

# **FPD MIDDLE SCHOOL 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.

## Contents

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING.....	1
SUMMER READING OVERVIEW.....	3
ENGLISH CLASS REQUIRED BOOK.....	4
SELF-SELECTED READING .....	5
MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST.....	6
SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS .....	18
SELF-SELECTED READING PROJECTS.....	22
HOW DO WE MAKE READING SELECTIONS.....	23

## 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 one of the required self-selections in June). Each student in grades 6-8 will read three (3) books.

### THREE BOOKS!!

#### ENGLISH CLASS SELECTION

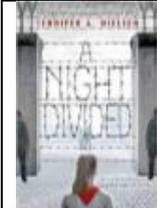
One (1) book is required by their upcoming ENGLISH CLASS and is assessed as the teacher sees fit in class near the beginning of school and this should be the last book the student reads for summer reading. See page 4.

#### REQUIRED SELF SELECTIONS FROM THE FPD LIST

Two (2) books are to be selected from the middle school required lists which begins on page 6. Note that there are two lists from which you may choose from – you may choose a book or books from the SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS list but you do not have to. This year, students will create a project for both books. See page 22 for more information. Ideally, students should read one book in June and one book in July.

## 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 the students' comprehension of the book near the beginning of school. Assessments may include a quiz, test, or short paper.

	<p><b>Sixth Grade</b>  <i>A Night Divided</i>          Nielson, Jennifer A.          Thriller about a girl who must escape to freedom after the Berlin Wall divides her family between east and west.</p>
	<p><b>Seventh Grade</b>  <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><b>Eighth Grade</b>  <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>

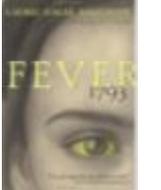
## REQUIRED SELF-SELECTED READING INSTRUCTIONS

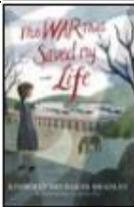
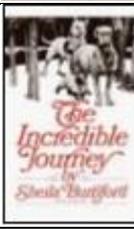
- Students in grades 6-8 select two (2) books from the list which begins on page 6.
- Books must be *unabridged* versions.
- **Students should select a book that they have NOT read in the past.**
- **Any student may select a book or books from the SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS LIST (which begins on p. 18) as one of the required self-selected books. Parents should assist Middle School students with this list.**
- **Assessment:** Students demonstrate careful reading of these two books by completing two projects – one for each book. See page 22 for more information.

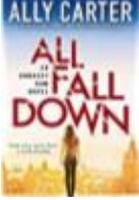
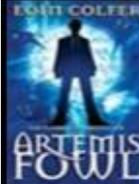
**Why is \_\_\_ not on the list?**

*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.*

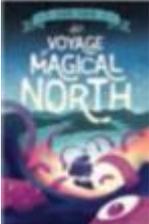
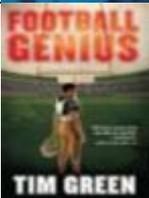
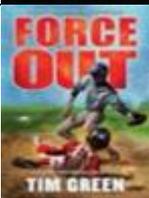
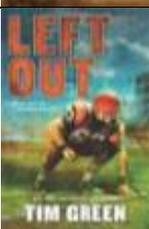
## MIDDLE SCHOOL LIST

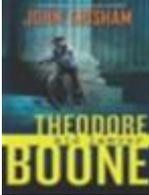
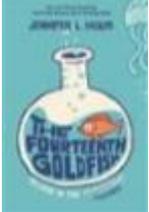
	<p><b><i>Booked</i></b> Alexander, Kwame Twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his friends and soccer teammates, and The Mac, a rapping librarian.</p>
	<p><b><i>Ashes</i></b> 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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Fever 1793</i></b> 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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Posted</i></b> 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><b><i>Soar</i></b> 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>

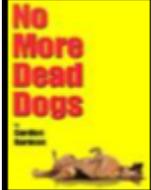
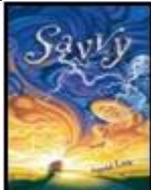
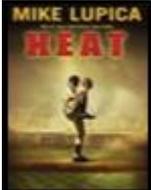
	<p><b><i>The Thing About Jellyfish</i></b> Benjamin, Ali Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.</p>
	<p><b><i>Book Scavenger</i></b> (or others in this series) 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</p>
	<p><b><i>Tangerine</i></b> Bloor, Edward Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football-hero brother, fights for his right to play soccer despite his near-blindness.</p>
	<p><b><i>The War that Saved My Life</i></b> 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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Out of the Darkness</i></b> (or others of the <i>Heartland</i> series) Brooke, Lauren Amy tries to help Gallant Prince, a horse that has been traumatized by a fire in its stable. Book #7 of the <i>Heartland</i> series.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Incredible Journey</i></b> Burnford, Sheila Three house pets migrate through the wilderness to find their family.</p>

