



Suggested Summer Reading List For Students Entering 7th & 8th grade Saint Ann's 2005

Anderson, M.T.

Feed

In this world of the future, teens travel to the moon for spring break, live in stacked-up neighborhoods with artificial blue sky, and are bombarded by constant advertising and media sound bites through their feeds implanted in their brains. The "feed" is continuously spewing advertisements, music, game shows, hairstyle alerts and many other necessary bits of information that the corporate world wants them to know. In the midst of this overwhelming flow of information, Titus becomes friends with Violet, a girl who cares about what's happening in the world, is not afraid to question things, and is opposed to the "feed." What will happen when their feeds are damaged and they decide to go against the feed?

Barron, T.A.

The Lost Years of Merlin

A boy, hurled on the rocks by the sea, regains consciousness unable to remember anything--not his parents, not his own name. He is sure that the secretive Branwen is not his mother, despite her claims, and that Emrys is not his real name. What follows is a journey to find his true name and heritage. There are several books in this series which recount the early years of the infamous Merlin.

Bauer, Joan

Rules of the Road

At five foot eleven with a strong work ethic, Jenna is an outsider at school. The fact that she spends most of her time selling shoes at Gladstone's shoe store (and loving it) doesn't add to her social life. Her alcoholic father isn't helping the situation. Lucky for her, rich, curmudgeonly Mrs. Gladstone, who is 73, needs someone to chauffeur her to Texas to a stockholders' meeting and help her check out the Gladstone stores along the way. Jenna and Mrs. Gladstone take to the road. A funny, heart-warming book.

Baumgardner, Jennifer

Girls Rock!: Fifty Years of Women Making Music

This is non-fiction serious stuff- but it might just be your cup of tea. Although women have been writing and performing rock music for decades, little has been written about their relationship to the industry and how they construct identities as rock 'n' roll artists. *Girls Rock!* examines the determination, motivation, and passion of the female rock and rollers working in a male-dominated field.

Bloor, Edward

Tangerine

So what if he's legally blind? Even with his bottle-thick, bug-eyed glasses, Paul Fisher can see better than most people. He can see the lies his parents and brother live out, day after day. No one ever listens to Paul, though--until the family moves to Tangerine. In Tangerine, Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness, and slowly begins to remember what happened to him...

Brown, Dan

The DaVinci Code

A murder in the silent after-hour halls of the Louvre reveals a sinister plot to uncover a secret that has been protected by a secret society since the days of Christ. The victim is a high-ranking agent of this society who, in the moments before his death, manages to leave gruesome clues at the scene that only his granddaughter, cryptographer Sophie Neveu, and Robert Langdon, a famous symbologist, can untangle. If you've already read this, try *Angels & Demons* which was written before *The Da Vinci Code*.

Choldenko, Gennifer

Al Capone Does My Shirts

Imagine living on Alcatraz, an island with a prison on it in the San Francisco Bay. Moose Flannagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as an electrician at the prison and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. Natalie is autistic, but this is before anyone knew what it was. Moose soon gets involved with the hi-jinks of the other kids also living on the island...something to do with Al Capone.

Clarke, Susanna

Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell

In 1806, Mr. Norrell, a stuffy scholarly type, claims to be the last magician (wizard) in England. To prove it, he animates gargoyles and promises to help defeat Napoleon's forces. Jonathan Strange, an up-and-coming magician and the opposite of Norrell, becomes his pupil. Their friendship and fantastical exploits make for great reading. Reviewers have claimed that this is a delightful mix of Philip Pullman (*The Golden Compass*), *Harry Potter*, and Jane Austen.

Colfer, Eoin

Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception

This is the 4th book in the series. At the start of *The Opal Deception*, Artemis has no memory of the fairy people and has returned to his unlawful ways. In Berlin, he is preparing to steal a famous Impressionist painting from a German bank. He doesn't know that his old rival, Opal, has escaped from prison by cloning herself. She's left her double behind in jail and, now free, is exacting her revenge on all those who put her there, including Artemis...Also by Colfer, but not in the *Artemis Fowl* series, are the books *The Wish List* and *The Supernaturalist*.

