

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL**

# **Summer Reading**

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL  
2018**



## THE IMPORTANCE OF READING

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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 (e.g., read the AR selection in June). Each student in grades 6-12 will read **three books** (note Senior differences):

### ENGLISH CLASS SELECTION!!

#### 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. See pp. 5-7.

### FACULTY SELECTION!!

- **1 book** is selected from a list of faculty selections and will be read and discussed with a faculty member and a small group of fellow students in the Fall. See p. 32.

### ONE MORE!!

#### • GRADES 6-11!! AR SELECTION!!

**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.) MS pp. 9-21; HS pp. 22-30.

#### • GRADE 12!!

- **SENIORS** have **a second book** assigned by their English teacher and no AR selection. See p. 7.

**SENIORS ARE DIFFERENT**

LOOK

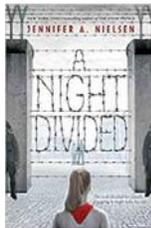


## ENGLISH COURSE REQUIRED BOOK

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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

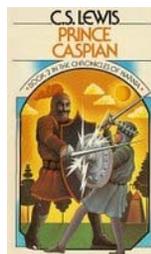


#### **Sixth Grade**

#### ***A Night Divided***

Nielson, Jennifer A.

Thriller about a girl who must escape to freedom after the Berlin Wall divides her family between east and west.

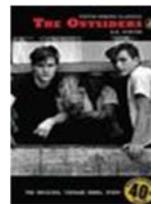


#### **Seventh Grade**

#### ***Prince Caspian***

Lewis, C. S.

The Pevensie siblings travel back to Narnia to help a prince denied his rightful throne as he gathers an army in a desperate attempt to rid his land of a false king. But in the end, it is a battle of honor between two men alone that will decide the fate of an entire world.



#### **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

#### *Fahrenheit 451*

Bradbury, Ray

A novel set in the future when "firemen" burn books forbidden by a totalitarian "brave new world" regime. The hero, according to Mr. Bradbury, is "a book burner who suddenly discovers that books are flesh-and-blood ideas and cry out silently when put to the torch."



### Ninth Grade Honors

#### *Anthem*

Rand, Ayn

A dystopian novella that takes place at some future date when mankind has entered a dark age characterized by irrationality, collectivism, and socialistic thinking. Technological advancement is now carefully planned and the concept of individuality has been eliminated.



### Tenth Grade

#### *The Pearl*

Steinbeck, John

Kino, a poor Mexican pearl-diver, believes he has received the answer to his prayers when he finds a great pearl worth a fortune, but tragedy soon follows.



### Tenth Grade Honors

#### *Lord of the Flies*

Golding, William

A story about a group of very ordinary boys marooned on a coral island. At first it seems as though it is great fun; but before long life on the island turns into a nightmare of panic and death. As ordinary standards of behavior collapse, the whole world the boys know collapses with them and a primitive and terrible world is revealed beneath.



### 11th Grade American Literature

#### *Solo*

Kwame Alexander

Blade Morrison has one parent who is dead, another who's a rock legend, a girlfriend who has to keep their relationship secret, and a sister who straddles the line between super annoying and somewhat supportive. He lives under a cloud of fame, excess, and celebrity that shelters and imprisons him and drives him to places he never imagined, including a little village in Ghana. — Common Sense Media

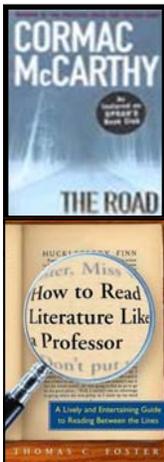


### 11th Grade AP Language & Composition

#### *The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids*

Alexandra Robbins

A journalist delivers a poignant, funny, riveting narrative that explores how our high-stakes educational culture has spiraled out of control, tackling hard-hitting issues such as the student and teacher cheating epidemic, over-testing, sports rage, and a cutthroat college admissions process. — Amazon



### 12th Grade British Literature

### 12th Grade AP 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 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 weekly dates to be announced. 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.*

#### **Why is \*\*\* not on the list?**

*While trying to give students options that fit their interests, we also need ease of accountability. So only books that have Accelerated Reader tests at an appropriate reading level are included.*

BOOK

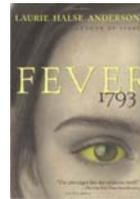
## MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST



### *Ashes*

Anderson, Laurie Halse

In 1932 Berlin, thirteen-year-old Gaby witnesses the beginning of Hitler's rise to power as soldiers become ubiquitous, her beloved teacher starts wearing a jeweled swastika pin, and the family's dear friend Albert Einstein leaves the country.



