

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL

Summer Reading

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL
2014**



THE IMPORTANCE OF READING

God has given us language as a means of learning about creation, a way to communicate with and about God, a way to communicate about His creation and how we should live, and a tool to care for creation and change our world. God has chosen to communicate to us in writing through the Bible. Through written text, we learn about the world and other people by stepping into their shoes and we enjoy vicarious experiences by exercising our God-given imagination.

We expect all FPD students to develop the ability to learn from written text as well as find written genres they enjoy. Our reading program will help equip the student to develop cognitively, communicate with and about God, care for and appropriately use the resources around us, and act redemptively in our world. To this end we encourage our students to read and to discuss the texts that are read. Research has shown consistent connections between proficiency with reading comprehension and certain activities, for example:

- The availability of reading material in the home.
- Parental modeling of good reading habits.
- Parental help with monitoring homework and television viewing.
- Reading and/or being read to regularly for enjoyment.
- Discussing what you have read with someone or otherwise responding to what you have read.

Colleges recently pressured the College Board to change the SAT to have a greater emphasis on reading comprehension. The current SAT includes more reading selections and related comprehension questions.

Our summer reading program at FPD is designed to encourage students to read appropriate selections that can challenge and improve their reading comprehension. We have also incorporated a great degree of choice while still requiring students to respond to what they read. This summer we are also including common reads to generate discussion next fall. We hope each student will find these reading assignments will enhance their summer experience.

Barry E. Shealy, Ph.D.
Curriculum Director



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SUMMER READING OVERVIEW

The **FPD Summer Reading Program** is designed to provide a great degree of choice for the student, encourage a variety of selected texts and responses to the reading, and encourage spreading the reading over the summer. Each student in grades 6-12 will read **three books** (note senior differences):

1 ENGLISH COURSE SELECTION

- **1 book** is required by their upcoming **English class** and is assessed as the teacher sees fit in class near the beginning of school.

1 FROM A RECOMMENDED LIST

- **1 book** is selected from a **recommended list** to be assessed by taking an **Accelerated Reader** test at FPD when completed during the summer. (SEE WEBSITE OR UPPER SCHOOL OFFICE FOR SCHEDULE.)

1 COMMON READ

- **1 book** is a school division **Common Read** and will be read and discussed with a faculty member and a small group of fellow students.

SENIORS ARE DIFFERENT!!!!

- **SENIORS** have **two (2) books** assigned by their English teacher and **one (1) Common Read**. Thus, **NO AR** selection or test!!

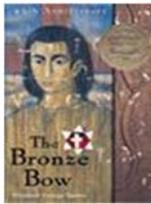
LOOK



ENGLISH COURSE REQUIRED BOOK

The required book for each English course will be studied in class at the beginning of the school year. Each teacher will assess the students' comprehension of the book near the beginning of school. Assessments may include a quiz, test, or short paper.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE-REQUIRED



Sixth Grade

The Bronze Bow

Speare, Elizabeth George

Eighteen-year-old Daniel, an Israeli, is consumed by hatred of the Romans who killed his father, until he learns from listening to Jesus that love is the answer.



Seventh Grade

Countdown

Wiles, Deborah

As eleven-year-old Franny Chapman deals with drama at home and with her best friend in 1962, she tries to understand the larger problems in the world after President Kennedy announces that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba.



Eighth Grade

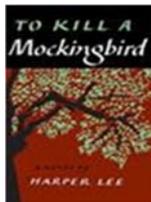
The Outsiders

Hinton, S.E.

Rivalry between rich and poor gangs in 1960s Oklahoma leads to the deaths of three teenagers and intense soul-searching for one of the kids involved, a sensitive 14-year-old writer named Ponyboy.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE-REQUIRED

The high school selections are regularly referred to on the **College Board Advanced Placement** exams and are commonly on college-bound reading lists. Books for grades 10-12 may contain some adult language and themes. Please refer to the article on reading selections at the end of this brochure.

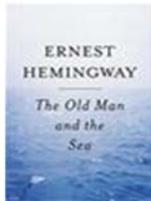


Ninth Grade

To Kill a Mockingbird

Lee, Harper

Two children witness the effects of racial prejudice as their father courageously defends an innocent black man who has been accused of raping a white woman.

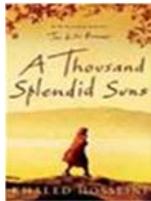


Ninth Grade Honors

The Old Man and the Sea

Hemingway, Ernest

In this beautiful, symbolic story an old fisherman catches a giant marlin, only to have sharks strip it to the bone.



