

The title is centered and surrounded by several large, stylized, five-pointed stars of varying sizes and orientations, some overlapping each other.

**Saint Ann's
Summer Reading List 2006
for students entering
7th and 8th grade**

Avi

Strange Happenings: Five Tales of Transformation

Are you interested in fantastical tales? These stories explore the notion of transformation in a variety of ways. There are all sorts of characters, including shape-shifting animals and people, an invisible princess, and a Queen-of-All-Birds. These stories range from mystical to gory to clever.

Blacker, Terence

The Angel Factory

Thomas Wisdom's life is perfect, until he finds out that his whole life is a sham. He and his friend Gip break into a computer file and find out that Thomas' parents aren't his parents, his sister isn't really his sister and he is simply a pawn in a much larger plot...

Blumenthal, Karen

Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX: The Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America

In 1972, a law was passed which forever changed the path of girls' and women's sports in America. This law was called Title IX. Blumenthal traces the birth of Title IX, its implementation and the controversy surrounding it. She uses photographs, statistics, cartoons, personal stories and newspaper articles to document the impact of Title IX on the history of women's athletics.

Bruchac, Joseph

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two

The fictional narrator in this story is Ned Begay, a grandfather telling his story to his grandchildren. It begins when Ned is six years old and leaves his Navajo homeland to attend boarding school. Ned learns English and when he is sixteen he enlists in the U.S. Marines. It is World War II and he is trained as a code talker -- he uses his native language to radio battlefield information. Ned tells of his experiences in Hawaii, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

Card, Orson Scott

Ender's Game

Ender Wiggin is a third child, only allowed to be born because his older brother and sister were almost perfect, but not quite. His brother was too vicious, his sister not enough. Ender was born in the hopes that he would be the military genius who would be capable of leading the army in the Third Invasion against the Buggers. The Buggers have attacked twice and almost succeeded in destroying the human species. The commanders at Battle School are counting on Ender being the answer. It turns out Ender is master at the game and quickly moves up the ranks, despite his young age. The only thing is...is it really a game? If you haven't read this book yet-- or the others in the series—you really must!

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.

Curtis, Christopher Paul

Bucking the Sarge

All Luther T. Farrell wants is to win the school science fair three years in a row. Too bad it's not that straightforward for poor *old* Luther, who is actually not that old. He is only 15, but he is responsible for his "crew," a group of elderly men with whom he lives and cares for in the Friendly Neighbors Group Home run by his money-making, scheming mother-- although there doesn't seem to me an ounce of maternal instinct in Luther's mother, also known as "the Sarge." Luther feeds his crew, does the laundry, drives them to rehab and even cleans up their "accidents" from time to time. When it all gets to be too much, Luther comes up with a plan....

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.

Edwards, Julie Andrews

The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles: 30th Anniversary Edition

A classic book. If you enjoyed *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* or *The Wizard of Oz*, you will want to read this.

Fang, Linda

The Ch'i-lin Purse: A Collection of Ancient Chinese Stories

These short stories were written by Fang, a professional storyteller. They are derived from the history of the Warring States Period (770-221 B.C.E) and operatic versions of popular stories. Very fun and entertaining.

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 fourteen-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. Can Steven and Susan Carol uncover the truth and expose the scandal? Feinstein is originally a sports reporter, so this story rings true!

Fleischman, John

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science

In 1848 Phineas Gage was the foreman of a crew working on building a railroad track. Their job was to blast through granite bedrock. On September 13th, an explosion went awry and the tamping iron (a long heavy pole) he used to pack the explosives went through his head; entering

under his left cheekbone and exiting out through the top of his forehead. Miraculously he didn't die. Read and find out what happened to him.

Giblin, James Cross

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth.

Edwin and John Wilkes Booth were both actors, a talent they inherited from their father, Junius. Both also had a fondness for alcohol. While Edwin spent his life perfecting his craft and building a reputation as a great classical actor, John was impulsive, popular with the ladies, and best known today as the man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson

Among the Hidden

This tells the story of Luke, the third child born in his family. He has to live in hiding because he lives in a society where third children are not allowed. Life seems pretty grim, but then he meets Jen, who shows him that it doesn't have to be this way. There are six page-turners in this series: *Among the Imposters*, *Among the Betrayed*, *Among the Barons*, *Among the Brave*, and *Among the Enemies*.

Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas

The Demon in the Teahouse.

This historical mystery stars Seikei, the son of a tea merchant, who has been adopted by Judge Ooka in order to begin his training as a samurai. However, he finds himself investigating the mysterious deaths of several geishas in the "floating city" of pleasure. The Hooblers have written several other mysteries set in Japan-check them out.

Horowitz, Anthony

Ark Angel: An Alex Rider Adventure

The latest in this fantastic series. Alex Rider, the teenage secret agent plans to give it all up. Life is just too dangerous. He wants his old life back. As he lies in the hospital bed recovering from a gunshot wound, he contemplates the end of his career with MI6, the British secret service. But then he saves the life of Paul Drevin, son of multi-billionaire Nikolei Drevin, and once again he is pulled into service. This time his mission involves eco-terrorists, rockets to space, maniacal killers, and a less-than-idyllic tropical island. Is it all in a day's work, or will this truly be Alex Rider's last mission?

