



Middle School
2021 Summer Reading

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FPD SUMMER READING 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.

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 6-8 will read **three (3) books**.

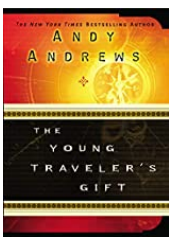
SIXTH GRADE: *Among the Hidden*, *The Young Traveler's Gift*, and a choice novel

SEVENTH GRADE: *My Name is Tani*, *The Young Traveler's Gift*, and a choice novel

EIGHTH GRADE: *The Outsiders*, *The Young Traveler's Gift*, and a choice novel

The first book is for English class. Students should read this book last. See page 5 for more information.

The second book is the MS common read. All rising 6th-8th students will read the book below and meet in lit circles after the beginning of the school year to discuss the book. No assignment is required for the common read. Students should read this book second (mid-summer).


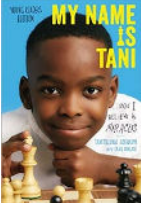



Michael Holder began his journey as the last young traveler to receive the unique gifts of wisdom offered by historical greats. Having been caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, he's given a second chance when he's offered a once-in-a-lifetime journey of discovery.

The third book is the choice book and it is recommended that students read this book first. See pages 6-7 for more information and the project directions. See 8-23 for the FPD list of books.

ENGLISH CLASS REQUIRED BOOK

The required book for each English class will be studied in class at the beginning of the school year. Each teacher will assess student comprehension with quiz, test, and/or a writing assignment.

	<p>Seventh Grade <i>Among the Hidden</i> Haddix, Margaret Peterson In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.</p>
	<p>Seventh Grade <i>My Name is Tani</i> Adewumi, Tanitoluwa Tani Adewumi won the 2019 New York State Chess Championship after playing the game for only a year. His family, fleeing Boko Haram's reign of terror in Nigeria, came to the United States and when Tani began attending school, he joined the chess program.</p>
	<p>Eighth Grade <i>The Outsiders</i> 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.</p>

CHOICE BOOK INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS

- Students in grades 6-8 select one book from the list which begins on page 7.
- Books must be *unabridged* versions.
- **Students should select a book that they have NOT read in the past.**
- **Note that some books are categorized by genre: Fantasy/Dystopian/Science Fiction, Historical Fiction, and Nonfiction. Parents should assist Middle School students with this list.**
- **Assessment:** Students demonstrate careful reading of the book by completing a project for the book. See page 7 for more information.

Why is ___ not on the list?

While trying to give students options that fit their interests and reading level, only books that have been rated by Accelerated Reader at an appropriate reading level are included.

Choice Project Directions

- Due the first day of school
- Students will create a **PowerPoint Presentation for their choice book.**
- Presentations will be presented the first week of school.
- Presentations will be submitted to the student's **Turnitin.com** account during the first week of school.

REQUIREMENTS:

- **SUMMARY** – Brief summary of the book (4-6 bullet points)
- **THEME** - What message is the author trying to tell you, the reader, about a certain topic?
(Ex. Friendship helps you keep going even through difficult times.)
- **MEMORABLE PASSAGE/EXCERPT** that relates to the **THEME**
(Minimum: two sentences /maximum: two paragraphs) Include an explanation as to why you chose this passage- Note: This passage will be read aloud during your presentation, so practice reading it aloud!
- **REVIEW OF THE BOOK** - What makes this book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not? Rate the book and tell why you gave it that rating.
- Include **INTERESTING VISUALS** (picture/image/graphic) that relate to your book.

EVALUATION:

- The projects will be evaluated by the English teacher to determine if the assignments **MEET THE REQUIREMENTS** or **DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS**.
- If the student does not meet requirements as determined by his or her English teacher, he or she will be given an alternate assignment by the Principal.


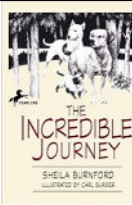




Your final product should be a **3-MINUTE PRESENTATION** that briefly summarizes the book (no spoilers), explains your discovery of the book's theme, reviews the book works as a whole, and an oral reading of your significant passage and how it relates to the theme.