Tenth Grade

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Hosseini, Khaled

This novel is set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban and tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite the horrors they must endure.



Tenth Grade Honors

Candide

Voltaire

A gentle man is pummeled and slapped in every direction by fate, but clings desperately to the belief that he lives in "the best of all possible worlds."



11th Grade American Literature

The Things They Carried

O'Brien, Tim

A collection of interconnected short stories that explore the Vietnam War experiences of the men of Alpha Company, beginning with a meditation on the things carried by each soldier, practical & personal, as they make their way through the theater of war.



11th Grade AP Language & Composition

Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal

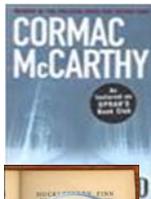
Schlosser, Eric

In this book, the author investigates and comments on the cultural history that has changed the way America thinks about the way it eats.

12th Grade — 2 BOOKS FOR ALL SENIORS!!

British Literature

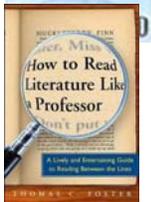
Advanced Placement Literature & Composition



The Road

McCarthy, Cormac

The journey of a father and his son is recounted as they walk alone after a great fire has consumed the nation and left everything in ashes.



How to Read Literature like a Professor

Foster, Thomas C.

A practical guide to unlocking the world underneath the surface of a novel or poem. Foster uses an amusing style to consider themes, literary models, narrative devices and other tools authors use to develop deeper meaning in a literary text.



**Note that the Seniors
DO NOT choose a book from the AR list
and DO NOT take an AR test on any book!!**

SELF-SELECTED READING

INSTRUCTIONS



Students in grades 6-11 may select one book from the appropriate list below. Middle school students may select a book from the high school list with their parent's permission. Books must be *unabridged* versions. **Students should select a book that they have NOT read in the past.**

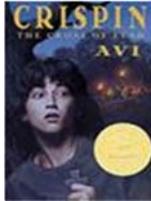


Assessment: Students may demonstrate careful reading of this selection by passing an **Accelerated Reader test** **OR** completing a **book report form** **available in the Upper School office.** Students may take a test at the school during the summer on dates to be announced in June, July, and August. The Accelerated Reader system will not allow you to take a test that you have previously taken at any time at FPD. Students may only take one AR test per testing session.

What if I don't pass the AR test?

*If a student does not pass the Accelerated Reader test, the student may select a **second AR book** to read **OR** complete a **book report form** on the first book. Students who do not pass the second AR test **MUST** complete a book report on one of the two books read. Book report specifications are available in the Upper School Office. All work on this choice must be completed by the first day of classes in the Fall.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST



Crispin: The Cross of Lead

Avi

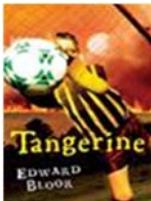
Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. Book #1 ***(You may read any book in this series.)***



The Calder Game

Balliett, Blue

When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village, along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he feels strangely drawn, his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him.



Tangerine

Bloor, Edward

Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football-hero brother, fights for his right to play soccer despite his near-blindness.



I'd Tell You I Love You, but Then I'd Have to Kill You

Carter, Ally

As a sophomore at a secret spy school and the daughter of a former CIA operative, Cammie is sheltered from "normal teenage life" until she meets a local boy while on a class surveillance mission. Book #1 ***(You may read any book in this series.)***



The Hunger Games

Collins, Suzanne

In a future, where rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual survival competition, 16-year-old Katniss's skills are tested when she takes her sister's place. Contains graphic descriptions of violence. Book #1 ***(You may read any book in this series.)***



And Then There Were None

Christie, Agatha

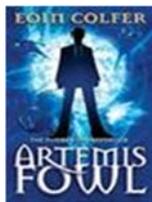
Ten strangers are gathered together on an isolated island by a mysterious host. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts, and one by one they die.



Things Not Seen

Clements, Andrew

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents as well as his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.



Artemis Fowl

Colfer, Eoin

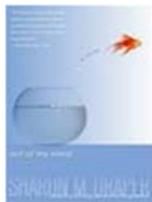
Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a brilliant criminal mastermind, but even he does not know what he has taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These fairies are armed and they are dangerous. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963

Curtis, Christopher Paul

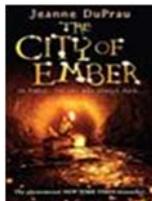
The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they visit Grandma Sands in Alabama in the summer of 1963.



Out of My Mind

Draper, Sharon M.

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.