### *Fever 1793*

Anderson, Laurie Halse

In 1793 Philadelphia, fourteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.



### *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*

Angleberger, Tom

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether the puppet can really predict the future. Book #1



### *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.)**



### *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

Avi

As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.



***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.



***Soar***

Bauer, Joan

Moving to Hillcrest, Ohio, when his adoptive father accepts a temporary job, twelve-year-old Jeremiah, a heart transplant recipient, does what he can to help his new town get back into baseball.



***Book Scavenger***

Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss

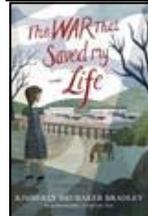
When 12-year-old Emily teams up with James to follow clues in an odd book, they hope to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold, come after them. The plot contains bullying. Book #1



***Tangerine***

Bloor, Edward

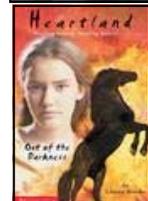
Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football-hero brother, fights for his right to play soccer despite his near-blindness.



***The War that Saved My Life***

Bradley, Kimberly

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. The plot contains violence, including descriptions of child abuse.

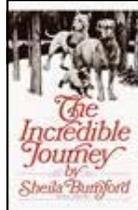


***Out of the Darkness***

Brooke, Lauren

Amy tries to help Gallant Prince, a horse that has been traumatized by a fire in its stable. Book #7

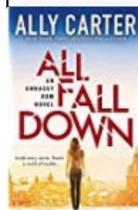
## MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST



### *The Incredible Journey*

Burnford, Sheila

Three house pets migrate through the wilderness to find their family.



### *All Fall Down*

Carter, Ally

Daredevil Army brat Grace, the granddaughter of the world's most powerful ambassador, returns to the Embassy Row of her childhood summers to solve the mystery of her mother's death. The plot contains violence.

Book #1 (**You may read any book in this series.**)



### *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 Goblin's Puzzle*

Chilton, Andrew

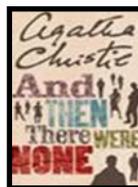
A boy, a goblin, a scholar, and a princess join forces to defeat a dragon, outwit a scheming duke, and solve a logic puzzle.



### *My Brother Sam is Dead*

Collier, James & Christopher

In this novel of the American Revolution, a young man is torn between his brother's patriotism and his father's Tory sympathies. The coauthor is Christopher Collier.



### *And Then There Were None*

Christie, Agatha

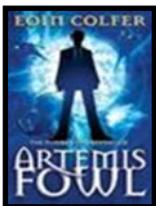
Ten strangers are gathered together on an isolated island by a mysterious host. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts, and one by one they die.



**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

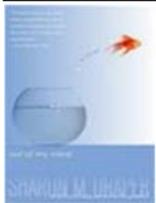
Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a brilliant criminal mastermind, but even he does not know what he has taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These fairies are armed and they are dangerous. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



**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 People of Sparks**

DuPrau, Jeanne

Picks up where *The City of Ember* leaves off. Lina and Doon have emerged from the underground city to the exciting new world above. Book #2 **(You may read any book in this series except *The City of Ember* which is read in sixth grade.)**

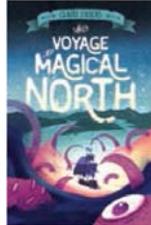


**The Black Stallion**

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 Voyage to the Magical North*

Fayers, Claire

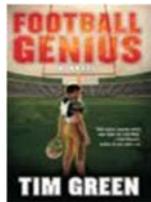
Twelve-year-old Brine Seaborne joins a pirate ship on a perilous adventure through ghost-infested storms and oceans filled with man-eating penguins, all to find the magical top of the world.