(adapted from fishersislandenglish.weebly.com)

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOICE BOOK LIST






Note: Most book summaries are from either *Common Sense Media* or Amazon.


	<p><i>Booked</i> Alexander, Kwame Twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his friends and soccer teammates, and The Mac, a rapping librarian.</p>
	<p><i>Posted</i> Anderson, John David After cell phones are banned, a group of middle-school students decide to begin leaving sticky notes for each other. Soon the kids in school are leaving cutting and cruel notes, and nothing will ever be the same.</p>
	<p><i>Soar</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>The Thing About Jellyfish</i> Benjamin, Ali Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.</p>
	<p><i>Book Scavenger</i> 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 of the <i>Book Scavenger</i> series <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>

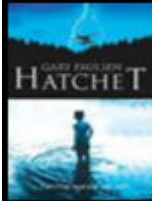

	<p><i>Coming Home</i> (First book in the <i>Heartland</i> series) Brooke, Lauren This powerful series follows Amy Fleming through the loss of her mother and her struggle to continue the work at Heartland-a refuge for abused and abandoned horses. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>The Incredible Journey</i> Burnford, Sheila Three house pets migrate through the Canadian wilderness to find their beloved master. The story depicts the arduous journey, together with the unwavering loyalty and courage of the three animals</p>
	<p><i>All Fall Down</i> 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. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>I'd Tell You I Love You, but Then I'd Have to Kill You</i> 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. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Out of My Mind</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>The Black Stallion</i> Farley, Walter The understanding and love between Alec Ramsay and a magnificent wild horse endure through shared adventures and dangers. Book #1 <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>

	<p><i>Storm Horse</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>Football Genius</i> 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 of the <i>Football Genius</i> series. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Force Out</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>Left Out</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>Baseball Genius</i> 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 <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>

	<p><i>Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer</i> 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 <i>(You may read any book in the series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>Hoot</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>The Summer I Saved the World in 65 Days</i> Hurwitz, Michele Weber It's summertime, and thirteen-year-old Nina Ross is feeling kind of lost so she decides to change things. She hatches a plan for the sixty-five days of summer to anonymously do one small but remarkable good thing for someone in her neighborhood</p>
	<p><i>Amina's Voice</i> Khan, Hena Amina, a Pakistani American Muslim girl, struggles to stay true to her family's culture while dealing with the vandalism of the local Islamic Center and mosque and her best friend Soojin's new friendship with their former nemesis.</p>
	<p><i>No More Dead Dogs</i> 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.</p>


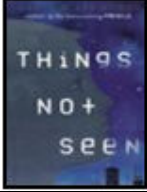
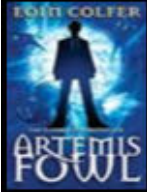


	<p><i>White Fang</i> London, Jack</p> <p>A story of a dog-wolf hybrid raised first as a wolf and later comes to know the world of dogs and human kindness. Written from the viewpoint of animals, the story provides a vivid account of the Klondike gold rush and Native American life.</p>
	<p><i>Heat</i> Lupica, Mike</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><i>Last Man Out</i> Lupica, Mike</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><i>Million-Dollar Throw</i> Lupica, Mike</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><i>Nowhere Boy</i> Marsh, Katherine</p> <p>Fourteen-year-old Ahmed is stuck in a city that wants nothing to do with him. Newly arrived in Brussels, Belgium, Ahmed fled a life of uncertainty and suffering in Aleppo, Syria, only to lose his father on the perilous journey to the shores of Europe.</p>

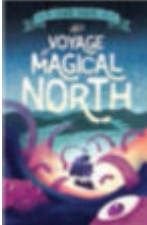


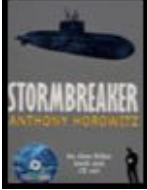
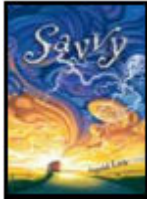