The City of Ember

DuPrau, Jeanne

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a messenger, to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**

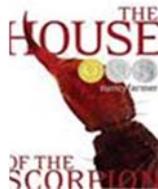


The Black Stallion

Farley, Walter

The understanding and love between Alec Ramsay and a magnificent wild horse endure through shared adventures and dangers. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**

MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST



The House of the Scorpion

Farmer, Nancy

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 140-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.



The Angel of Death: A Forensic Mystery

Ferguson, Alane

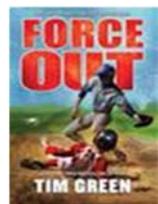
Seventeen-year-old high school senior Cameryn Mahoney uses skills learned as assistant to her coroner father to try to unravel the mystery of a local teacher's gruesome death, while also awaiting a possible reunion with her long-missing mother.



Football Genius

Green, Tim

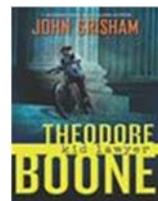
Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Force Out

Green, Tim

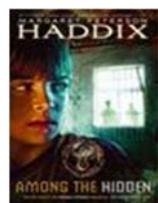
When Joey has to compete with his best friend, Zach, for a single spot on an elite baseball team, he is forced to decide how far he is willing to go to win.



Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer

Grisham, John

Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, a legal whiz kid, gets caught up in a high-profile murder trial in his town. Book #1 **(You may read any book in the series.)**



Among the Hidden

Haddix, Margaret Peterson

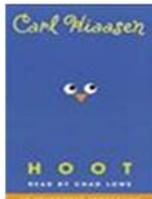
In a future where the law limits a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his 12 years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story

Hahn, Mary Downing

When thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years.



Hoot

Hiaasen, Carl

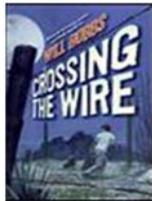
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.



Sure Fire

Higgins, Jack

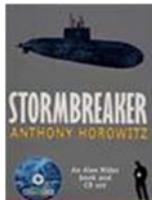
Resentful of having to live with their estranged father after the death of their mother, fifteen-year-old twins, Rich and Jade, soon find they have more complicated problems when their father is kidnapped. The coauthor is Justin Richards. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Crossing the Wire

Hobbs, Will

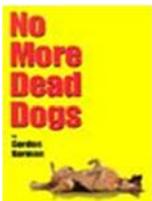
Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores journeys north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico.



Stormbreaker

Horowitz, Anthony

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency. Book #1 **(You may read any of the books in this series.)**



No More Dead Dogs

Korman, Gordon

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals for the school play. He becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST



Hattie Big Sky

Larson, Kirby

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.



Savvy

Law, Ingrid

Mibs Beaumont's thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy," a magical power unique to each member of her family, just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. **(You may read any book in this series.)**



The Call of the Wild

London, Jack

Buck, a dog that has been forced into the harsh life of a sled dog, befriends a man seeking his fortune in the Klondike gold fields and must ultimately decide whether to stay with his master or obey his instinct to join the wolves.



Heat

Lupica, Mike

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, and he has no parents to offer them proof.



Million-Dollar Throw

Lupica, Mike

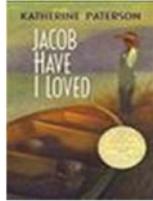
Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, and he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.



Airborn

Oppel, Kenneth

Matt, a cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Jacob Have I Loved

Paterson, Katherine

Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.



Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment

Patterson, James

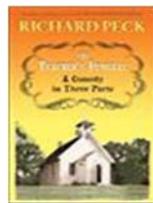
After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. The plot contains violence. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Hatchet

Paulsen, Gary

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother and learning to survive his parents' divorce as well.



The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts

Peck, Richard

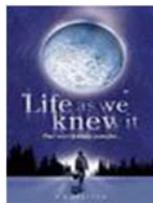
In rural Indiana, in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat-threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching of his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."



Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark

Pearson, Ridley

Finn is hired to be hologramed as a Disney World park "guide" but soon finds himself being transported into the Magic Kingdom in the dead of night to help fight a group of Disney villains who want to take over Disney World--and maybe more. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Life as We Knew It

Pfeffer, Susan Beth

Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the Moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**

MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST



The Lightning Thief

Riordan, Rick

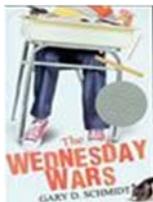
Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods, where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Divergent

Roth, Veronica

In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice must choose among a faction, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she does not fit into any one group. The plot contains graphic violence. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



The Wednesday Wars

Schmidt, Gary D.