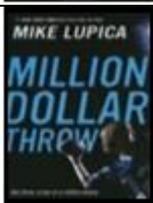
	<p><b>All Fall Down</b> Carter, Ally Daredevil Army brat Grace, the granddaughter of the world's most powerful ambassador, returns to the Embassy Row of her childhood summers to solve the mystery of her mother's death. The plot contains violence. Book #1 (<b><i>You may read any book in this series.</i></b>)</p>
	<p><b>I'd Tell You I Love You, but Then I'd Have to Kill You</b> 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 (<b><i>You may read any book in this series.</i></b>)</p>
	<p><b>The Goblin's Puzzle</b> 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><b>My Brother Sam is Dead</b> Collier, James &amp; 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.</p>
	<p><b>Things Not Seen</b> 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><b>Artemis Fowl</b> 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</p>

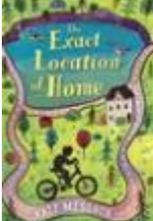
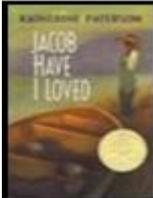
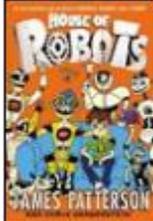
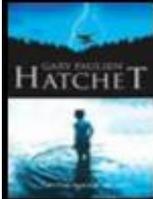
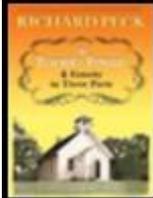
	are dangerous. Book #1 ( <b><i>You may read any book in this series.</i></b> )
	<b><i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963</i></b> Curtis, Christopher Paul The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they visit Grandma Sands in Alabama in the summer of 1963.
	<b><i>Out of My Mind</i></b> 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.
	<b><i>The People of Sparks</i></b> 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 ( <b><i>You may read any book in this series except The City of Ember which is read in sixth grade.</i></b> )
	<b><i>The Prisoner of Cell 25</i></b> (or others of this series) 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.
	<b><i>The Black Stallion</i></b> Farley, Walter The understanding and love between Alec Ramsay and a magnificent wild horse endure through shared adventures and dangers. Book #1 ( <b><i>You may read any book in this series.</i></b> )

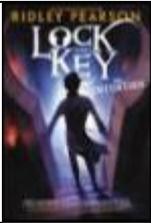
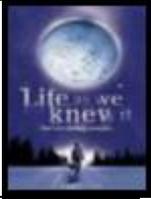
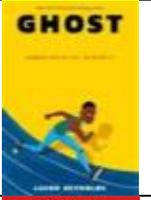
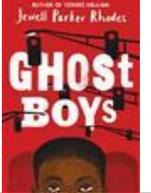
	<p><b><i>The Voyage to the Magical North</i></b>  Fayers, Claire  Twelve-year-old Brine Seaborne joins a pirate ship on a perilous adventure through ghost-infested storms and oceans filled with man-eating penguins, all to find the magical top of the world.</p>
	<p><b><i>Storm Horse</i></b>  Garlick, 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><b><i>Football Genius</i></b> (or others in this series)  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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Force Out</i></b>  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><b><i>Left Out</i></b>  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>

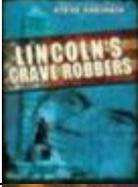
	<p><b>Baseball Genius</b> (or others in this series) Green, Tim &amp; Derek Jeter An average kid with an above average talent for predicting baseball pitches tries to help his favorite player out of a slump. The coauthor is Derek Jeter. Book #1 of the <i>Baseball Genius</i> series.</p>
	<p><b>Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer</b> 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 (<b>You may read any book in the series.</b>)</p>
	<p><b>Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story</b> 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><b>Hoot</b> 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><b>The Fourteenth Goldfish</b> 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><b>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler</b> 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>

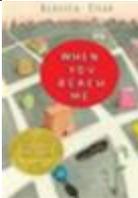
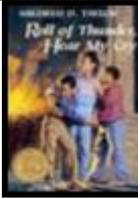
	<p><b><i>Stormbreaker</i></b>  Horowitz, Anthony  After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency. Book #1 <b><i>(You may read any of the books in this series.)</i></b></p>
	<p><b><i>Amina's Voice</i></b>  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><b><i>No More Dead Dogs</i></b>  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><b><i>Savvy</i></b>  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. <b><i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></b></p>
	<p><b><i>White Fang</i></b>  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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Heat</i></b>  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.</p>