	<p><i>Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life</i> Mass, Wendy Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box, set aside by his father before his death five years earlier, that purportedly contains the meaning of life.</p>
	<p><i>The Exact Location of Home</i> Messner, Kate Believing his long-absent father is missing and leaving behind clues in geocaches, 13-year-old Zig relies on his love of electronics, a garage-sale GPS unit, and his best friends to search for answers.</p>
	<p><i>In the Shadow of the Sun</i> O'Brien, Anne Sibley A sister and brother go on the run with explosive forbidden photographs in this gripping and timely survival adventure set in North Korea, the most repressive country on Earth. Not the best place for a family vacation.</p>
	<p><i>Auggie & Me – Three Wonder Stories</i> Palacio, R. J. If you read <i>Wonder</i>, you will want to read these companion stories for an extra peek at Auggie before he started at Beecher Prep. The three stories are told through the eyes of Julian, the bully; Christopher, Auggie's oldest friend; and Charlotte, Auggie's new friend at school.</p>
	<p><i>Jacob Have I Loved</i> 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.</p>

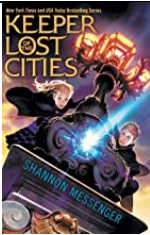

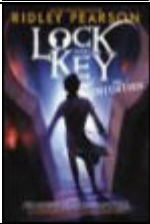


	<p>Ali Cross Patterson, James Ali Cross has always looked up to his father, former detective and FBI agent Alex Cross. While solving some of the nation's most challenging crimes, his father always kept his head and did the right thing. Can Ali have the same strength and resolve?</p>
	<p>Hatchet Paulsen, 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.</p>
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Ghost Reynolds, Jason Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle-school track team, but his past is slowing him down. The plot contains violence and drug dealing. Book #1 of <i>Tracks</i> series. (You may read any book in this series.)</p>
	<p>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.)</p>

	<p><i>Pay Attention, Mr. Carter</i> Schmidt, Gary D. Carter Jones is astonished early one morning when he finds a real English butler on the doorstep—one who stays to help the family. In addition to figuring out middle school, Carter has to adjust to the unwelcome presence of this new know-it-all adult in his life.</p>
	<p><i>Flipped</i> Van Draanen, Wendelin In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families.</p>
	<p><i>The Running Dream</i> Van Draanen, Wendelin Jessica loses her leg in a car accident. When she is told that she'll never run again, she puts herself back together—and learns to dream bigger than ever before.</p>
	<p><i>Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>The Mysterious Howling</i> 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. Book #1 <i>(You may choose any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Class Dismissed</i> Woodrow, Allan Class 507 is teacher-free! The class figures if they don't tell anyone, it'll be one big holiday! But can the students keep everyone from finding out ... or will the greatest school year ever turn into the worst disaster in school history?</p>

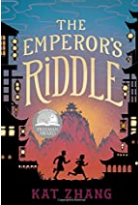
FANTASY/DYSTOPIAN/SCIENCE FICTION

	<p><i>The Goblin's Puzzle</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>Things Not Seen</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>Artemis Fowl</i> 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. Book #1 <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>The People of Sparks</i> DuPrau, Jeanne Picks up where <i>The City of Ember</i> leaves off. Lina and Doon have emerged from the underground city to the exciting new world above. Book #2 <i>(You may read any book in this series except The City of Ember which is read in sixth grade.)</i></p>
	<p><i>The Prisoner of Cell 25</i> Evans, Richard Paul Fourteen-year-old Michael discovers he has special electrical powers and, with the help of his best friends, becomes aware that there are other teens with similar powers, but something or someone is hunting them. Book #1 of the <i>Michael Vey</i> series. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>