### *Storm Horse*

Garlick, Nick

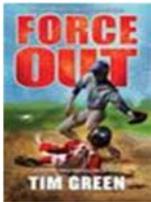
When his father dies, twelve-year-old Flip goes to live with his stern uncle on the remote Dutch island of Mossum, where he deals with bullies, befriends a mute girl, and rescues a horse from the sea.



### *Football Genius*

Green, Tim

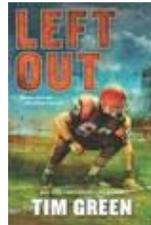
Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players. Book #1 ***(You may read any book in this series.)***



### *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.



### *Left Out*

Green, Tim

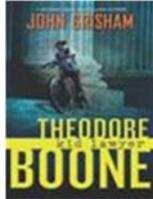
Landon has always wanted to be like everyone else, but speech problems and the cochlear implants that help him hear continue to stand in his way. An unlikely friend helps, but in the end, only Landon can fight his way off the bench and onto the field.



### *Baseball Genius*

Green, Tim & Derek Jeter

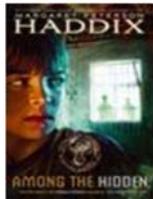
An average kid with an above average talent for predicting baseball pitches tries to help his favorite player out of a slump. The coauthor is Derek Jeter. Book #1



**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

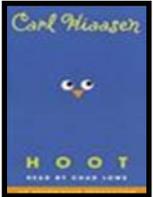
In a future where the law limits a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his 12 years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**



**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

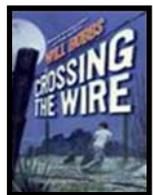
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.



**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.

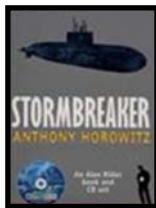
## MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST



### *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler*

Hoose, Phillip

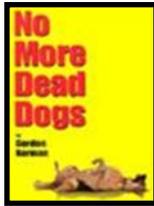
Ashamed by adult inaction in Denmark during the 1940 Nazi occupation, Knud Pedersen, his brother, and six other schoolmates began a resistance group that inspired the nation.



### *Stormbreaker*

Horowitz, Anthony

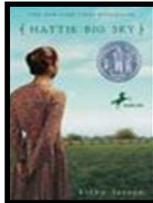
After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency. Book #1 **(You may read any of the books in this series.)**



### *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.



### *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

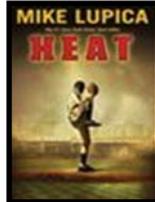
Mibs Beaumont's thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy," a magical power unique to each member of her family, just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. **(You may read any book in this series.)**



### *White Fang*

London, Jack

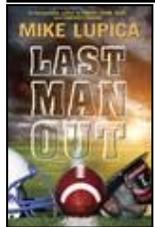
A story of a dog-wolf hybrid raised first as a wolf and later comes to know the world of dogs and human kindness. Written from the viewpoint of animals, the story provides a vivid account of the Klondike gold rush and Native American life.



**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.



**Last Man Out**

Lupica, Mike

Twelve-year-old Tommy Gallagher, the bravest and toughest football player on the field, faces his biggest battle ever when his father, a Boston firefighter, is fatally injured while rescuing a child.



**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.



**Rain Reign**

Martin, Ann

Struggling with OCD and Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares an inseparable bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, she is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels. The plot contains threats of violence.



**Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life**

Mass, Wendy

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box, set aside by his father before his death five years earlier, that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

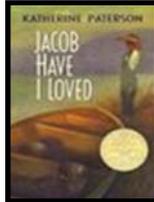


**Kangaroos and the Outback**

Morris, Gilbert

The four Kerrigan children, Duffy and her adopted siblings, who all come from different countries, accompany their father on a business trip to Australia, and encounter unexpected challenges in the Outback.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST



### *Jacob Have I Loved*

Paterson, Katherine

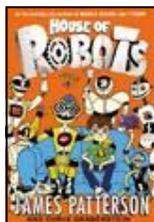
Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.