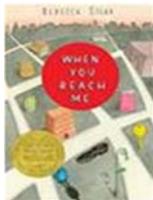
During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to religion classes, seventh-grader Holling stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of Shakespeare and he learns about the world he lives in.



The Shadow Club

Shusterman, Neal

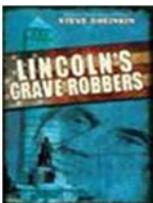
A high school boy and his friends decide to form a club of "second bests" and play anonymous tricks on each other's arch rivals. When the harmless pranks become life-threatening, however, no one in the club will admit responsibility. **(You may read any book in this series.)**



When You Reach Me

Stead, Rebecca

In 1979, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on the THE \$20,000 PYRAMID, a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.



Lincoln's Grave Robbers

Sheinkin, Steve

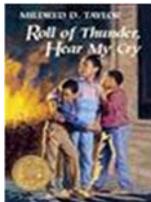
This dramatic account of the 1875 attempt to steal the sixteenth president's body describes how a counterfeiting ring plotted to ransom Lincoln's body to secure the release of their imprisoned ringleader.



The Mysterious Benedict Society

Stewart, Trenton Lee

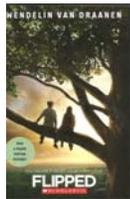
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where their mission is to stop the plan of the evil Le-droptha Curtain. Book #1 (**You may read any book in this series.**)



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Taylor, Mildred D.

Warmth, humor and hard times prevail as a black family struggles to maintain dignity and independence in Depression-era Mississippi.



Flipped

Van Draanen, Wendelin

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families.



Privateer's Apprentice

Verrico, Susan

In 1712, thirteen-year-old Jameson Cooper, orphaned and indigent, is abducted from Charles Towne, Carolina Territory, by privateers working for Queen Anne, but he proves himself worthy to be called a royal sailor through his writing and drawing skills.



War Heroes: Voices from Iraq

Zullo, Allan

This book profiles the incredible true stories of ten American heroes who risked their lives while serving their country in Iraq.

HIGH SCHOOL LIST

This list includes classic as well as modern literature that is at least on the 8th grade reading level. The list includes works commonly cited on the Advanced Placement tests and college English courses. Note that some books (usually marked with an “*”) contain adult themes and/or profanity but are on the list because they are considered today as important works of literature. **Please use parental guidance in making selections.** See page 6 for explanation of assessment.



Speak

Anderson, Laurie Halse

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.



Pride and Prejudice (Unabridged)

Austen, Jane

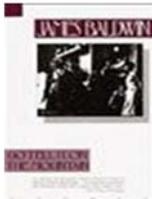
In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the courtship of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.



Candle in the Darkness

Austin, Lynn

Caroline Fletcher is raised in a culture that believes slavery is God-ordained and biblically acceptable. Upon awakening to the cruelty and injustice it encompasses, Caroline's eyes are opened to the men and women who have cared tirelessly for her.



Go Tell It on the Mountain

Baldwin, James

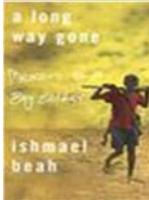
Fourteen-year-old John struggles against the environmental influences of Harlem.



Shift

Bradbury, Jennifer

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross-country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.



A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

Beah, Ishmael

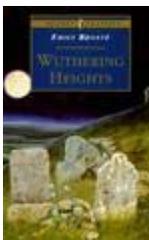
A war survivor from Africa recounts his transition from twelve-year-old orphan to killing machine. Beah emerged from Sierra Leone's malignant civil conflict and eventually graduated from college in the US. The text contains graphic violence.



Jane Eyre

Bronte, Charlotte

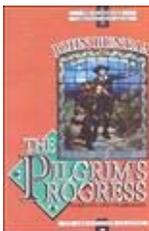
Jane, a plain and penniless orphan in nineteenth-century England, accepts employment as a governess at Thornfield Hall and soon finds herself in love with her melancholy employer, Mr. Edward Rochester, a man with a terrible secret.



Wuthering Heights

Bronte, Emily

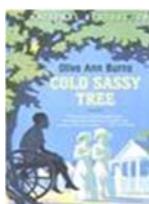
Against a background of English moors in the eighteenth century, the lives of two families become intertwined through marriage, passion, and the dominating force of a man called Heathcliff.



The Pilgrim's Progress

Bunyan, John

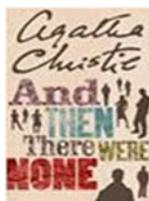
Christian's encounters with various trial and temptations on his journey to the Celestial City depicted in the seventeenth century.



