

SUGGESTIONS FOR SAINT ANN'S SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST – 2004
6th and 7th Grades

Adams, Douglas

Hitchhiker's Trilogy Series

This is the 25th anniversary of the hilarious *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and it's pretty much guaranteed to be vastly more entertaining than anything you'll find with a TV remote. Seconds before the Earth is demolished for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is saved by Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised *Guide*. Together they stick out their thumbs and begin a wild journey through time and space. Their adventures continue in *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe* and *Life, The Universe and Everything*, which complete the popular trilogy. Readers typically rave and give this the maximum five stars. Don't wait for the upcoming movie!

Anderson, Laurie Hulse

Fever 1793

Yellow fever strikes! Fourteen-year-old Mattie has to fight to stay alive. Anderson has carefully researched this historical event and infuses her story with rich details of time and place including some perspective on the little-known role African Americans played in caring for fever victims. This gripping tale makes history come alive, and inspires with teenage Mattie's indomitable spirit. A terrifying American tragedy.

Armstrong, William H.

Souder

Souder is no beauty. But as a coon dog, this loyal mongrel with his cavernous bark is unmatched. When the African American sharecropper who has raised Souder from a pup is hauled off to jail for stealing a hog, his family must suffer their humiliation and crushing loss with no recourse. The sharecropper's oldest son is forced to take on man's work to help support the family. His transition to adulthood is paved by the rocks and taunts hurled at him by convicts and guards as he searches for his father. But along this rough road he ultimately finds salvation as well. Read this, and you've read at least one wonderful book this summer.

Banks, Lynn Reid

One More River

"We're going to emigrate." The words dropped into Lesley's mind innocently... and exploded like a bomb. Emigrating meant leaving home forever. She couldn't believe it. But her father had made up his mind. "We're going where we can live on an edge." Life on a border kibbutz in Israel turns out to be one challenge after another for Lesley, who has always taken "the good life" for granted.

Black, Holly

The Spiderwick Chronicles

Fans of the Lemony Snicket series will most likely snap these five right up. Nine-year-old twins Jared and Simon, together with 13-year-old Mallory, move into the dilapidated Spiderwick Estate only to find themselves sucked into a dark and fascinating world of fairies.

Tithe

More fairies, only this time a more sophisticated, edgier read. The suspenseful story involves homicidal boyfriends and rock star moms and a hard-luck, alienated, tough, teen girl.

Bradbury, Ray

The Illustrated Man and *The Martian Chronicles*

Got tattoos? Got Martians? Bradbury never fails to entertain. Hard to believe these were written before you were born. *The Illustrated Man* is a chilling collection of fiction, fantasy, and horror that sometimes leave you mumbling, “Wow!” *The Martian Chronicles* makes real life seem very, very like science fiction. Good news: He was prolific, so you have lots more Bradbury books ahead of you.

Bujor, Flavia

The Prophecy of the Stones

Think you're too young to write a book? Bujor's debut novel was a sensation in Europe, garnering lots of attention because the author was 14. According to the American Library Association (ahem!) the book sounds as if it were written by, well, a 14-year-old. That could be pretty cool though, right? The story, set far in the future, starts off well enough. Jade, Amber, and Opal are thrown together because of a prophecy and their possession of stones that allow them to do magic and have psychic powers. They're good, they battle evil, and there's even a spectacular battle.

Christie, Agatha

The Mysterious Affair at Styles

Dame Agatha wrote 66 novels, all feverish page-turners. This is the one that introduces Hercule Poirot, one of crime fiction's great investigators. Once you start on Agatha Christie novels it can be difficult to stop...unless you wind up dead, in mysterious circumstances, all fingers pointing to....

Colfer, Eoin

Artemis Fowl

Anti-hero Artemis Fowl is a boy-genius last in line of a legendary crime family teetering on the brink of destruction. With the assistance of his bodyguard, Butler, he masterminds a plan to regain the Fowls' former glory, capture a fairy and hold her ransom for the legendary fairy gold. Good news – there are two recommended sequels, *Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident* and *The Eternity Code*.

Creech, Sharon

The Wanderer

Thirteen-year-old Sophie begs her way aboard a sailboat trip from Connecticut to England accompanied by her adoptive mother's three brothers and two nephews. Along the way, they endure terrible storms, and fear that they will not make it to shore. The story unfolds as a series of journal entries by Sophie and her cousin, Cody.