Crutcher, Chris

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes

Sarah Byrnes' face is horribly scarred from a burn that happened when she was small. Eric spent his childhood being overweight. Eric has slimmed down because of swimming, but Sarah's scars are forever. Their friendship is forever too, and it is put to the test when Eric struggles to uncover the secrets that Sarah has been hiding all these years. Can he save her in time?

Curtis, Christopher Paul

Bucking the Sarge

Luther is the son of “The Sarge,” his slumlord mom who runs halfway houses and a loan-sharking business. Luther wants to get out of Flint, Michigan- he doesn’t want to be stuck cleaning toilets and helping bathe elderly men. Luther dreams of college and winning the science fair. He fantasizes about the beautiful Shayla while hanging out with his best friend Sparky.

Feinstein, John

Last Shot

This is a mystery set at the NCAA Final Four men's basketball tournament. Steven and Susan Carol are two teens who have won the U.S. Basketball Writer's Association 14-and-under writing contest. Their prize is a trip, with press credentials and reporting responsibilities, to the Final Four in New Orleans. While exploring the Superdome, they overhear someone threatening Chip Graber, Minnesota State University's star player, with blackmail. Chip is being pressured to deliberately lose the final game against Duke. Steven and Susan Carol attempt to uncover the truth and expose the scandal....Feinstein is originally a sports reporter, so this story rings true!

Gaines, Ernest J.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman

This is actually a novel, a fictionalized “autobiography” told through the tape-recorded recollections of a black woman who lived for 110 years. Set in rural southern Louisiana, the novel spans 100 years of American history. From the early 1860s to the onset of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, it follows the life of the elderly Miss Jane Pittman, who witnessed those years. First published in the 1971, it has been reissued and is a great read.

Going, K.L.

Fat Kid Rules the World

Curt MacCrae, an emaciated, semi-homeless, high school dropout guitar genius stops Troy Billings, a seventeen-year-old, 296 pound, outcast from stepping off a New York subway platform in front of an oncoming train. Troy’s dad and brother don’t approve of Curt, or of Troy, for that matter. Despite this, Curt convinces Troy to be the drummer in his band, even though Troy doesn’t play the drums. In the end, it’s Troy who saves Curt.

Green, John

Looking for Alaska

A contemporary *Catcher in the Rye*. Miles Halter leads a boring life in Florida until he goes away to boarding school in Birmingham Alabama. There he meets Alaska, a beautiful, reckless girl with whom he falls hopelessly in love. There is more to Alaska than first meets the eye...things start to unravel.

Haddon, Mark

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Christopher Boone is fifteen and is autistic. He gets overwhelmed easily by the world around him. As a result, he tries to organize his life in ways that seem quirky, for example he does math problems to relax, he eats red, but not yellow foods, and he especially hates to be touched. When his neighbor’s dog is murdered and Christopher is initially blamed for the crime, he decides to investigate. What follows is an entertaining, unique mystery, narrated by this exceptional character.

Hinton, S.E.

The Outsiders

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, things start to unravel. Also by Hinton are *Rumble Fish* and *That Was Then, This Is Now*. These are Young Adult classics, don't miss them.

Horowitz, Alex

Scorpia: An Alex Rider Adventure

This is the latest Alex Rider book. The series begins with *Stormbreaker*, then comes *Point Blank*, *Skeleton Key*, and *Eagle Strike*- but you don't have to read them in order! Alex Rider, the spitting image of his father in so many ways, is about to find out just how closely he is his father's son. When Alex learns that his father was an assassin for Scorpia, the most powerful terrorist organization going, his world shatters. Now Scorpia wants Alex on their side, and Alex wages a war of conscience he no longer has the will to win. Until, that is, he learns of Scorpia's latest plot: an operation known only as "Invisible Sword" that will result in the death of thousands of people. Unless he can stop it first

Howe, James

13: Thirteen Stories that Capture the Agony and Ecstasy of Being Thirteen

James Howe collected and edited these stories which really do capture the agony and ecstasy of being thirteen. You guys are the experts on the topic (or almost for some of you), but it is still enjoyable to read about others' experiences.