Cold Sassy Tree

Burns, Olive

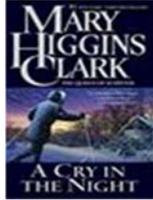
Grandpa Blakeslee marries a young milliner just three weeks after Granny Blakeslee has gone to her reward. Young Will is boggled by this act but becomes the newlyweds' conspirator and confidant; meanwhile he does some growing up on his own.



And Then There Were None

Christie, Agatha

Ten strangers are gathered together on an isolated island by a mysterious host. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts, and one by one they die.



A Cry in the Night

Clark, Mary Higgins

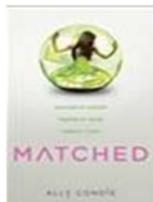
Jenny's life and family are in danger when she gets too close to revealing some terrible secrets of the past.



The Hunger Games

Collins, Suzanne

In a future North America, where rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual survival competition, 16-year-old Katniss's skills are tested when she voluntarily takes her sister's place. The plot contains graphic descriptions of violence. Book #1 (**You may read any book in this series.**)



Matched

Condie, Ally

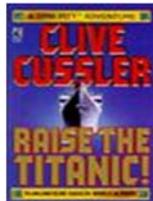
Cassia has always had complete trust in the Society to make decisions for her, but when she is being paired with her ideal mate, a second face flashes on the screen, and Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility. (**You may read any book in this series.**)



Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long-Distance Swimmer

Cox, Lynne

This book describes the accomplishments of the world's most extraordinary distance swimmer and the emotional and spiritual need to swim that drives her.



Raise the Titanic!

Cussler, Clive

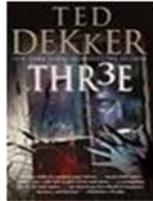
In a daring gamble Dirk Pitt locates the "Titanic" and suddenly his crew is in deadly jeopardy.



The Maze Runner

Dashner, James

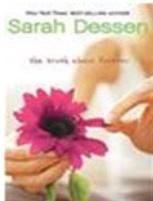
Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape. The plot contains violence. Book #1 (**You may read any book in this series.**)



Thr3e

Dekker, Ted

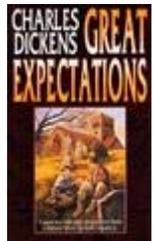
Kevin Parson is drawn into a violent game of cat and mouse when a mysterious voice on his cell phone demands he confess his sin or risk the destruction of his home, family, career, and possibly even the country.



The Truth About Forever

Dessen, Sarah

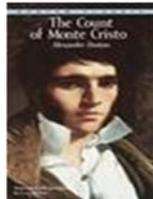
The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.



Great Expectations

Dickens, Charles

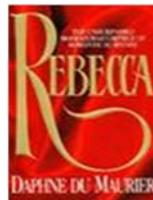
A tiny orphan boy named Pip acquires a mysterious benefactor who sponsors him to become a gentleman. Years later, Pip confronts his past heartaches and illusions that his "great expectations" have brought upon him.



The Count of Monte Cristo

Dumas, Alexandre (trans. & abridged by Lowell Blair)

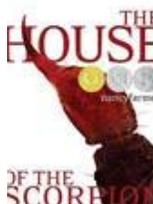
In this abridged edition, young sailor Edmund Dantes escapes from the island fortress where he has been imprisoned for treason, then sets out to discover the treasure of Monte Cristo and seek revenge against the people who falsely accused him.



Rebecca

Du Maurier, Daphne

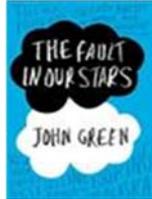
The second Mrs. Maxim de Winter finds it difficult and frightening to live in the shadow of her predecessor, a situation that is exacerbated by her husband's moodiness and the presence of sinister housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers.



The House of the Scorpion

Farmer, Nancy

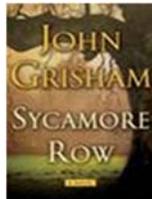
In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 140-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.



The Fault in Our Stars*

Green, John

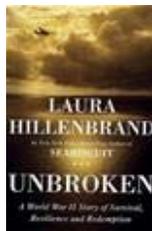
Sixteen-year-old Hazel, who has cancer, meets Augustus at a kids-with-cancer support group and, as they fall in love, they both wonder how they will be remembered. The plot contains profanity and sexual references.



Sycamore Row*

Grisham, John

Jake is thrust into a murder mystery after wealthy Seth Hubbard commits suicide and leaves his fortune to his African American maid, raising questions about the circumstances of his death. The plot contains profanity, sexual references, and violence.