Walk Two Moons

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a long car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her irreplaceable friend, Phoebe, whose mother also left. Creech received the prestigious Newbery Award for this one.

Cushman, Karen

Catherine, Called Birdy

Birdy, the fourteen-year-old daughter of a rustic knight, records the events of her days in the year 1290. She keeps her diary in a determined effort to grow less childish. Birdy writes perceptive, scathing and often raucously funny observations about her family, friends, and would-be suitors. A delightful, rebellious heroine.

De Kruif, Paul

The Microbe Hunters

The scientist scrapes a little bit of scum off his dirty teeth and looks at it through the microscope. Teeming with life. Then he sips his hot coffee and tries another sample. Everything's dead. Holy Biology! Can it be? The discovery of bacteria! Yes! Science as a true life mystery that's actually fascinating! Lives saved, history made, scientists as super heroes. You won't put this down, except to wash your hands, over and over.

Duncan, Lois

Stranger With My Face

Have you ever been haunted by the feeling that someone is spying on you, lurking around your house and yard, even entering your bedroom? You have? Really? That's weird – because that's what happens in this book. A twisting suspenseful plot complete with an evil twin and astral projection. Duncan says she's experienced astral projection (out-of-body experiences) herself! Of all her suspense novels she says this is her favorite.

Eddings, David

Pawn of Prophecy (First in the *Belgariad* series)

Garion the farm boy did not believe in magic dooms, but then he did not know that soon he would be on a quest of unparalleled magic and danger when the dreaded evil God Torak was reawakened. Magic, adventure, humor and mystery combine to make the five books in this series fun and addictive. Saint Ann's is crawling with Eddings fans.

Farmer, Nancy

House of the Scorpion

Ursula LeGuin says, "It's a pleasure to read science fiction that gets the science right." In a possible near future, the United States and Mexico have dealt with their continuing border troubles by forming a third country called Opium. The plot is driven by clones, children, eternal life and wonderful characters as well as evildoers. Fans of Farmer's work (*The Ear The Eye and the Arm*) will undoubtedly rip through this. The downside? It's a bit hard to get a hold of in the library since everybody wants to check it out, but you might get lucky!

Fleischman, Paul

Seedfolks

A vacant city lot. A Vietnamese girl mourning her dead father. A diverse neighborhood and some lima beans. Out of these grows an engaging, hopeful saga of a blighted community transformed.

Fletcher, Ralph

Spider Boy

Called the "Spider Boy from Illinois," a seventh-grade arachnophile and his beloved tarantula take some time adjusting to a family move. Between missing his old home and worrying about Thelma (the spider), who has stopped eating, Bobby feels unable to accept the change in his life long enough to unpack. His life is made miserable by a bully at his new school who deliberately kills one of his pet tarantulas. However...

Funke, Cornelia

The Thief Lord

Welcome to Venice, Italy, where hidden canals and crumbling rooftops shelter runaways and children with incredible secrets. Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious thirteen-year-old boy who calls himself "The Thief Lord." An award winning novel with a breathless ending.

Giff, Patricia Reilly

Pictures of Hollis Woods

Abandoned at birth, twelve-year-old artist Hollis Woods has lived in about a half dozen homes and has always wished for a family. When Josie Cahill, a retired art teacher, takes Hollis into her home on Long Island, NY, the two bond almost immediately. However, it soon becomes clear that Josie has trouble remembering things, and Hollis becomes the caregiver. Strong characterization and a solid sense of place are the strengths of this heartfelt story that will appeal to fans of Sharon Creech's *Ruby Holler* (2002), Katherine Paterson's *The Great Gilly Hopkins*.

Hahn, Mary D.

Stepping on the Cracks

When patriotic best friends Margaret and Elizabeth spy on hated sixth-grade classmate Gordy, they discover that he is hiding his brother, Stuart, a deserter from the army. Slowly, they begin to understand that Stuart is a conscientious objector and they begin to accept a broader view of the world. The novel is rich with details of the World War II home front.

Hammett, Dashiell

The Thin Man

A classic detective story with the famed Nick and Nora Charles; an oldie but a goody. Skip the movie -- just READ: murder, glamour, mystery, New York. According to Nathaniel Buckholtz, "This is one of the BEST books EVER!"

