

SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST FOR NEXT YEAR'S NINTH GRADE
SAINT ANN'S SCHOOL 2005

Adams, Douglas

Hitchhiker's trilogy series: Now that this is a movie, it is time to read the Hitchhiker series before you see it. Readers typically give this a rave review. You can make up your own mind about the film.

Alvarez, Julia

How the Garcia Girls Got Their Accent: It's a long way from Santo Domingo to the Bronx, but if anyone can go the distance, it's the Garcia girls. Four lively Latinas from a pampered life of privilege on an island compound are plunged into the big-city chaos of New York...

Anderson, Laurie

Speak: A stunning and sympathetic tribute to the teenage outcast. The triumphant ending, in which Melinda finds her voice and loudly confronts her rapist, is cause for cheering. It will be hard for any teen to look at a class scapegoat again without some measure of compassion.

Avrich, Jane

A Winter Without Milk: Stories : 15 stories by your English teacher. I think you will really enjoy them. See if you recognize some of the characters.

Bank, Melissa

The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing: "A smart, ruefully funny chronicle of a modern young woman's search for love...Bank has created a delightful heroine who deserves her happy ending."

Bradbury, Ray

Fahrenheit 451: The system was simple. Everyone understood it. Books were for burning, along with the houses in which they were hidden. Guy Montag enjoyed his job burning books until he met two people who made him ponder about a world in which people are allowed to think for themselves.

Burns, Olive

Cold Sassy Tree: A funny, warm description of Will Tweedy's entrance into manhood in a small southern town at the turn of the century.

Calvino, Italo

The Baron in the Trees: An aristocratic heir refuses to climb down from his tree for dinner, because of a quarrel with his father, and spends years without touching his foot to the ground again. Short, sweet, beautifully written, Calvino's fantasy of escape.

Card, Orson Scott

Ender's Game: Ender, who is the result of a genetic experiment, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against the alien enemy. There are more books in this series.

Carter, Forrest

The Education of Little Tree: A Cherokee Indian remembers his Indian boyhood with his Eastern Cherokee Hill country grandparents. Very good, although the writer is not exactly who he says he is.

Chevalier, Tracy

Girl with a Pearl Earring: History and fiction merge in this novel about Vermeer, a Dutch artist in Delft in the 15th century, and his model for one of his most famous paintings. It's a very good book.

Chute, Carolyn

The Beans of Egypt, Maine: In Egypt, Maine, the Beans are just about everywhere. They have always been there and almost everybody is related to them—some more closely than they would wish. Poverty from the ground up. A wild and hilarious book

Clavell, James

Shogun: An adventurous Englishman, a powerful Japanese warlord, and a beautiful woman come together in an exciting saga of medieval Japan.

Crichton, Michael

The Andromeda Strain: The U.S. Government stands warned that the sterilization procedures for returning space probes may be inadequate to guarantee uncontaminated re-entry into the atmosphere. When a probe satellite falls to earth in a remote town in Arizona the bodies that lie heaped across the ground have a look of frozen surprise that marks the beginning of the terror.

Colfer, Eion

Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception: The last one of the Artemis series. Artemis is in Berlin preparing to steal a well guarded painting from a German Bank. Little does he know that his every move is being watched by his cunning old rival, Opal Koboi.

Coman, C.

What Jamie Saw: The first sentence brings you right into the story. "When Jamie saw him throw the baby, saw Van throw the little baby, saw Van throw his little sister, Nin, then he moved." Read it.

Conroy, Frank

Stop Time: First published in 1967, this is a memoir of the author's boyhood and adolescence. Beginning with a lesson in brutality at a progressive boarding school, the story moves to a self-help settlement, a Connecticut mental hospital (where his mother and step-father are guardians), and to New York City where he lives at home – if somewhat dangerously.

Conway, Jill

The Road from Coorain: A beautifully written story of Conway's journey from an isolated sheep farm in the Australian outback to her departure for America (via a couple of years in the sophisticated city of Sidney at a private school).

Covey, Sean

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens: Based on his father's bestselling novel, Sean Covey applies the same principles to teens, using a vivacious entertaining style. It includes true stories of teens who have overcome obstacles to success, and step-by-step guides.

Crutcher, Chris

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes: Sarah Byrnes and Eric have been friends for years. When they were children, his fat and her terrible scars made them both outcasts. Later she became his closest friend. Eric must uncover the secret she is hiding. Highly recommended.

Dessen, Sarah

Someone Like You: Halley's junior year of high school includes the death of her best friend, Scarlett's boyfriend, the discovery that Scarlett is pregnant, and Halley's own serious relationship.

Dessen, Sarah

Dreamland: Caitlin's perfect sister runs away from home and she finds herself trying to fill the gap the absence creates. Caitlin seems to have fallen into a semiconscious dreamland where nothing is quite real. Roger is different from anyone Caitlin has ever known – magnetic and compelling. He's dangerous. He makes Caitlin forget about her missing sister, her withdrawn mother, her boring life.