Unbroken

Hillenbrand, Laura

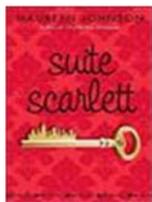
This biography is the story of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who survived in the open ocean after his plane crashed in the Pacific. The plot contains violence.



The Kite Runner*

Hosseini, Khaled

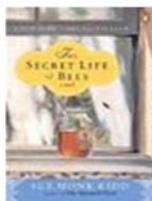
Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed. The plot contains profanity, sexual situations, and violence.



Suite Scarlett

Johnson, Maureen

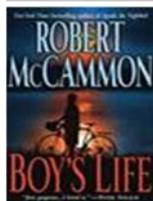
Fifteen-year-old Scarlett is stuck working at her quirky family's historic hotel in New York for the summer, but her brother's attractive new friend and a seasonal guest who offers her an intriguing and challenging writing project improve her outlook.



The Secret Life of Bees

Kidd, Sue Monk

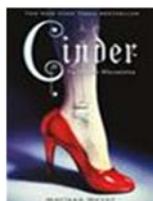
Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina.



Boy's Life

McCammon, Robert R.

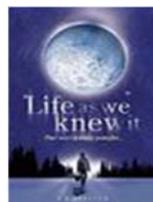
An eleven-year-old is plunged into a world of mystery and evil after he and his father witness the disposal of a murder victim on the outskirts of their idyllic Southern town.



Cinder

Meyer, Marissa

In this futuristic take on Cinderella, plague ravages the overcrowded Earth and Cinder, a gifted cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world. The plot contains violence. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Life as We Knew It

Pfeffer, Susan Beth

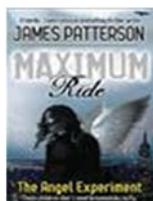
Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the Moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Eragon

Paolini, Christopher

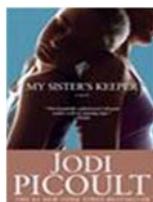
A 15-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon, finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. The plot contains profanity and violence. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment

Patterson, James

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. The plot contains violence. Book #1 **(You may read any book in the series.)**

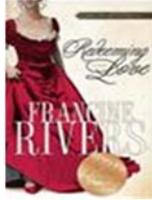


My Sister's Keeper

Picoult, Jodi

Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney.

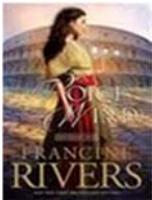
HIGH SCHOOL LIST



*Redeeming Love**

Rivers, Francine

This retelling of a story from the Book of Hosea is set in California's gold country in 1850, where Angel, sold into prostitution as a child, must make peace with God before she feels free. The plot contains sexual situations and violence.



A Voice in the Wind

Rivers, Francine

Torn by her love for a handsome aristocrat, a young slave girl clings to her faith in a living God for deliverance from the forces of decadent Rome.



Divergent

Roth, Veronica

In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice must choose among a faction, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she does not fit into any one group. The plot contains graphic violence. Book #1 (***You may read any book in this series.***)



The Alchemyst

Scott, Michael

While working at summer jobs, 15-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in a deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of secret formulas. Book #1 (***You may read any book in this series.***)



*Flygirl**

Smith, Sherri L.

During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots. The plot contains mild profanity and drinking.



The Last Song

Sparks, Nicholas

Seventeen-year-old Ronnie is resentful when her mother insists she and her ten-year-old brother spend the summer with their estranged father, and while things get off to a rocky start, she begins to understand her dad and why he wanted her to visit.



The Help

Stockett, Kathryn

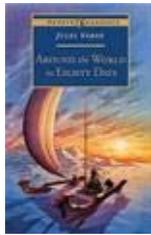
Limited and persecuted by racial divides in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, three women, including an African American maid, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend, and a recently graduated white woman, team up for a clandestine project.



The Hiding Place

Ten Boom, Corrie

This true story of two sisters sent to a Nazi concentration camp because they were caught helping Jews tells how their faith helped them to overcome its horrors.



Around the World in 80 Days

Verne, Jules

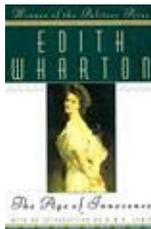
Phileas Fogg and his servant make a breathless world tour, overcoming wild misadventures and rescuing a beautiful Indian maharani.



Uglies

Westerfeld, Scott

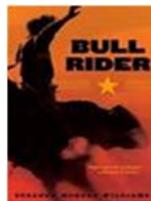
In Tally's world, reaching 16 brings an operation that turns you from ugly to pretty and Tally's almost there, but when her friend runs away, Tally learns about a new side of pretty world and must choose between betrayal and never turning pretty. Book #1 (**You may read any book in this series.**)



The Age of Innocence

Edith Wharton

New York society in the 1870s is portrayed, where money counted for less than manners and morals.



