick

AP Literature and Composition- separate program (list given to students at end of 2018-2019 school year and available online)

Self-selection List: *The following list includes works that are considered accessible by the majority of adolescents on a variety of reading levels, and other works that are considered challenging, and then more challenging. We English teachers strongly encourage our students to develop the habit of reading by selecting books on this list, other books by the same authors, or any others of interest, and reading them this summer. We also recommend that our students read magazines and newspapers regularly. (Important: No Goosebumps, Animorphs, Star Wars, Halo, Manga, or "how to" books, please.)*

.One note: a few of these books contain language or situations that some parents may find objectionable. We believe that the context of the works minimizes any potentially negative effects of these elements, but parents should certainly use their own discretion in supervising their children's choices. (Selections are grouped alphabetically by author as "Accessible," "Challenging," or "More Challenging" to reflect students' reading abilities and interests.)

ACCESSIBLE

Binchey, Maeve	<i>Circle of Friends</i>
Burnford, Sheila	<i>The Incredible Journey</i>
Card, Orson Scott	<i>Enders Game</i>
Collins, Suzanne	<i>The Hunger Games</i>
Conan Doyle, Sir Arthur	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>

Cormier, Robert	<i>Bumblebee Flies Away/The Chocolate War</i>
Craven, Margaret	<i>I Heard the Owl Call My Name</i>
Christie, Agatha	<i>And Then There Were None</i>
Frank, Pat	<i>Alas, Babylon</i>
George, Jean	<i>My Side of the Mountain</i>
Greene, Betty	<i>Summer of My German Soldier</i>
Herriot, James	<i>All Creatures Great and Small</i>
Hesse, Karen	<i>Phoenix Rising</i>
Hinton, S. E.	<i>The Outsiders/ Tex</i>
Kassam, Lou	<i>Listen for Rachel</i>
Lee, Harper	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>
Lewis, C. S.	<i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i>
Lipsyte, Robert	<i>The Contender</i>
MacLachain, Patricia	<i>Sarah Plain and Tall</i>
Neufield, John	<i>Lisa Bright and Dark</i>
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i>
Rowlings, J. K.	Harry Potter series
Scopettone, Sandra	<i>The Late Great Me</i>
Steinbeck, John	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>
Tolkien, J. R. R.	<i>Lord of the Rings</i> trilogy
Voight, Cynthia	<i>Homecoming</i>
Zindel, Paul	<i>To Take a Dare</i>

CHALLENGING

Angelou, Maya	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>
Ashe, Arthur	<i>Days of Grace</i>
Borland, Hal	<i>When the Legends Die</i>
Bradbury, Ray	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
Bradley, Marion Zimmer	<i>The Mists of Avalon</i>
Brown, Dee	<i>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee</i>
Cisneros, Sandra	<i>My Wicked, Wicked Ways</i>
Clarke, Arthur C.	<i>Childhood's End</i>
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<i>Bud not Buddy</i>
Dinesen, Isak	<i>Out of Africa</i>
Flagg, Fannie	<i>Fried Green Tomatoes</i>
Gaines, Ernest	<i>The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman</i>
Grey, Zane	<i>Riders of the Purple Sage</i>
Greenberg, Joanne	<i>I Never Promised You a Rose Garden</i>
Griffin, John Howard	<i>Black Like Me</i>
Guest, Judith	<i>Ordinary People</i>
Gunther, John	<i>Death Be Not Proud</i>
Hammett, Dashiell	<i>The Maltese Falcon</i>
Hautman, Peter	<i>Rash</i>
Hunt, Irene	<i>Across Five Aprils</i>
Keyes, Daniel	<i>Flowers for Algernon</i>

Knowles, John	<i>A Separate Peace</i>
Knudsen, R. R.	<i>Shoeless Joe</i>
Konigsburg, E. L.	<i>From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i>
London, Jack	<i>Call of the Wild</i>
Orwell, George	<i>1984</i>
Potok, Chaim	<i>The Chosen</i>
Riordan, Rick	<i>Lost Hero</i>
Santiago, Esmeralda	<i>When I Was Puerto Rican</i>
Shelley, Mary	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Sillitoe, Alan	<i>The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner</i>
Sparks, Nicholas	<i>A Walk to Remember</i>
Sterne, Emma	<i>The Story of the Amistad</i>
Twain, Mark	<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
Valentine, James	<i>Jumpman</i>
Walker, Alice	<i>The Color Purple</i>
Wilder, Thornton	<i>Our Town</i>
Williams, Tennessee	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i>

MORE CHALLENGING

Atwood, Margaret	<i>A Handmaid's Tale</i>
Austen, Jane	<i>Emma</i>
Bradbury, Ray	<i>Dandelion Wine</i>
Cather, Willa	<i>My Antonia</i>
Fitzgerald, F. Scott	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>
Golding, William	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Haley, Alex	<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i>
Miller, Arthur	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>
Shakespeare, William	any play
Siebold, Alice	<i>Lovely Bones</i>

Places to look for other book recommendations:

<https://bookry.com/book/elliotel/choices-summer-reading/#>

<http://storysnoops.com/index.php>

<http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/books/>