Hermann Hesse

Siddhartha and *Demian*

You are likely to remember these books, even when you're really old, like over 40. Great stories that might feel deeply life changing. Opening quote for *Demian*: "I wanted only to try to live in accord with the promptings which came from my true self. Why was that so very difficult?" For the sophisticated reader these are wonderful stories.

Heyerdahl, Thor

Kon-Tiki (non-fiction)

The astonishing fast-paced record of Thor Heyerdahl's daring voyage across the Pacific on a balsa log raft. Aiming to prove to skeptics that the Polynesian islands were settled by people from far off Peru, Heyerdahl courageously built a raft and took on the adventure. For readers interested in marine biology, sea-faring high adventure, whales, sharks and wild storms.

Hinton, S.E.

The Outsiders

Hinton was sixteen when she wrote this and it's a classic. Ponyboy is fourteen, tough and confused, yet sensitive behind his bold front. Since his parents' death, his loyalties have been to his brothers and his gang, the rough, swinging, long-haired boys from the wrong side of the tracks. When his best friend, Johnny, kills a member of a rival gang, a nightmare of violence begins and swiftly envelops Ponyboy in a turbulent chain of events.

Holt, Mooney and Mooney

Spiders in the Hairdo, Modern Urban Legends

There are much weirder and funnier things to discover besides giant alligators in the sewer system. Body parts, vanishing hitchhikers, black widows in your hair...creepy and --- true? A funny book not to share with your youngest siblings.

Horowitz, Anthony

Eagle Strike

Teen spy Alex Rider survives a bullfight, a high-speed bicycle chase through Amsterdam, and even being the target in a human video-game, only to face his most disturbing challenge yet: when the best of intentions are driven by insanity, how do you reason with a madman? The short cliff-hanger chapters in this newest Alex Rider adventure will keep you turning pages at bedtime until you get yelled at to turn off the lights! This one is good even if you haven't read Horowitz's other Alex Rider books.

Hughes, Monica

Invitation to the Game

The year 2154: High school graduates have no jobs available and they face a choice-- to live on the dole or become colonists. Lisse and her friends are thrown together by a computer when suddenly there comes an invitation to the Game: shared computer experiences in a wild, virgin wilderness. Always, when injury threatens, the computer pulls them back--until the last time, when they discover that they have actually emigrated to another part of the galaxy. Some echoes of Bradbury in these futuristic adventures.

Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki

Farewell to Manzanar (non-fiction)

The first person account of Jeanne Wakatsuki's experiences as a seven-year-old with her family in Manzanar, a Japanese internment camp in California, during World War II. Powerful and informative.

Ibbotson, Eva

Journey to the River Sea

Maia, an orphan, is sent from England to live on a rubber plantation in South America with her

unfamiliar relatives, the Carters. The brave, curious girl and her fierce but kind governess arrive in their new home, each with secret hopes of adventure.

Levine, Gail

The Two Princesses of Bamarre

Levine (*Ella Enchanted*) enters a world of high fantasy with this latest princess tale, peopled with sorcerers, elves and fairies, but plot twists win out over character development. When teenage narrator Addie was two years old, and her sister, Meryl, just three, the siblings lost their mother to the Gray Death, a mysterious illness that continues to plague the kingdom of Bamarre, randomly selecting its victims.

Lord, Walter

A Night to Remember

From the first distress flares to the struggles of those adrift for hours in freezing waters, here is the legendary disaster relived by the few who survived the sinking of the TITANIC.

Lowry, Lois

Gathering Blue

Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg, lives in a world where the weak are cast aside. She fears for her future until she is spared by the all-powerful Council of Guardians. A gifted weaver, she is given a task that no other community member can do. While her talent keeps her alive, Kira soon realizes she is surrounded by many mysteries and secrets. No one must know of her plans to uncover the truth about her world and see what places exist beyond.

Matas, Carol

Greater than Angels

Matas, whose writing returns repeatedly to the Holocaust, here pays tribute to the righteous citizens of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon in Vichy, France, who risked their lives to save the many Jews who took refuge there during the Nazi occupation.

Park, Linda Sue

A Single Shard

When the polite greeting in society is “Have you eaten well today?” one may guess that food is scarce. Surely no one in this twelfth-century Korean village is more accustomed to hunger than the orphan boy Tree-ear and his guardian Crane-man who is lame. They sleep under a bridge in summer and in a pit in winter, eating what they can forage in the woods or garbage piles.