Kahn, Roger

The Boys of Summer

A classic sports book. Kahn was once a young sports writer for *The Herald Tribune*. He writes about the Brooklyn Dodgers of the 1950s--the team that broke the color barrier with Jackie Robinson and set many other records besides. He also writes about what's happened since to Jackie Robinson, Carl Erskine, Preacher Roe, Pee Wee Reese, Billy Cox, Roy Campanella, Carl Furillo and the others, no longer boys but men in their middle years with their glories behind them. For some, they have been happy years; to others, fate has not been kind.

King, Stephen

The Green Mile

This is a book originally composed of 6 novellas. They can be read separately or all together. The setting is the small "death house" of a Southern prison in 1932. The Green Mile is the hall with a floor "the color of tired old limes" that leads to "Old Sparky" (the electric chair). The narrator is an old man, a prison guard, looking back on the events decades later. Be warned, this is Stephen King- but a good introduction to his scary style. There was also a movie version with Tom Hanks.

Lansing, Alfred

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage

A true adventure book! In 1914 Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men, sailed for the South Atlantic on the 'Endurance' with the object of crossing the Antarctic over land. They didn't get very far-- still half a continent away from their intended base, the ship was trapped and then crushed in ice. It took them 17 months- but they made it back. This is a gripping first-hand account of their trials and tribulations. No helicopters to rescue them, no polypropylene to keep them dry, no medicine...

Lockhart, E.

The Boyfriend List

Students who just completed 7th grade had the pleasure of hearing E. Lockhart (aka Emily Jenkins) read from her book. Now's your chance to read it yourself! Ruby Oliver's life is full of challenges. She lives on a houseboat; attends private school--on scholarship; and her boyfriend has dumped her for her best friend. Nothing, however, is worse than having her "boyfriend list" (homework from her shrink) passed around school.

Mackler, Carolyn

The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things

Virginia Shreves is the blond, round, average daughter in a family of dark-haired, thin superstars. Her best friend has moved away, and she's on the fringes at her private Manhattan school. She wants a boyfriend, but she settles for Froggy Welsh. It soon turns out that things aren't always how they appear-- her brother is not so great, her sister joined the Peace Corps to get away from her family, and Froggy Welsh isn't so bad after all...

Miyazaki, Hayao

Nausicaä: Of the Valley of the Wind (Graphic Novel)

In a long-ago war, humankind set off a devastating ecological disaster. Thriving industrial societies disappeared. The earth is slowly submerging beneath the expanding Sea of Corruption, an enormous toxic forest that creates mutant insects and releases poisonous spores into the air. Princess Nausicaä fights to create tolerance among empires fighting for the remaining natural resources. There are a lot in this series!

Murphy, Jim

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793

This non-fiction book is really fascinating. During the epidemic, President George Washington and almost all the other government officials abandoned the city for fear of catching yellow fever. (The President of the United States didn't live in Washington D.C. at that time.) The city was run by a bunch of citizens. Around 5,000 people died. After the epidemic, cities became more aware of sanitation and water was supplied to the city via a waterworks system. Elizabeth Drinker, a citizen of Philadelphia, finally took a bath in 1799, "a full 28 years after her previous bath!" This book is worth reading!

Peck, Richard

The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts

Russell lives in rural Indiana in 1904. He is not too sad when his teacher dies at the end of August- he is hoping the one room school house will be shut down. No such luck. It turns out that his older sister is going to be the new teacher! As hard as he tries to thwart her- Russell's sister manages to keep him in line.