	<p><i>The Voyage to the Magical North</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>The List</i> Forde, Patricia <i>What if you were only allowed to speak 500 words?</i> The leader of Ark, the last safe place on Earth, decrees everyone must speak List, a language of only 500 words. Everyone must speak List ... everyone except Letta, the new Wordsmith,</p>
	<p><i>The Fourteenth Goldfish</i> Holm, Jennifer Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging and consequently has turned into a teenager, which makes for complicated relationships when her grandfather moves in with Ellie and her mother, Grandpa's daughter.</p>
	<p><i>Stormbreaker</i> 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 <i>(You may read any of the books in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Savvy</i> 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. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>The Unwanteds</i> McMann, Lisa Thirteen-year-old Alex tries his hardest to be stoic when his fate is announced as Unwanted, even while leaving behind his twin, Aaron, a Wanted. As Alex and Aaron's bond stretches across their separation, a threat arises resulting in an ultimate, magical battle. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>


	<p><i>Keeper of the Lost Cities</i> Shannon Messenger At age twelve, Sophie learns that the remarkable abilities that have always caused her to stand out identify her as an elf and that she has secrets buried in her memory for which some would kill. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark</i> 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 <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Lock and Key: The Initiation</i> 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 <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Story Thieves</i> James Riley Owen’s life is boring until he sees his classmate Bethany climb out of a book in the library and he learns that she is half-fictional and has been searching every book she can find for her missing father, a fictional character. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Shadow Cipher</i> Ruby, Laura Three kids try to solve the greatest mystery of the modern world: a puzzle and treasure hunt laid into the very streets and buildings of New York City. Book #1 of the <i>York</i> series. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>

	<p><i>The Legend of Greg</i> Rylander, Chris Risk-averse Greg Belmont is content with being ordinary. He's got a friend--that's right, just one--at his fancy prep school, and a pretty cool dad. The problem is, Greg isn't ordinary . . . he's actually an honest-to-goodness, fantastical Dwarf! <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>The Shadow Club</i> 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. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>Everland</i> 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 Pete, mysterious survivor. <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>The Mysterious Benedict Society</i> 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 Ledroptha Curtain. Book #1 <i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></p>
	<p><i>The Secret Keepers</i> 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.</p>

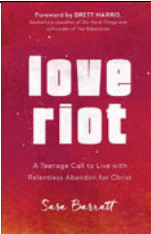
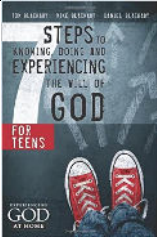

	<p><i>The Emperor's Riddle</i> Zhang, Kat When Mia Chen embarks on a hunt for a long-lost treasure while on a summer trip to China, she is not sure what to make of this Grand Adventure. Although Mia didn't want to leave her friends, she is excited about the prospect of exploring.</p>
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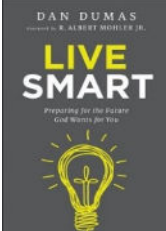
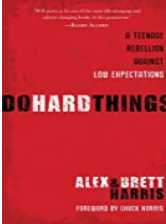

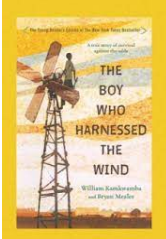
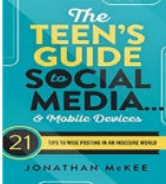
HISTORICAL FICTION



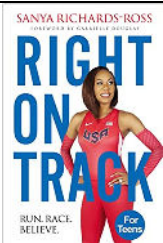


	<p><i>The War that Saved My Life</i> Bradley, Kimberly A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. The plot contains violence.</p>
	<p><i>My Brother Sam is Dead</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler</i> 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.</p>
	<p><i>Lincoln's Grave Robbers</i> 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.</p>

	<p><i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> Taylor, Mildred D. Warmth, humor and hard times prevail as a black family struggles to maintain dignity and independence in Depression-era Mississippi.</p>
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NON-FICTION SELECTIONS