Kantor, Melissa

If I Have a Wicked Stepmother, Where's my Prince?

Lucy is a San Francisco teenager who has been uprooted to Long Island when her dad marries Mara. Mara does seem pretty wicked to Lucy, plus Lucy's two new spoiled-rotten step-sisters are not helping the situation. Lucy is navigating a new school, new family, new friends, adolescence, and even a new romance. Readers will root for her every inch of the way.

Knox, Elizabeth

Dreamhunter (Book One of the *Dreamhunter Duet*)

Laura lives in a society similar to our own, except for one major difference—there is the Dream Palace. Laura's father discovered the Dream Palace twenty years ago. It is a place where a select few can catch dreams and share them with everyone else. Soon it is time for Laura and her cousin, Rose, to be tested to see whether or not they have inherited the gift of dream hunting. Complicating things, Laura's father disappears and Laura and Rose begin to search for him. Laura's dreamy childhood is ending and a nightmare is beginning. The story is filled with beauty, danger, politics, and intrigue.

Lannin, Joanne

A History of Basketball for Girls and Women: From Bloomers to Big Leagues

If you love basketball you should check this book out. It does give a history of the sport for women (as the title implies), while at the same time being interesting, entertaining and full of great photos.

Lansing, Alfred

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage

This is a must-read. 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...

Lubar, David

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie

Scott is a high school freshman. Life is not easy; he's pretty nerdy, seniors harass him, and girls are completely unattainable. Could it get worse? Well, it does when Scott's mother announces that she's pregnant. Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling.

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, and ends up settling 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...

Marchetta, Melina

Saving Francesca

Francesca's mother is depressed and won't get out of bed. In addition, Francesca is one of just a few girls in a school that has recently turned co-ed. Actually, there are only thirty girls and seven hundred and fifty boys. Heaven? Think again. Slowly Francesca's life starts to improve as she figures out who she is and what she wants to do with her life. Poignant, yet still pretty amusing.

Marston, Elsa

Figs and Fate: Stories About Growing Up in the Arab World Today

These five short stories tell about the lives of young contemporary teens in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and a Palestinian refugee camp. Vast differences in culture and class, and among generations, are made clear through teen characters' viewpoints.

Mercado, Nancy

Every Man for Himself: Ten Short Stories About Being a Guy

Ten well-known authors write about what it's like to be a guy. For example, Walter Dean Meyers writes about bringing a white girl to the prom, David Lubar writes about a boy who realizes that his girlfriend only likes him for the shock value his piercings provide, and David Levithan's character brings a male date to his brother's bar mitzvah.

Morpurgo, Michael

Private Peaceful

At fifteen, Thomas lied about his age in order to follow his beloved older brother, Charlie, to fight in France during World War II. Now, nearly two years later, as Thomas sits in a trench waiting in the dark for the horror he knows will come at dawn, he remembers his childhood, growing up as a poor farm boy in a happy family. An unforgettable book.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert

Dairy Queen

D.J. is a fifteen-year-old girl who lives in Wisconsin on the family-run dairy farm. Things haven't been going so well lately, however. Her dad broke his hip so she's doing a lot more work on the farm, her mom is never home since she's filling in for the middle school principal, and her two older brothers left for college and have barely called. Not to mention, D.J. is secretly training the quarterback from the rival high school's team who she just happens to have a crush on. Things get even more mixed up when D.J. decides to go out for her high school football team.

Naidoo, Beverly

The Other Side of Truth

This is the story of two Nigerian children who get caught in the civil strife engulfing their country during the 1990s. Sade and her younger brother are smuggled out of the country after their mother is killed by a bullet that was meant for her father, an outspoken journalist. London is very foreign and difficult for the two refugee children.

Nelson, Marilyn

Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem

This is a bizarre but great collection of poetry. Fortune was a slave during the eighteenth century in Connecticut. When he died, his owner, who was a physician, boiled down his bones and made them into an anatomy display. One haunting poem imagines what it must have been like for Fortune's wife, who was still alive, when she was forced to dust his bones.

Novik, Naomi

His Majesty's Dragon (1st book in the *Temeraire* series)

If you like books with dragons, historical fiction, or just plain fantasy, this series has it all. This "alternate reality" novel is set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars. Each country has its own special dragon breed and the British Captain, Will Laurence, is very fortunate to intercept a French ship carrying a special gift from the Chinese: a precious dragon egg. The Captain and the dragon form a special bond and join the Aerial Corps together. Lots of battle action ensues.

Nye, Naomi Shahib

A Maze Me: Poems for Girls

In the introduction to her collection of poems, Nye writes, "Recently, a friend sent me an exquisite wreath in the mail. A tag was attached to it: *A small amount of debris is to be expected from the vibration of shipping.* Well, of course. But who tells us this when we are twelve? Who mentions that the passage from one era into another can make us feel as if we are being shaken up, as if our contents are shifting into new alignments?"(p.3) The poems in this book are about the new alignments that emerge when one begins to enter adulthood.