	<p><b><i>Last Man Out</i></b> 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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Million-Dollar Throw</i></b> 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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Rain Reign</i></b> 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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life</i></b> 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>Dragon Captives (or others in this series) McMann, Lisa Magical twins Fifer and Thisbe Stowe have spent their entire lives wishing for an adventure. When a dragon shows up claiming that his family is being kept as slaves in their homeland, the twins sneak off to the land of the dragons to help them. Book #1</p>

	<p><b><i>The Exact Location of Home</i></b>  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><b><i>Jacob Have I Loved</i></b>  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><b><i>House of Robots: Robot Revolution</i></b>  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 (<b><i>You may read any book in this series.</i></b>)</p>
	<p><b><i>Hatchet</i></b>  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.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts</i></b>  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."</p>
	<p><b><i>Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark</i></b>  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 (<b><i>You may read any book in this series.</i></b>)</p>

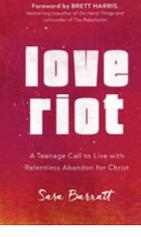
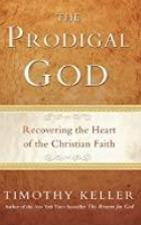
	<p><b><i>Lock and Key: The Initiation</i></b>          Pearson, Ridley          Two roommates are forced to work together to solve the mystery of a missing Bible at their elite boarding school. Hero and villain are united, twisting the plot of the story of Sherlock Holmes into a modern tale. Book #1</p>
	<p><b><i>Pax</i></b>          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><b><i>Life as We Knew It</i></b>          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 <b>(You may read any book in this series.)</b></p>
	<p><b><i>The Westing Game</i></b>          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><b><i>Ghost</i></b> (or others in this series)          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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Ghost Boys</i></b>          Rhodes, Jewell Parker          After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys, including historical figure Emmett Till. The plot contains violence.</p>

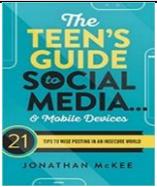
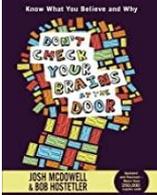
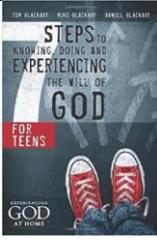
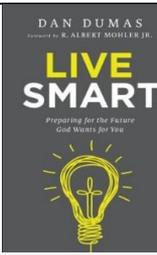
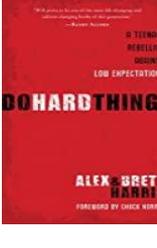
	<p><b><i>The Maze of Bones</i></b>          Riordan, Rick          Amy and Dan, members of the powerful Cahill family, try to uncover the thirty-nine clues which will reveal the secrets of their lineage and find out what really happened to their parents. Book #1 <b><i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></b></p>
	<p><b><i>Shadow Cipher</i></b> (or others in this series)          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.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Eighth Day</i></b>          Salerno, 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</p>
	<p><b><i>The Wednesday Wars</i></b>          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.</p>
	<p><b><i>Lincoln's Grave Robbers</i></b>          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><b><i>The Shadow Club</i></b>          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. <b><i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></b></p>

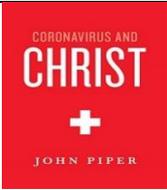
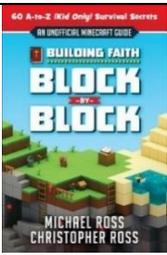
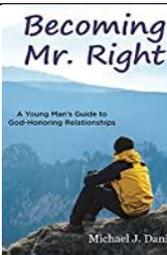
	<p><b><i>Everland</i></b>          Spinale, Wendy          Scavenging in the streets of a London after the blitz bombings, Gwen Darling hunts for a sibling who has been snatched up by a cure-seeking Captain Hook and teams up with a mysterious boy, Pete, who is surviving in an underground city. <b><i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></b></p>
	<p><b><i>When You Reach Me</i></b>          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.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Mysterious Benedict Society</i></b>          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 <b><i>(You may read any book in this series.)</i></b></p>
	<p><b><i>The Secret Keepers</i></b>          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><b><i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i></b>          Taylor, Mildred D.          Warmth, humor and hard times prevail as a black family struggles to maintain dignity and independence in Depression-era Mississippi.</p>
	<p><b><i>Flipped</i></b>          Van Draanen, Wendelin          In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families.</p>