### *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment*

Patterson, James

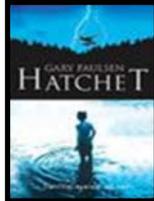
After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. The plot contains violence. Book #1 (**You may read any book in this series.**)



### *House of Robots: Robot Revolution*

Patterson, James

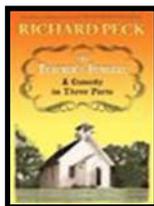
Fifth-grader Sammy Hayes-Rodriguez struggles to fit in when his inventor mother requires him to take her latest creation, a robotic "brother," to school with him to learn to become a student. The coauthor is Chris Grabenstein. Book #1 (**You may read any book in this series.**)



### *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

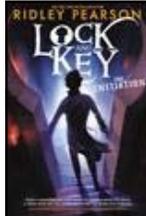
In rural Indiana, in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat-threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching of his one-room schoolhouse after mean old Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies."



### *Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark*

Pearson, Ridley

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



**Lock and Key: The Initiation**

Pearson, Ridley

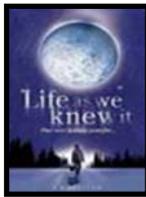
Two roommates are forced to work together to solve the mystery of a missing Bible at their elite boarding school. Hero and villain are united, twisting the plot of the story of Sherlock Holmes into a modern tale. Book #1



**Pax**

Pennypacker, Sara

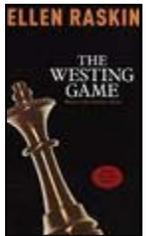
After being forced to give up his pet fox, Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back. The plot contains graphic violence.



**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.)**



**The Westing Game**

Raskin, Ellen

Sixteen game players, heirs to Sam Westing's fabulous fortune, are all suspected of his murder. This book is part mystery story, part play-along game, and part do-it-yourself puzzle.



**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.)**



**The Maze of Bones**

Riordan, Rick

Amy and Dan, members of the powerful Cahill family, try to uncover the thirty-nine clues which will reveal the secrets of their lineage and find out what really happened to their parents. Book #1 **(You may read any book in this series.)**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST



### *The Charlatan's Boy*

Rogers, Jonathan

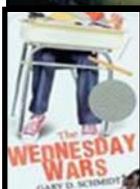
Grady knows nothing of his origins, he does not even have a last name. But as he and a huckster travel from one small frontier town to another, he poses as one of the wild, ugly swamp beasts called feechies.



### *The Eighth Day*

Salerni, Dianne

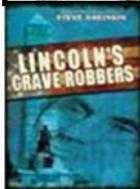
Orphan Jax Aubrey doesn't expect much on his thirteenth birthday, but when he discovers there's an extra day squeezed between Wednesday and Thursday whose origins are rooted in Arthurian legend, it's clear his life will never be the same. Book #1



### *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.



### *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 Shadow Club*

Shusterman, Neal

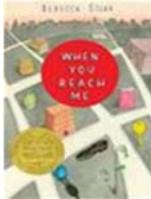
A high school boy and his friends decide to form a club of "second bests" and play anonymous tricks on each other's arch rivals. When the harmless pranks become life-threatening, however, no one in the club will admit responsibility. ***(You may read any book in this series.)***



### *Everland*

Spinale, Wendy

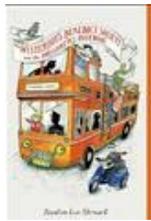
Scavenging in the streets of a London after the blitz bombings, Gwen Darling hunts for a sibling who has been snatched up by a cure-seeking Captain Hook and teams up with a mysterious boy, Pete, who is surviving in an underground city. ***(You may read any book in this series.)***



***When You Reach Me***

Stead, Rebecca

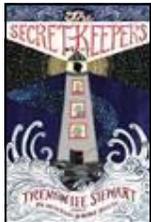
In 1979, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on the THE \$20,000 PYRAMID, a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.



***The Mysterious Benedict Society***

Stewart, Trenton Lee

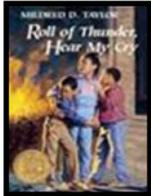
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where their mission is to stop the plan of the evil Ledroptia Curtain. Book #1 (***You may read any book in this series.***)



***The Secret Keepers***

Stewart, Trenton Lee

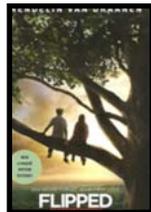
When eleven-year-old Reuben finds a peculiar, magical watch that has the power to turn its wearer invisible, he is propelled on the adventure of a lifetime.



