

Saint Stephen Catholic School

Summer Reading Lists - 2009-10

During the summer students in all grades should read a minimum of three books.

1. The one required selection, which should be read last
2. Two books chosen from the literature selection list
3. Complete a novel analysis for each book. The novel analyses are required and will be collected by the Language Arts teacher the first week of school.

Rising 8th Graders:

REQUIRED: *Twain -- Huckleberry Finn*

Plus two additional books from the following list:

Alvarez -- Before We Were Free

Lexile: 890

Set in Dominican Republic in 1960's, a young girl grows up in a prosperous family until politics change her views and her life (an Anne Frank style story).

Avi -- Crispin: The Cross of Lead

Lexile: 780

The Cross of Lead is an action-packed historical narrative that follows the frantic flight of a thirteen-year-old peasant boy across 14th century England [historical fiction].

Bedard -- Stained Glass

Lexile: NA

A quiet masterpiece about the rebuilding of three lives - While skipping his piano lesson and taking refuge in a church, Charles encounters a strange, waiflike girl.

Carroll -- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Lexile: 890

In this version of the classic, illustrated by Sir John Tenniel, when Alice follows a rabbit down its rabbit hole, she finds herself in a bizarre world where she grows and shrinks. The creatures she meets speak in riddles and introduce her to an extraordinary place called Wonderland.

Cormier -- Heroes

Lexile: 1050

After joining them at fifteen and having his face hit by a grenade in a battle in Paris France, Francis returns home to Frenchtown to find and kill the hero he feels betrayed him.

Douglass -- Life of F. Douglass Autobiography

Lexile: 1080

The true story of an American slave's journey to freedom.

Funk -- The Thief Lord

Lexile: 640

Orphaned brothers are about to be split up and escape the Italy where they join a group of kids [a sort of Oliver Twist type story]. It has a detective subplot and a magical thread at the end.

Hansberry -- A Raisin in the Sun

Lexile: NA

Mama's insurance check for \$10,000 means a new life for her family, but everyone has different ideas about how to use the money. When she sees that her family is falling apart, Mama makes a decision. But will her choice bring her family apart or destroy it forever?

Lipsyte -- The Contender

Lexile: 760

Alfred, a fledgling boxer wants to be a champion but learns he must first be a contender.

Lowery -- Gathering Blue

Lexile: 680

A wonderful new story of an orphan trying to make a place in an unforgiving society

Peck -- River Between Us

Lexile: 740

In a voice uneducated and wise, unsophisticated and ironic, the narrator spins a dramatic, poignant tale of family and racial identity, graced with unforgettable characters who struggle against a Civil War backdrop.

Potok -- The Chosen

Lexile: 970

Two Jewish boys growing to manhood in Brooklyn discover that differences can strengthen friendship and understanding.

Ritter -- Boy Who Saved Baseball

Lexile: 660

The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

Siegal -- Upon the Head of a Goat

Lexile: 830

These true-life experiences of a Jewish girl in Hungary during WWII demonstrate a mother's resourcefulness in a time when no place was safe if one were Jewish.

Sleator -- House of Stairs

Lexile: 810

Five sixteen-year-old orphans find themselves where only stairs and landings stretch as far as they can see and a weird red light trains them to dance for their food.

Swarthout -- Bless the Beast and the Children

Lexile: 970

Five misfits in an Arizona boys' camp sneak out on a daring escapade to save a herd of buffalo from bloodthirsty, gun-toting tourists. It's a book of acceptance by peers.

Tolan -- Welcome to the Ark

Lexile: 850

In a world of terrorist attacks, random bombings and multiplying militias, four brilliant young misfits are thrown together in a group home for troubled youth.

Washington -- Up From Slavery

Lexile: 1320

The life of Booker T. Washington, who was born into slavery but eventually became the force behind the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, is detailed through Booker's own words. His accomplishments, when he started with so little, are nothing short of miracles.

Willem van Loon -- The Story of Mankind

Lexile: 1260

The first winner of the John Newbery Medal, this renowned classic has been updated to include a look forward to the twenty-first century. From prehistoric man to the fall of Communism in Europe, "The Story of Mankind" reveals history to be an exciting adventure tale.

Zindel -- The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds Lexile: NA

This drama focuses on the ups and downs of the relationship between an embittered, eccentric woman and her two teenage daughters.