	<p><i>Love Riot: A Teenage Call to Live with Relentless Abandon for Christ</i> Barratt, Sara Teen author Sara Barratt calls on her generation to reject apathy and embrace a daring, costly faith. Not content with safe religion that demands nothing of us, Sara shows teens how they can stop giving in to the status quo and devote themselves fully to Christ.</p>
	<p><i>Seven Steps to Knowing, Doing and Experiencing the Will of God for Teens</i> Blackaby, Tom <i>Seven Steps to Knowing and Doing the Will of God for Teens</i> provides students with relevant spiritual direction as they move toward adulthood. The authors utilize fun formatting with cartoon illustrations, jokes, real-life stories, and graphically engaging treatments.</p>
	<p><i>First and Goal</i> Byrne, Jake Jake Byrne dreamed of playing professional football. He had the size, the talent, the drive...but at age 14, he found out he also had type 1 diabetes. Still, Jake was determined to reach his goal. These quick daily readings will help you press through your own difficulties and experience God's dream for you.</p>

	<p><i>Live Smart: Preparing for the Future God Wants for You</i> Dumas, Dan</p> <p>This book presents practical tools and biblical advice to middle school and high school-aged readers who want their lives matter. Topics include friendships and relationships with God.</p>
	<p><i>Do Hard Things</i> Harris, Alex and Brett Harris</p> <p>Most people don't expect you to understand what we're going to tell you in this book. And even if you understand, they don't expect you to care. And even if you care, they don't expect you to do anything about it. And even if you do something about it, they don't expect it to last. We do. Alex and Brett</p>
	<p><i>Reaching for the Mean</i> Johnson, Katherine</p> <p>As a young girl, Katherine Johnson showed an exceptional aptitude for math. In this lively autobiography of a NASA mathematician, Katherine tells her story of the daily challenges she faced as an African American and a female in the 1950s.</p>
	<p><i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> Kamkwamba, William</p> <p>Because of a terrible drought in Malawi, William's family is left with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William decides to build a windmill made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, bringing electricity to his home and helping his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.</p>
	<p><i>The Teen's Guide to Social Media</i> McKee, Jonathan</p> <p>This book will help you navigate the digital world with 21 refreshingly honest and humorous tips that will not only inform, but that also just might change the way you think about your social media interaction.</p>

	<p><i>The Guy's Guide to God, Girls, and the Phone in Your Pocket</i> McKee, Jonathan</p> <p><i>The Guy's Guide</i> will encourage your faith, challenge you spiritually, and give you real-life advice how to live out your faith in today's highly secularized culture, with distractions lurking around every corner. . .and just a click away.</p>
	<p><i>Live</i> Robertson, Sadie</p> <p>Bestselling author and popular social media presence Sadie Robertson addresses life's weightiest matters and choices in fun, practical, and biblical ways and leads readers to engage with God's truth and light in a world that is growing more and more confusing.</p>
	<p><i>Right on Track: Run, Race, Believe</i> Richards-Ross, Sanya</p> <p>Track and field champion Sanya Richards-Ross knows what it takes to achieve the impossible. This book is filled with hands-on success strategies and personal anecdotes and contains chapters that discuss setting goals, staying focused on the finish line, and being true to yourself.</p>
	<p><i>No Such Thing as Can't</i> Sexton, Tyler</p> <p>There are many books about overcoming obstacles, but this quintessential story of victory over limitations is unique. How many doctors have cerebral palsy? Not many. Yet because of this disability, Tyler Sexton has become a role model for others facing adversity.</p>
	<p><i>Bee Fearless - Dream Like a Kid</i> Ulmer, Mikaila</p> <p>Mikaila Ulmer, fifteen-year entrepreneur and one of <i>Time</i>' magazine's Top 30 Most Influential Teens, started by selling cups of lemonade in front of her house and now she sells her lemonade across the country. She shares her personal journey and offers helpful tips and guidance for young readers interested in pursuing their own ventures.</p>

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 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, etc. 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. However, 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 Page 37 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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL

5671 Calvin Drive
Macon, GA 31210

Phone: 478-477-6505

www.fpdmacon.org

5/7/21