***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

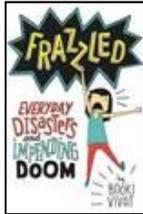
In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families.



***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.



***Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom***

Vivat, Booki

Abbie Wu is in middle-school crisis and not just because she's stuck in a family who doesn't quite get her.



***The Mysterious Howling***

Wood, Maryrose

Fifteen-year-old Penelope, a recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, is hired as governess to children who have been raised by wolves and must teach them to behave in a civilized manner in time for a Christmas ball. Book #1

## 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.



### *Chains*

Anderson, Laurie Halse

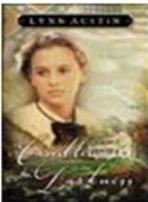
After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. The plot contains graphic descriptions of violence. Book #1 (**Or any book in the *Seeds of America* trilogy**)



### *Speak*

Anderson, Laurie Halse

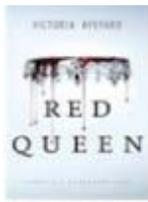
A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.



### *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.



### *The Red Queen*

Aveyard, Victoria

When her latent supernatural powers manifest in front of a noble court, Mare, a thief in a world split between Red commoners and silver superhumans, assumes the role of lost silver princess before risking everything to help a growing rebellion. Book #1



### *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Baldwin, James

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



**Shift**

Bradbury, Jennifer

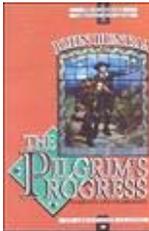
When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross-country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.



**Survivor's Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz**

Bornstein, Michael

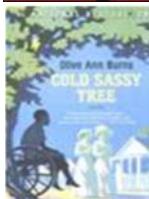
Michael Bornstein, who at age four was one of the youngest children to be liberated from Auschwitz, shares the incredible story of his life, his family, and his Polish village.



**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

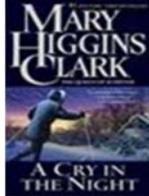
Grandpa Blakeslee marries a young milliner just three weeks after Granny Blakeslee has gone to her reward. Young Will is boggled by this act but becomes the newlyweds' conspirator and confidant; meanwhile he does some growing up on his own.



**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.

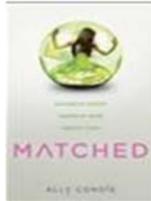


**A Cry in the Night**

Clark, Mary Higgins

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

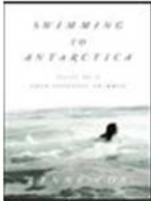
Grades 9-11 Only



**Matched**

Condie, Ally

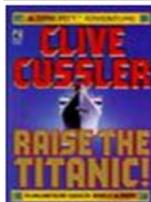
Cassia has always had complete trust in the Society to make decisions for her, but when she is being paired with her ideal mate, a second face flashes on the screen, and Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility. **(You may read any book in this series.)**



**Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long-Distance Swimmer**

Cox, Lynne

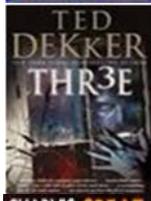
This book describes the accomplishments of the world's most extraordinary distance swimmer and the emotional and spiritual need to swim that drives her.



**Raise the Titanic!**

Cussler, Clive

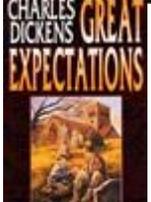
In a daring gamble Dirk Pitt locates the "Titanic" and suddenly his crew is in deadly jeopardy.



**Thr3e**

Dekker, Ted

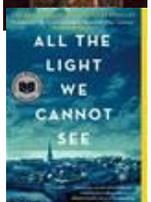
Kevin Parson is drawn into a violent game of cat and mouse when a mysterious voice on his cell phone demands he confess his sin or risk the destruction of his home, family, career, and possibly even the country.



**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.



**All the Light We Cannot See**

Doerr, Anthony

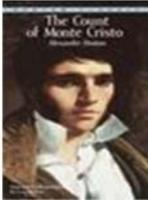
A blind French girl on the run from the German occupation and a German orphan-turned-Resistance tracker struggle with respective beliefs after meeting on the Brittany coast.