Bull Rider

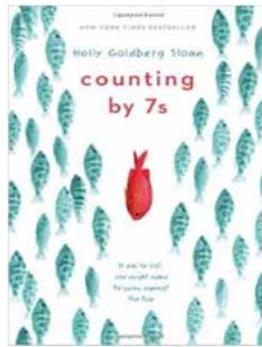
Williams, Suzanne Morgan

When his older brother, a bull-riding champion, returns from the Iraq War partially paralyzed, 14-year-old Cam takes a break from skateboarding to enter a bull-riding

COMMON READS

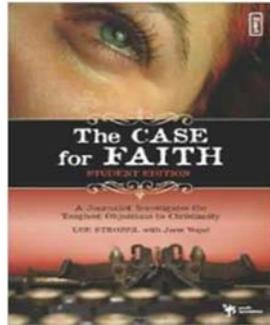
Middle and High School students will have a **COMMON READ** this summer. A COMMON READ provides the opportunity for a whole school division to focus on a key mission-connected idea as a community. All students will participate in small discussion groups led by faculty members during the Fall. We will also plan several events related to the themes of the books.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

COMMON READ**HIGH SCHOOL*****The Case for Faith — Student Edition***
by Lee Strobel

Is faith possible in today's world? It's not easy to believe in Christianity when there is pain all around you and issues that defy easy explanation unless there are answers to the questions you face. Lee Strobel knows how important it is to find answers that ring true. With his background as an award-winning journalist, asking tough questions has been his business. While his search for the truth convinced Lee that Jesus is real, it also confronted him with some particularly knotty, gut-level questions about Christianity you've likely asked as well: Why is there suffering? Doesn't science disprove miracles? What about hell---and the millions who've never heard of Jesus? Is God unjust? They're the kinds of conundrums that can block---and have blocked---people's faith. Join Lee in a fascinating journey of discovery to gain powerful insights that will reshape your understanding of the Bible.

How are Reading Selections Made?

From the time of the Reformation a great deal of emphasis has been placed on literacy for all people. The reformers believed that everyone needed to be able to read the scripture, and thus understand and teach others. They believed that all students needed to read and study literature and history so that they “hear of the doings and sayings of the entire world, and how things went with various cities, kingdoms, princes, men, and women. . . . They could in a short time set before themselves in a mirror the character, life, counsels, and purposes—successful and unsuccessful—of the whole world from the beginning; on the basis of which they could then draw the proper inferences and in the fear of God take their own place in the stream of human events” (Martin Luther). Clearly, reading is an important part of our lives. It is important in a practical everyday sense, but also in a cultural sense. We have the responsibility of caring for creation and redeeming our culture (Genesis 1:26-31). We cannot, however, care for something we do not understand. God has chosen to communicate to us through the written word in the Bible. God has also chosen to give us written communication by which we pass down history, communicate arguments and worldviews, and express our humanity creatively and imaginatively. There is no better way to understand what someone believes than by studying what they have written.

In recent years, educators have been concerned that reading is declining in our society. In response they have re-emphasized reading comprehension in our schools and expectations of strong reading comprehension in higher education. For example, the SAT will change this year to place a greater emphasis on critical reading with longer and more difficult reading selections. Others, like E. D. Hirsch and Dianne Ravitch have decried our loss of cultural literacy. There are a variety of strategies for helping students develop strong reading comprehension skills. But, ultimately all include (1) regularly working through appropriately challenging texts and (2) discussing, thinking about, and writing about what you read. The path to strong reading comprehension, cultural literacy, understanding and impacting our world, and, yes, even strong verbal SAT scores includes becoming a strong reader who has experienced a variety of literature.

Keeping these ideas and the goal of developing strong widely read students the faculty of FPD put a significant amount of work into choosing reading selections. Most often the process begins with the classroom teacher. The teacher makes selections in consultation with his or her department that are appropriate for the level of students and the

curriculum concerns being addressed. As Curriculum Director, I work with departments when questions arise or if teachers desire help finding the right choice. As I look over the big picture of the curriculum, I make sure we do not have duplications, that we are not missing a particular genre, etc. As we look at required reading selections, we take the following concerns into consideration—(1) relevance to curriculum, (2) importance or cultural significance, (3) readability, (4) objectionable content, and what I call (5) the big picture.