Pratchett, Terry

The Wee Free Men

The New York Times Book Review says this, "reads like Celtic mythology fused with 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer.'" It is the story of Tiffany, a young witch-to-be who has to defend her home against the monster of Fairyland. Along with her frying pan and common sense, she has the Wee Free Men to help her. Nobody messes with these awesome little blue men. The sequel, *A Hat Full of Sky*, is also great.

Reiss, Johanna

The Upstairs Room

When the German army occupied Holland, Annie de Leeuw was eight years old. Because she was Jewish, the occupation put her in grave danger-she knew that to stay alive she would have to hide. Fortunately, a Gentile family, the Oostervelds, offered to help. For two years they hid Annie and her sister, Sini, in the cramped upstairs room of their farmhouse. Most people thought the war wouldn't last long. But for Annie and Sini -- separated from their family and confined to one tiny room -- the war seemed to go on forever.

Rosoff, Meg

How I Live Now

Daisy is a 15-year-old disgruntled Manhattanite sent to live with her cousins on their remote English farm when all hell breaks loose. England is under siege and life becomes a matter of survival. This book is a page-turner, not to mention this year's winner of the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature.

Satrapi, Marjane

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (Graphic Novel)

This autobiography tells the story of a young girl's life under the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Descended from the last Emperor of Iran, Satrapi is nine when fundamentalist rebels overthrow the Shah. While Satrapi's radical parents and their community initially welcome the ouster, they soon learn a new brand of totalitarianism is taking over. Satrapi's rebellious streak puts her in danger, as even educated women are threatened with beatings for improper attire. The art is minimal and stark, yet often charming and humorous as it depicts the madness around her. There is also a sequel called *Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return*.

Sleator, William

The Last Universe

Fourteen-year-old Susan feels burdened by her parents' expectation that she will provide help and companionship for her older brother, Gary, an invalid who is in a wheelchair. Exploring their large garden, they discover that entering the often-invisible maze at its center will enable them to travel to other times and even different versions of the present reality. When Gary insists that they search for a place where he can be cured, Susan agrees, despite the warnings of her parents, the gardener, and her own good sense.

Tashjian, Janet

The Gospel According to Larry

Josh Swenson is a typical teenager...or is he? He has a crush on his best friend, Beth- that's pretty normal. But he also has a secret identity. As Larry, prophet extraordinaire, Josh starts a Web site (www.thegospelaccordingtolarry.com) on which he rants against consumer culture and its obsession with celebrities. Things start to get out of hand....

CLASSICS- try to read one this summer!!

Bronte, Charlotte

Jane Eyre

In early nineteenth-century England, Jane, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess at Thornfield Hall, a country estate owned by the mysteriously remote Mr. Rochester. Passion, romance and drama ensue.

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan

The Yearling

Fighting off a pack of starving wolves, wrestling alligators in the swamp, and romping with bear cubs is all part of daily life for the Baxter family in Florida. However, Jody Baxter is not content with these exciting adventures, or even with the cozy comfort of home with Pa and Ma. He wants a pet-- a friend. Jody gets his pet, a frisky fawn he calls Flag. Along with friendship and good times come some really hard decisions.

Rosten, Leo

The Education of Hyman Kaplan

The adventures of Mr. Hyman Kaplan, a Jewish immigrant, as he tries to learn English at The American Night Preparatory School for Adults.

Sewell, Anna

Black Beauty

Told by the magnificent black horse himself, this is the dramatic and heartwarming tale of Black Beauty's life--from his idyllic days on a country squire's estate to his harsh fate as a London cab horse.

White, T.H.

The Sword in the Stone

This is the story of young King Arthur. Growing up in a colorful world peopled by knights in armor and fair damsels, foul monsters and evil witches, young Arthur slowly learns the code of being a gentleman. Under the wise guidance of Merlin, the all-powerful magician for whom life progresses backwards, the king-to-be is trained in the pursuits of falconry, jousting, hunting and sword play.

Happy Reading!