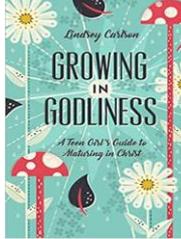
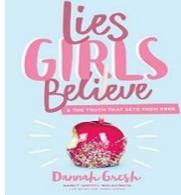
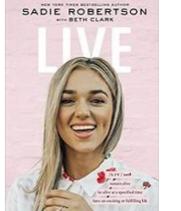
	<p><b><i>Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom</i></b>  Vivat, Booki  Abbie Wu is in middle-school crisis and not just because she's stuck in a family who doesn't quite get her.</p>
	<p><b><i>Leviathan</i></b> (or others from this series)  Westerfield, Scott  In an alternate 1914 Europe, 15-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, running from the Clanker Powers who are trying to take over the globe, forms an alliance with Deryn, who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly. Book #1</p>
	<p><b><i>The Mysterious Howling</i></b>  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</p>

## SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS

	<p><b><i>Love Riot: A Teenage Call to Live with Relentless Abandon for Christ</i></b>  by Sara Barratt  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><b><i>The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith</i></b>  by Timothy Keller  Two sons, one who kept the rules religiously and one who broke them all. One Father who loved both lost sons beyond anything they could imagine. Discover how deep and far God's grace goes.</p>

	<p><b><i>The Teen's Guide to Social Media</i></b> by Jonathan McKee</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><b><i>Don't Check Your Brains at the Door</i></b> by Josh McDowell</p> <p>Teens will be better equipped to stick with their faith as they begin to understand why they believe. The book includes answers that make sense for the toughest of questions.</p>
	<p><b><i>Seven Steps to Knowing, Doing and Experiencing the Will of God for Teens</i></b> by Tom Blackaby</p> <p><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><b><i>Live Smart: Preparing for the Future God Wants for You</i></b> by Dan Dumas</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 making the right friendships, how to think about education and how to invest in their relationships with God.</p>
	<p><b><i>Do Hard Things</i></b> by Alex Harris 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><b><i>Coronavirus and Christ</i></b>  by John Piper  What is God doing through the coronavirus? Piper offers six biblical answers to that question, showing us that God is at work in this moment in history.</p>
	<p><b><i>Building Faith Block by Block Minecraft</i></b>  by Michael Ross  Decisions, decisions. In both the virtual world and the real world, you have to make a bunch of choices. Mess up in the virtual world of Minecraft and you can always start over. But in the real world, it's not that simple. Join gamer Dragee90 as he shares daily devotions packed with secrets to success.</p>
	<p><b><i>First and Goal</i></b>  by Jake Byrne  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><b><i>Becoming Mr. Right</i></b>  By Michael Daniels  This book provides a clear roadmap for young men as they pursue God-honoring relationships. Learn how to apply Scripture to the important issues in life.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Guy's Guide to God, Girls, and the Phone in Your Pocket</i></b>  by Jonathan McKee  <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><b><i>Choosing Love in a Broken World</i></b>  <b>By Heidi Johnston</b>  This is a book about love. It's about how you choose to love and who you choose to love, but most of all it's about the God who first chose to love you and the ways his incredible love can shape our own relationships.</p>
	<p><b><i>Growing in Godliness: A Teen Girl's Guide to Maturing in Christ</i></b>  <b>By Lindsey Carlson</b>  Your teen years matter. Of all the ways you're learning and changing during the busy teenage years, your growth in Christ is the most important. God intends to use your teen years as a launching pad into a lifelong pursuit of looking more like Jesus.</p>
	<p><b><i>Lies Girls Believe</i></b>  <b>By Dannah Gresh</b>  Today's girls face a number of challenges, from skyrocketing anxiety rates to bullying on social media. This fun, easy-to-read book shares twenty important truths, helps solve problems using fun sidebars, and is packed with wisdom, quizzes, games, exploded quotes, and graphics.</p>
	<p><b><i>Live</i></b>  <b>By Sadie Robertson</b>  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><b><i>No Such as Can't</i></b>  <b>By Tyler Sexton</b>  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>

## Required Self Selected Projects

### Assignment:

- Students will create a **PowerPoint Presentation for each Self-Selected 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.

### Presentation Requirements:

- **SUMMARY** – Brief summary of the book (5-8 sentences).
- **THEMATIC STATEMENT** found in the book—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.)
- **A FAVORITE PASSAGE/EXCERPT** that relates to the **THEME** you found in the book (minimum: two sentences /maximum: two paragraphs) and 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** you have read. What makes this book worth reading? Would you recommend this book to your friends? Why or why not?
- Include **INTERESTING VISUALS** that relate to your book.

Your final product should be a **3-MINUTE PRESENTATION** that succinctly explains your discovery of the book's thematic statement, how the book works as a whole (review), and a reading of your favorite passage and how it relates to the thematic statement.

(adapted from fishersislandenglish.weebly.com)

**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.

## **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.