Du Maurier, Daphne

Rebecca: At the great Cornwall estate of Manderley, Maxim de Winter and his frightened new wife try to live with the haunting legacy of Maxim's first wife, the beautiful and cold Rebecca, who died in a sailing accident. A truly romantic and suspenseful novel.

Dupreau, Jeanne

The City of Ember: Ember was built deep underground as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever!.

Farmer, N.

A Girl Named Disaster: Set in Mozambique, this story features a most remarkable heroine who begins her life in a traditional, remote village, escapes an arranged marriage and concludes her experiences in civilized Zimbabwe.

Gaines, Ernest J.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman: This is actually 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.

Gallo, Donald

Time-Capsule: 10 new stories, each set in a different decade of the 20th Century. Each selection is prefaced by a list of the decade's major events and inventions, and pairs a teenager with an issue or condition of the day: a horizon expanding visit to the past century.

Guterson, David

Snow Falling on Cedars: Set on an island in Puget Sound, Washington, where everyone is either a fisherman or a berry farmer, the story is nominally about a murder trial. However, since it is shortly after World War II, internment camps and racism help fuel suspicion of a Japanese-American fisherman, a lifelong resident of the islands. Beautifully written.

Haddon, Mark

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time: Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. Highly recommended.

Hillenbrand, Laura

Seabiscuit: an American Legend: Seabiscuit was an unlikely champion. He was a rough-hewn, undersized horse with sad little tail and knees that wouldn't straighten all the way. Competing during the cruelest years of the depression he stood for the poorer race goers and went on to become the biggest newsmakers of 1938. A great story!

Hinton, S.E.

That was Then, This is Now: S.E. Hinton paints a richly textured portrait of two boys at a crossroads in their friendship. With careful, intimate strokes, Hinton reveals a boy struggling over whether to protect his best friend or whether to follow his own beliefs about right and wrong. The ending will surprise readers, challenging them to puzzle over Byron's dilemma in their own hearts.

Hosseini, Khaled

The Kite Runner: A marvelous first novel. The story of two young boys who are friends in Afghanistan and what befell them both. Sometimes disturbing and overwhelmingly sad, it is a great description of Afghanistan and the brave people who live there.

Junger, Sebastian

The Perfect Storm: The incredible true account of the most extraordinary storm of the 20th century--a tempest born from so rare a combination of factors it was deemed "perfect." It is also the story of the doomed fishing boat with her crew of six that was helpless in the midst of a force beyond comprehension.

Kantor, Melissa

Confessions of a Not It Girl: Jan Miller is a fresh, funny, and real teen seeking her first romance during her senior year in high school. Her parents are New York intellectuals who seem only vaguely aware of what is going on with their children. Jan obsesses about the college applications she has not yet begun; the size of her butt; and Josh, who has returned after many years in Seattle with his father to live with his mother.

Knowles, John

A Separate Peace: An engrossing tale of love, hate, war and peace. Sharing a room at Devon, an exclusive New England prep school, in the summer prior to World War II, Gene and Phineas form a complex bond of friendship that draws out both the best and worst characteristics of each boy and leads ultimately to violence, a confession and the betrayal of trust.

Krackauer, Jon

Into Thin Air: A personal account of the Mount Everest disaster when so many died near the summit. It is by a climber who has made the ascent many times. Very exciting.

Lansing, Alfred

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage: Through the diaries of team members interviews with survivors, Lansing reconstructs the months of terror and hardship the Endurance crew suffered. In October of 1915, there "were no helicopters, no Weasels, no Sno-Cats, no suitable planes" to help them.

Lobel, Anita

No Pretty Pictures: a Child at War: The story begins when the author was five as the Germans marched into her native town of Krakow. Deportations began and before long she and her younger brother (who was dressed as a girl) were sent to the country. The children embarked on years of flight, assuming different identities, meeting blackmailers, a dangerous stay in the Krakow ghetto and concealment in a convent. Finally they are captured and sent to the concentration camps.

Lovecraft, H.P.

Lurking Fear and Other Stories: Any and all of Lovecraft is worth reading. He is the original master of horror – if that's what you are looking for.

Malcolm X

The Autobiography of Malcolm X: The autobiography of one of the most controversial and influential black men in American history.

Miles, Lane

Star Wars and the Revenge of the Sith: The turning point for the entire Star Wars saga is at hand. After years of civil war, the Separatists have battered the faltering Republic.

Miller, Walter

A Canticle for Leibowitz: The atomic flame deluge was over. The earth was dead. In a barren desert a humble monk unearths a fragile link to 20th-century civilization. He finds a note "pound pastrami, can of kraut, six bagels--bring home for Emma." What to make of it? Wonderful science fiction.