Oates, Joyce Carol

Big Mouth and Ugly Girl

Wise-cracking, Matt Donaghy mouths off left and right. When he gets pulled out of his fifth period class by plainclothes policemen, he realizes that his remarks have landed him in big

trouble. It turns out, he is being accused of planning to bomb the school! None of his friends are willing to vouch for him because their parents have urged them not to get involved. The only person who sticks up for Matt is an acquaintance, Ursula Riggs, who is pretty wacky. She tries to convince the principal to revoke Matt's suspension and that is just the beginning of their adventure together!

Oppel, Kenneth

Airborn

Matt Cruse is a cabin boy on the Aurora, a huge airship that sails hundreds of feet above the ocean, ferrying wealthy passengers from city to city. One night he meets a dying balloonist who speaks of beautiful creatures drifting through the skies. It is only after Matt meets the balloonist's granddaughter that he realizes that the man's ravings may, in fact, have been true, and that the creatures are completely real and utterly mysterious. If you like this, try the sequel *Skybreaker*.

Papademetriou, Lisa

The Witch, the Wizard and Two Girls from Jersey

It is obvious that Jersey girls Veronica and Heather don't exactly like each other when they end up rolling on the floor of the Barnes and Noble while fighting over the last copy of a book. After being zapped by a barcode scanner in an attempt to break up the fight, they find themselves plopped down smack in the middle of *The Queen of Twilight*—the book that started all the trouble in the first place!

Pullman, Phillip

The Golden Compass

In an alternate world where people's souls exist as animal-like creatures called daemons, a sinister organization is kidnapping children to perform mysterious experiments on them. When Lyra Belacqua's best friend becomes the latest victim, Lyra sets out to save him. This is the first book in a captivating trilogy. If you haven't read it yet--now is the time!

Schlosser, Eric

Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food

From the best-selling author of *Fast Food Nation*, Schlosser wrote this book for younger folks, although adults are known to read it. This book is packed with captivating interviews, visual tours, fast food history, recent statistics, and much more!

Sleator, William

Oddballs

What a lovely, goofy collection of autobiographical stories by the author William Sleator. (He wrote *The Last Universe* and *Interstellar Pig*, among others.) Sleator has a sister, two brothers, a pediatrician mother and a scientist father. Reading about the family plays they put on, or the hijinx the kids got up to on long car trips (excrement stories were a favorite) is highly entertaining.

Spielgelman, Art

Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History & Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began

These graphic novels have become classics. They are narrated by Artie and tell the story of his father, Vladek, who managed to survive the Holocaust.

Sweeney, Joyce

Players

Competitiveness has gone too far in this suspenseful story about a high school basketball team. The story is told from the point of view of Corey. He and three other teammates have high hopes for the team—but when Noah, a new student, joins the team, things go awry. Noah is a great athlete, but he is not much of a team player. Then strange things start to happen...

Thompson, Sarah L.

The Manny By Sarah L. Thompson

Ever heard of a Manny? It's a male nanny! Teenaged New Yorker, Justin, lands a summertime Manny gig in the Hamptons. He hopes that it means that he'll meet loads of pretty girls on the beach all summer long. Justin experiences some funny mishaps looking after his four-year old charge and does experience some summer romance. This is a fun beach read!

Updale, Eleanor

Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?

In the year 1875 in London, the thief Montmorency falls through a glass window while fleeing from the police. A brilliant doctor saves him and displays his newly-healed body at London's Scientific Society. At the conference, Montmorency has the good fortune to overhear a presentation on the city's new sewer system. Could they be used as an escape route for stealing from some of London's wealthiest neighborhoods? Once released from prison, he assumes a double life: by day he is the mysterious, sophisticated Mr. Montmorency, and by night the drain-dwelling Scarper, Montmorency's corrupt servant. The series continues with *Montmorency on the Rocks: Doctor, Aristocrat, Murderer?* and *Montmorency and the Assassins*.

Vizinni, Ned

Be More Chill

Jeremy is pretty nerdy and hopeless at all things involved with having a social life. Then he buys a "squip." After he swallows the squip and it becomes embedded in his brain, a whole new world opens up to him due to the amazing advice the squip feeds him.

Scott Westerfeld

Midnighters: The Secret Hour (Book one of the series)

Fifteen-year-old Jessica Day moves to Bixby, Oklahoma. As if moving didn't cause enough problems, she discovers that she has magical powers. Part science fiction, part horror story, this novel is the first in a series about the midnighters, a group of teenagers whose birth at the stroke of midnight gives them the special ability to move about in a mysterious 25th hour.

Westerfeld, Scott

Uglies

What a great read! Tally lives in a world where turning sixteen means that you have an operation which makes you pretty. Then you go to live with all the other pretties and just party all the time. All the uglies (kids under sixteen) live together and wait for their turn. A few months before she turns sixteen, Tally meets Shay who introduces her to another world, a world where people live free, a world where she learns the truth about the pretty world. (Not that pretty!) This is the first in the series, *Pretties* and then *Specials* follow.