### ***The Hound of the Baskervilles***

Doyle, Arthur Conan

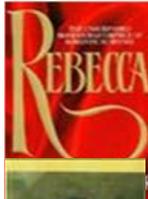
Late one night, Sir Charles Baskerville is attacked, possibly by the Hound of the Baskervilles, a legendary creature that haunts the nearby town, outside his castle in Dartmouth, England. Sherlock Holmes, the world's greatest detective, is on the case.



### ***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

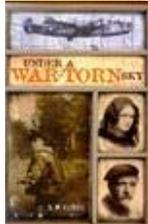
The second Mrs. Maxim de Winter finds it difficult and frightening to live in the shadow of her predecessor, a situation that is exacerbated by her husband's moodiness and the presence of sinister housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers.



### ***Silas Marner***

Eliot, George

A bitter man living alone with his hoard of gold learns about the power of love when his riches are stolen and a beautiful child is left on his doorstep.



### ***Under a War-Torn Sky***

Elliott, L. M.

After his plane is shot down by Hitler's Luftwaffe, nineteen-year-old Henry Forester of Richmond, Virginia, strives to walk across occupied France, with the help of the French Resistance, in hopes of rejoining his unit.



### ***The Outcasts***

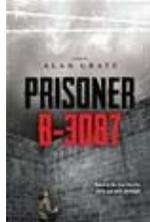
Flanagan, John

When the Skandian outcasts face off against the Wolves and the Sharks during training, they hope that their courage and cunning are enough to help them win the contest and find acceptance in Hallasholm. The plot contains violence. Book #1 ***(You may read any book in this series.)***

## HIGH SCHOOL LIST

Page 26

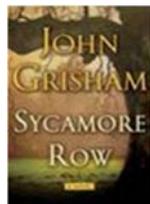
Grades 9-11 only



### ***Prisoner B-3087***

Gratz, Alan

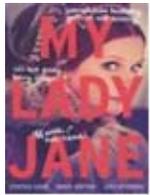
Based on the true story of Jack and Ruth Gruener, this book shares a story of survival from the Nazi occupation of Kraków through a series of concentration camps to the final liberation of Dachau. The text contains disturbing descriptions of violence.



### ***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.



### ***My Lady Jane***

Hand, Cynthia

Lady Jane Grey, age sixteen, is betrothed to a man who is sometimes a horse. Together, they try to save her cousin, King Edward, from those who wish him harm.



### ***The Lie Tree***

Hardinge, Frances

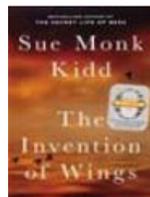
Fourteen-year-old Faith investigates the mysterious death of her father, who was involved in a scandal, and discovers a tree that feeds upon lies and gives those who eat its fruit visions of truth.



### ***Suite Scarlett***

Johnson, Maureen

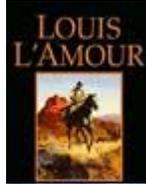
Fifteen-year-old Scarlett is stuck working at her quirky family's historic hotel in New York for the summer, but her brother's attractive new friend and a seasonal guest who offers her an intriguing and challenging writing project improve her outlook.



### ***The Invention of Wings\****

Kidd, Sue Monk

This story follows Hetty, a young slave, and Sarah, from a wealthy family, starting on Sarah's 11th birthday, when she is given ownership of Hetty, through the next 35 years of their lives. The plot contains sexual situations and graphic violence.



**The Man Called Noon**

L'Amour, Louis

Ruble Noon comes to the aid of Fan Davidge, whose ranch and gold mine have been stolen.



**The Sea-Wolf**

London, Jack

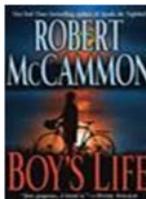
When Humphrey Van Weyden finds himself sailing to Japan aboard the "Ghost," he has to face weeks of brutality at the hands of Captain Wolf Larsen, until he decides to take desperate measures to save himself and the rest of the crew.