Myers, Walter D.

Fallen Angels: A gripping novel about the price five young men pay for their tour of duty in Vietnam.

Nix, Garth

Abhorsen: A dazzling conclusion of *The Abhorsen Trilogy* begun with *Sabriel* and *Lirael*. The forces of evil from the Old Kingdom now take hold of even the outside world.

Oliver, Julia

Goodbye to the Buttermilk Sky: In this Depression-era story of youth, Julia Oliver has perfectly captured the nuances of time and place the sweetness of summer and the ache of forbidden love.

Paolini, Christopher

The Eldest. Eragon 2: Darkness falls...despair abounds...evil reigns. Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have just saved the rebel state from destruction by the mighty forces of King Galbatorix, cruel ruler of the Empire. Soon he is on the journey of a lifetime. **This book comes out in July.**

Pierce, Tamora

Trickster's Queen: Sequel to Trickster's Choice.

Rosoff, Meg

How I live now:

This is the story of Daisy, a fifteen year old who goes to England to live with her cousins in the not-too-distant future. It is not giving anything away to say that Daisy begins a love affair with her cousin Edmond, but all their lives are changed as a war breaks out and England becomes an occupied state. At first the kids are self-sufficient and untouched by the horrors, but as the story develops, shades of World War 2 begin to overcome them as they face separation, deprivation, and ultimate loss. This book is highly recommended.

Satrap, Marjane

Persepolis: the Story of a Childhood: Wise, funny and heart breaking, Persepolis is Marjane Satrapi's memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. A graphic novel.

Schwartz, Lynne

Leaving Brooklyn: To a young girl growing up in the postwar years, Brooklyn seems stifling and limited, but Audrey, because of an eye injury which forces her into Manhattan to see an eye doctor, finds a new world about which she has only dreamed.

Scott, Simon

Pretty birds: Irena Zaric, a high-school basketball star in Sarajevo, is more preoccupied with game strategy and an affair with her coach than with her Muslim ethnicity. However, when the Bosnian Serbs begin their campaign of ethnic cleansing, Irena and her parents find themselves among throngs of Muslims brutalized and driven from their homes. They take refuge in her grandmother's apartment and begin an effort at survival that has her father digging ditches for the soldiers.

Sebold, Alice

The Lovely Bones: Susie tells the story from wherever she is --heaven (if you believe in it)-- watching over her family, the killer and her friends. Her father becomes determined to find the killer, her mother withdraws from life, her little brother, Buckley, attempts to make sense of the new hole in his family, and her younger sister Lindsay moves through the events of her teenage years with Susie riding shotgun from on high. An exploration of loss and mourning made even more powerful by a cast of convincing characters.

Sedaris, David

Me Talk Pretty One Day: Welcome to the curious mind of David Sedaris, where dogs outrank children, guitars have breasts, and French toddlers unmask the inadequacies of the American male. Sedaris inhabits this world as a misanthrope chronicling all things petty and small. In *Me Talk Pretty One Day* Sedaris is as determined as ever to be nobody's hero--he never triumphs, he never conquers--and somehow, with each failure, he inadvertently becomes everybody's favorite underdog.

Senna, Danzy

Caucasia: Birdie and Cole are the daughters of a black father and a white mother who are both intellectuals in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1970s. The two sisters find their close-knit relationship in jeopardy when their parents' marriage falls apart. Very good.

Shandler, Sarah

Ophelia Speaks: Shandler gives us a telling portrait of young girls in this compilation of essays, poems, and true-grit commentary from a cross section of teenage girls (or Ophelias). The book succeeds in that it gives voice to their deepest concerns and their too-often frenzied lives.

Smith, Alexander McCall

The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency: The setting, Botswana, and the use of a lady detective, are what make the story stand out. The reader gets a feel for what it is like to live in Botswana. The cases, the main character solves, do not involve elaborate plot twists. Humorous.

Shusterman, Neal

Downsiders: When 14-year-old Lindsay meets Talon and discovers that the Downsiders' world has evolved from the subway built in New York City in 1867 by Alfred Ely Beach, she and her new friend experience a clash of their two cultures.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer

True Believer: This was published eight years after Wolff's groundbreaking *Make Lemonade*. Wolff surpasses herself with this sequel. Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends, and inspiring mentors, that life is what you make it--an occasion to rise to.

Wolff, Tobias

The Old School: Written in the form of a fictionalized memoir in the 1960s. Wolff's novel is about a single academic year at an all-male East Coast prep school, in which the narrator and his book-obsessed classmates compete for a private audience with visiting writers, Robert Frost, Ayn Rand, and Ernest Hemingway by writing poetry and stories.

Vizzini, Ned

Be More Chill: Jeremy Heere is your average high-school dork. Day after day he stares at beautiful Christine, the girl he can never have...until he gets a "squip." A hilarious book.