Pierce, Tamora

Alanna, the First Adventure

A girl knight! Alanna finds a way to switch places with her twin, Thom, and take his place as a knight-in-training at the palace of King Roald. Disguising herself as a boy, she is garnering the admiration of all around her, including the crown prince, with her strong work ethic and her thirst for knowledge. But all the while, she is haunted by the recurring vision of a black stone city that emanates evil... somehow she knows it is her fate to purge that place of its wickedness. But how will she find it? Lots more books in this series. Younger and older readers love these-- fast and thrilling!

Potok, Chaim

My Name is Asher Lev

This is the story of a boy growing up as a Hasidic Jew who finds, to the great regret of his father, that he must become an artist. Asher Lev grows up in a cloistered community in postwar Brooklyn, a world suffused with ritual and revolving around a charismatic Rebbe. But in time Asher's gift threatens to estrange him from that world and the parents he adores. *The New York Times* called it, "Little short of a work of genius."

Roberts, Willo Davis

Twisted Summer

Fourteen-year-old CiCi heads for an idyllic lakeside vacation at her grandparents' cabin when she learns that Brody, the older brother of a boy she has a crush on, has been convicted of murdering a local girl. Cici decides to investigate, and suspense speeds the story along. Odds are you won't be able to guess how this mystery turns out.

Shetterly, Will

Dogland

Set in Florida in the late 1950s, during the birth of the Civil Rights Movement, this is the story of a Yankee family who comes to Florida to open a tourist attraction known as Dogland, a combination zoo, restaurant and motel. But it isn't long before the Nix family and their eccentric clan of supporters run afoul of unsympathetic locals.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher

Shiva's Fire

A Hindu girl, known in her village for her dancing, is chosen to study with a dance guru. A starred review said, "Poetically and suspensefully expressing the sorrows and joys of the spiritual life as well as the life of the artist, this is a spellbinder."

Steinbeck, John

Travels with Charley

Wonderful story of Steinbeck's trip rediscovering America in his pickup truck. The hero of the trip to my mind is Steinbeck's dog, Charley, who serves both as an amusing companion and as a conversation starter.

Vreeland, Susan

Girl in Hyacinth Blue

A Dutch painting of a young girl, possibly a Vermeer, survives three and a half centuries through loss, flood, anonymity, secrecy, theft, even the Holocaust. This is the story of its sometimes desperate owners whose lives are influenced by its beauty and mystery.

Wisler, G. Clifton

Red Cap

In 1862, 13-year-old Ransom J. Powell lies about his age to join the Union Army as a drummer boy only to wind up in a Confederate prison. Ransom watches his friends die one by one. Will he be next? A vivid historical novel.

Even if you don't read much of anything all summer, read at least one of these:
CLASSICS THAT ARE UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE STORIES!!

Boyd, J.

Drums: Story of adventure in the American Revolutionary war.

Bronte, C.

Jane Eyre: Jane! Her noble spirit and dignity rise above the horrible aunt, cruel orphanage, class alienation and terrible secrets. She finds true independence and love in a mansion on the heath. An apex of romantic literature.

Dickens, C.

David Copperfield: A typical Dickens story of an orphan boy and the problems he endures in the hustle and bustle of 19th century English life. Sentimental as always, but there are some memorable bad characters.

Dumas, A.

The Man in the Iron Mask: The heir to the French throne is spirited away at birth and his twin becomes king. When the rightful heir is recognized later, the King has him locked into an iron mask, never to be seen again.

Forester, C.S.

Young Hornblower: Or any of the series. A young midshipman serving in the British Navy on a big sailing boat in the time of Napoleon. Great stories.

Kipling, R.

Kim: An orphan, son of an Irish soldier in India, is left in the care of a half-European and half-Indian woman. Irresistible.

O'Hara, M.

My friend Flicka: A first class horse story.

Porter, G.S.

A Girl of the Limberlost: Elnora Comstock brings grace, bravery and goodness to what has to be one of the most awkward first days of high school in literature. A model of dealing with the cool crowd and being independent.

Rawlings, M.

The Yearling: A young boy and a deer. Sad, beautifully told, and a plunge into nature.