**Legend\***

Lu, Marie

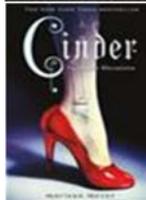
In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, 15-year-olds famous criminal Day and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover they have a common enemy. The plot contains graphic violence. Book #1



**Boy's Life**

McCammon, Robert R.

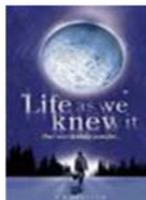
An eleven-year-old is plunged into a world of mystery and evil after he and his father witness the disposal of a murder victim on the outskirts of their idyllic Southern town.



**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.)**

## HIGH SCHOOL LIST

Grades 9-11 Only



### *Eragon*\*

Paolini, Christopher

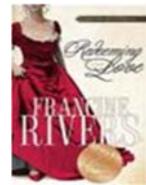
A 15-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon, finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. The plot contains profanity and violence. Book #1 (***You may read any book in this series.***)



### *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. Book #1 (***You may read any book in the series.***)



### *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.



### *Steelheart*\*

Sanderson, Brandon

At age eight, David's father was killed by an Epic, a human with superhuman powers, and now, ten years later, he joins the Reckoners, the only people who are trying to kill the Epics and end their tyranny. The plot contains graphic violence. Book #1



### *Salt to the Sea*\*

Sepetys, Ruta

As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.



### *The Alchemist*

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.

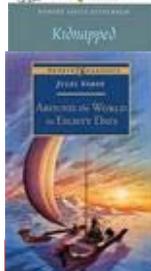
During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots. The plot contains mild profanity and drinking.



**Kidnapped**

Stevenson, Robert Louis

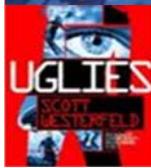
After he is kidnapped by his villainous uncle, a sixteen-year-old orphan escapes and becomes involved in the struggle of the Scottish Highlanders against English rule.



**Around the World in 80 Days**

Verne, Jules

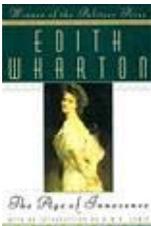
Phileas Fogg and his servant make a breathless world tour, overcoming wild misadventures and rescuing a beautiful Indian maharani.



**Uglies**

Westerfeld, Scott

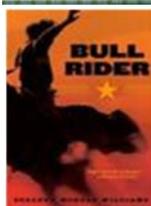
In Tally's world, reaching 16 brings an operation that turns you from ugly to pretty and Tally's almost there, but when her friend runs away, Tally learns about a new side of pretty world and must choose between betrayal and never turning pretty. Book #1 (**You may read any book in this series.**)



**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 contest in hopes of winning the \$15,000 prize and motivating his depressed brother.

## HIGH SCHOOL LIST

Grades 9-11 only



### *The Sweet Life of Stella Madison*

Zeises, Lara M.

Seventeen-year-old Stella struggles with the separation of her renowned chef parents and writes a food column for the local paper even though she is a junk food addict. She has a boyfriend but finds herself attracted to another boy.



### *Heroes of 9/11*

Zullo, Allan

Ten separate stories give accounts of the true American heroes who risked their lives in New York City, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001. The text respectfully shares some disturbing scenes from 9/11.



## **FACUTLY SELECTIONS**

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Each faculty and participating staff member has selected a book that they will read over the summer and prepare to discuss with a small group of students. Students will sign up for the selected faculty member's reading group in early May. **Students in grades 6-11 should select a book that they have not previously read and have at least two or three preferences as some groups may fill up.** Some books will show up on the faculty selections and the self-selection list. Students still must select a different book from each list. **Assessment will be based on evidence of careful reading of the text exhibited in small group discussion.**

**YOU SHOULD HAVE SIGNED UP  
FOR A BOOK THROUGH YOUR  
ENGLISH CLASS.**

**SEE THE UPPER SCHOOL  
OFFICE TO SIGN UP OR VERIFY  
YOUR CHOICE SHOULD YOU  
HAVE FORGOTTEN.**



## How are Reading Selections Made?

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From the time of the Reformation a great deal of emphasis has been placed on literacy for all people. The reformers believed that everyone should 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### **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**  
**(may be moved at times but signs should direct to new location)**

**Check for schedule and deadlines online.**

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