RELEVANCE TO CURRICULUM

Our students should work through a *comprehensive variety* of literature including different time periods, genres, author backgrounds, purposes, places of origin, and world-views and traditions. Understanding that “all truth is God’s truth” and thus that we ultimately deal with one integrated curriculum, we often make *interdisciplinary selections*. In the elementary school, for example, we often select literature related to topics in science or regions the students are studying in geography. We may select books because of the *issues raised*. *Frankenstein*, for example, is an excellent vehicle for raising current biological science issues such as cloning and stem cell research.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

We read so that we might understand God and His works, ourselves and our relationship and responsibilities to God and our fellow men, and our culture and world around us. Understanding our culture involves not only experiential participation in the current but also knowledge of the past. *Recognized classics* in literature help us to see where our culture has come from and why we are where we are today. Classics give us a rich vocabulary of images and common knowledge that helps us communicate vivid ideas. Consider ideas like an Achilles’ heel, Pandora’s box, Icarus flying too high, Sisyphus rolling his stone to the top of the hill for eternity, the tortoise and the hare, or David and Goliath. Ideas from classical literature and the Bible find their way regularly in our common discourse.

Studying *works of modern importance* help us to learn to understand and engage our culture. Most of our students will attend secular universities and have to encounter texts that are sometimes openly and often subtly hostile to the Christian faith. The best way to learn to recognize and confront these ideas is with the help of a competent Christian teacher. Thus, particularly in the junior and senior years, our students read important contemporary works.

READABILITY

Reading selections should also be on an appropriate reading level. There are a number of readability measures that take into account various characteristics including grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and content. According to standardized measures, a large majority of our students read at least two grades above grade level. With few exceptions, required reading selections are no more than two grade levels above the grade the selections are assigned for. Sometimes books with a lower readability score are used when the content is important for a particular class. At other times, books with a readability score for a particular grade will not be used because of content deemed inappropriate for that grade. A good example is Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* which has a readability score around the 4th grade level when content is not taken into account. Content would make this book more appropriate for older students.

A number of resources exist to verify the appropriateness of reading selections for particular grade levels. These resources include readability rating programs like Accelerated Reader and widely used comprehensive programs like Core Knowledge, Mortimer Adler's *Paideia Proposal*, and various home school and classical school programs. The National Endowment for the Humanities surveyed public and private schools nationwide and published a list of the most commonly assigned reading selections for each grade level. The College Board Advanced Placement English reading list is also an important resource. We look at range of sources to make sure each selection has an appropriate level of challenge for the students.

OBJECTIONABLE CONTENT

Our students need to be prepared to engage our culture in redemptive ways. They need to be able to recognize and challenge ideas raised up against their faith (II Corinthians 10:4, 5). The best way to learn to confront these situations is to address them with a competent Christian teacher. We do have students in the upper grades read texts that may even be opposed to a Christian world-and-life view. But, still this does not mean any text would be open for our use in the classroom. The reading selection should not contain objectionable material that is present for no other purpose than for its own sake. Further, the material should not be excessively explicit. Generally, the teacher will be aware of any objectionable material before assigning the text, will have an explicit purpose and set of objectives for the text, and have a plan for helping students deal with any objectionable material. For these reasons, a book that may be appropriate for reading during the

school year may not be appropriate for summer reading.

THE BIG PICTURE

In addition to these considerations, we place reading assignments in the context of a big picture. The length and difficulty of reading assignments are weighed against the student's overall workload. For example, our outside reading requirements in social studies, science, and mathematics are spread over different quarters. Students need to work through books that are challenging because of their reading level, the issues raised in the content, and at times the length of the book. We also understand students should read for enjoyment as well. We choose some selections with this in mind and are currently working to incorporate more self-selection during the school year and especially during the summer.

Barry E. Shealy, Ph.D.
Assistant Headmaster
Curriculum & Faculty Development Director
First Presbyterian Day School
Macon, GA 31210

FPD HONOR CODE PLEDGE

I pledge to abide by the FPD Honor Code and, accordingly, not to lie, cheat or steal. I agree to do whatever possible to discourage lying, cheating and stealing around me. I pledge to maintain strict confidentiality about honor offenses. I pledge, "On my honor I have neither offered nor received help on this work, and I will not discuss this work with anyone."

SUMMER READING PLEDGE

I have chosen books for my self-selected reading that I have not read prior to May of this year and I will only ask to take an Accelerated Reader test on a book that I have read.

ACCELERATED READER TESTING

Media Center Computer Lab
(may be moved at times but signs should direct to new location)

10:00 am — 2:00 pm

Wednesdays June 11, 18, 25
 July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 August 6

Mondays August 4, 11

**ALL AR TESTING MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE
FIRST DAY OF CLASSES**

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5/7/2014