

RRPS SUMMER READING LIST 2008

6th Grade: MVMS

MVMS students choose one title; Gifted students choose two

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman. The story focuses on a middle school football star who tells the truth no matter how much it hurts others. Wallace refuses to lie about a book he classifies as boring and misses most of the football season when his teacher puts him in detention.

Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster (recommended as an advanced reader title). It explains how a boy's personality and point of view changes when he comes back from an adventurous journey to a fantasy land after being transported there by a magical tollbooth.

Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke. Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from a cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice. A mysterious thirteen-year-old leads the ring of street children who dabble in petty crimes. Prosper and Bo delight in being part of this colorful, new family, but the "Thief Lord" has secrets of his own. Soon the boys are thrust into circumstances that will lead them to a spellbinding conclusion.

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick. The heartwrenching story of two "special ed" boys who pair up to form a unique and empowering friendship. Two boys--a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces--forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force.

City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau. Lina and Doon live in an isolated, underground city originally constructed to keep people safe. The city is in decay and crumbling. The generator that supplies light is gradually failing. The two children must find a way to "the city of light" of which Lina has dreamed.

7th Grade: MVMS

MVMS students choose one title; Gifted students choose two

The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron. Lucky struggles to come to terms with her mother's death and her life with a new guardian from France. She lives in Hard Pan (population 43) in the middle of the California desert.

Rules by Cynthia Lord. Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him. For example, it's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store. Another rule is no toys in the fish tank.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko. Set in 1935, when guards actually lived on Alcatraz Island with their families. The novel brings humor to the complexities of family dynamics.

Chinese Cinderella: True Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah. "A riveting memoir of a girl's painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s.

Hitler Youth, Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell. The book is structured around the stories of 12 young individuals who were victims of Nazi leaders who took advantage of their innocence and enthusiasm for evil means. Their stories evolve from zeal and patriotic devotion to Hitler to doubt, confusion, and disillusionment.

8th Grade: RRMH
Students choose one title

Pre-AP English:

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer. The reader will learn about Matt and his life as a clone, a second-class citizen, growing up in the sprawling mansion of a rich, powerful feudal drug lord from whose DNA Matt was cloned. Matt is unsure of his place in the world.

I Am the Cheese by Robert Cormier. Imagine discovering that your whole life has been a fiction, your identity altered, and a new family history created. Suddenly nothing is as it once seemed; you can trust no one, maybe not even yourself. It is exactly this revelation that turns 14-year-old Adam Farmer's life upside down.

9th Grade: RRMH
Students choose one title

Pre-AP English:

Peace Like a River by Leif Enger. Set in 1960's Minnesota, the novel describes the 11-year-old narrator's quest to retrieve his wayward brother.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd. This book describes Lily Owen's blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed and her relationship with her black "stand-in mother."

10th Grade:

Pre-AP 10 English:

Choose between the following two books:

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck. This great modern classic depicts life in China at a time before the vast political and social upheavals transformed an essentially agrarian country into a world power. Nobel Prize-winner Pearl S. Buck traces the whole cycle of life—its terrors, its passions, its ambitions, and its rewards.

OR

Nectar in a Sieve by Kamala Markandaya. In a small village in India, a simple peasant woman recalls her life as a child bride, a farmer's wife, and a devoted mother amidst fights to meet changing times, poverty, and disaster.

AP 10 World History:

Required Reading:

A History of the World in Six Glasses by Tom Standage. Throughout human history, certain drinks have done much more than just quench thirst. Six of them have had a surprisingly pervasive influence on the course of history, becoming the defining drink during a pivotal historical period.

Assignment:

On the first day of class be prepared to discuss the various events in world history depicted in the book. You may find it useful to keep a list of these events in a timeline format and bring it with you on the first day of school.

11th Grade:

AP 11 English Literature and Composition

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald. This well-know classic pictures a middle class character transitioning from the laid-back life of the Middle West to the fast-paced 1920's eccentric lifestyle of the rich and notorious in the East.

AND

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Assignment:

Annotate your copies and be prepared to discuss and answer questions about either book on the first day of class.

AP US History

Little Big Man by Thomas Berger. In this epic novel about the American West, Berger spins a tall tale about a man who lives much of his life among whites and much of his life among the Cheyenne.

Assignment:

On the first day of class be prepared to discuss or write about the life-long identity crisis of Jack Crabb/Little Big Man and how Berger's vision of the American West differs from the archetype in our collective American mythology.

12th Grade:

AP 12 English Literature and Composition

Read one:

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. Frank's father was frequently unemployed and was an alcoholic. Frank recounts his desperately poor early years as an Irish Catholic child living on public assistance.

OR

This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolff. Teenaged Wolff moves with his divorced mother to another state to escape her violent boyfriend. When she remarries, Wolff finds himself in a bitter battle of wills with his abusive stepfather, a contest in which the two prove to be more evenly matched than might have been supposed. Deception, disguise, and illusion are the weapons the young man learns to employ.

AND

John F. Kennedy's Presidential Acceptance Speech

Assignments:

Read the chosen memoir and the speech, annotating and be prepared to discuss these on the first day of class.

College Essay

Most of you will submit the notorious college essay with your application for acceptance and/or for scholarships. Even though you may tweak this summer requirement, this will be your first step for your college application process.

1. Research several university websites. Go to "Admissions." Find a college essay prompt. Note which college of university.
2. Choose a prompt on which to write your college essay. You can use the ubiquitous topic: Tell us about yourself.
3. Do not write an autobiography. Be specific. Write about something from your experience that tells about who you are.
4. Write a college essay (no more than 300 words). Type, double space, 10 point.

AP US Government & AP Macroeconomics

Read and be ready to discuss the following on the first day of class.

Part I:

The United States Constitution including its Amendments. Paper back editions copies can be purchased at Borders or Barnes and Nobles. Make sure that the edition includes:

- a. *The Declaration of Independence* and the Amendments. We will refer to these documents throughout the semester so please buy an edition that can be carried in your backpack.

Part II:

The Supreme Court. Decisions are announced at the end of June 2008.

1. Get the back ground information of these three cases.

2. Locate the Court's decision. Google the name of the court cases.
3. Be ready to discuss these cases and the Court's decisions.

07-5439	Baze v. Rees	Jan 7, 2008	Supreme Court of Kentucky	Eighth Amendment, unusual punishment, lethal injection, death penalty.
06-1195/ 06-1196	Boumediene, Lakhdar, et al v. Bush, George, et al Al Odah, Khaled, et al v. U.S.	Dec. 5, 2007	Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (Feb 20, 2007)	Habeas corpus, Suspension Clause, executive power, prisoners of war, statutory construction
07-290	District of Columbia v. Heller	March 18, 2008	D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals	Second Amendment, firearms, federalism

Part III

Election 2008

Find the Democrat, Republican and the Green Party's stance on the following issues:

International Issues: Foreign Policy
 Domestic Issues: Environment
 Economic Issues: Budget/Economy
 Social Issues: Education

Be ready to discuss each party's view on these issues.

Elective Course 11-12

AP European History:

We, Yevgeny Zamiatin,. The first of the negative utopian novels of the 20th century, We satirizes both totalitarianism and technology.

Assignment:

On the first day of class be prepared to discuss or write about Zamiatin's attitudes toward those two themes of modern life.