

REQUIRED NOTRE DAME HS SUMMER 2009 READING LIST

This summer's expected reading assignment has expanded beyond the English Department to include Social Studies and Theology Department offerings. These selections have been chosen by the faculty to offer a diversity of literature and situations. **All students should come to school having completed their grade level assignment.** Assessments will be administered in each academic area in the fall. Reading continues to be the key to preparation and improvement on the SAT verbal section.

FRESHMEN (CLASS OF 2013)

† **Freak the Mighty** by Rodman Philbrick (Theology)
A wonderful story of triumph over imperfection, shame and loss.

****The Pearl** by John Steinbeck (English)
Kino, a poor Mexican pearl fisher, finds a valuable pearl. Yet instead of bringing blessings, the pearl acts as a harbinger of misfortune to Kino and his wife, Juana.

****A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier** by Ishmael Beah (Global Studies 9)
Children have become the soldiers of choice; over 300,000 in the more than 50 violent conflicts worldwide. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them.

SOPHOMORES (CLASS OF 2012)

+**@Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt** by Anne Rice (Theology)
Based on New Testament scholarship and the gospels, this superbly written story about a seven year old Jesus and his family as they return to Nazareth from Egypt makes you feel you are right in 1st century Palestine.

+****To Kill A Mockingbird** by Harper Lee (English)
To Kill a Mockingbird, published in 1960, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961. The novel is a coming of age story about a sister and a brother who are growing up in the fictional small town, in the Deep South of America in the 1930s.

† ****All Quiet on the Western Front** by Erich Maria Remarque (Global Studies 10)
Incinerated by the Nazis in 1933, this famous war novel depicts the horror of the front with deliberately brutal realism.

JUNIORS (CLASS OF 2011)

+****The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) (English)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is Mark Twain's masterpiece. The book is humorous and the author shines a revealing light on traditions that the South still followed at the time of its publication, which was after the Civil War. Huckleberry Finn is the main character and narrator, who is writing his story. Through him, the reader judges society on its faults and strengths.

+****Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom (Theology)

Inspirational beyond words, author Mitch Albom chronicles the life affirming wisdom of former Brandeis University Professor Morrie Schwartz as he battles the fatal illness amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

AP Literature and Composition [AP English]

+****How To Read Literature Like A College Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines** by Thomas C. Foster

Foster tackles literature from a symbolic metaphorical side, delving into myths, symbols, and the connectedness of all literature. In a lively and entertaining manner he shows the reader how to draw parallels between texts and explores poetic metaphors effectively.

+****The Catcher in the Rye** by J.D. Salinger

A teenage boy's personal narrative surrounding a four day attempt to escape the phoniness of the world. The entire book is a flashback filled with digressions, anecdotes, and asides that reveal Holden Caulfield's character.

****Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen

First published in 1813, *Pride and Prejudice* has consistently been Jane Austen's most popular novel. It portrays life in the genteel rural society of the day, and tells of the initial misunderstandings and later mutual enlightenment between Elizabeth Bennet (whose liveliness and quick wit have often attracted readers) and the haughty Darcy. The title *Pride and Prejudice* refers (among other things) to the ways in which Elizabeth and Darcy first view each other.

SENIORS (CLASS OF 2010)

Theology 12

@Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana by Anne Rice

It's a winter of no rain, endless dust, and talk of trouble in Judea. All who know and love Jesus find themselves waiting for some sign of the path he will eventually take. After his baptism, he is at last ready to confront his destiny. At the wedding at Cana, he takes water and transforms it into red wine. Thus, he's recognized as the anointed one and called by God the Father to begin a ministry that will transform an unsuspecting world (Amazon.com).

English 101/105 (GCC Course) and English 12

**The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Fourteen year-old Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their South Carolina peach farm, spends hours imagining a blissful infancy when she was loved and nurtured by her mother, Deborah, whom she barely remembers (Amazon.com).

AP Language and Composition [AP English]

+** Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave, Witten by Himself

Written more than a century ago by Frederick Douglass, a former slave who went on to become a famous orator, U.S. minister, and a leader of his people, this masterpiece is one of the most eloquent indictments of slavery ever recorded (Google Books).

+**Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

Frank McCourt tells his story of growing up as an Irish Catholic in Limerick in this humorous yet emotional memoir.

* These works will be the first unit studied in class, so it is very important that the reading is complete at the start of the school year.

** These novels are widely available – Best bets would be Borders, Barnes & Noble, any college bookstore or ordering online at Amazon.com. Looking to keep your business local? Try Present Tense Books [101 Washington Ave., Batavia] also as a source for summer reading. Books are also available through any public library, such as the Richmond Memorial Library in Batavia.

† This reading was assigned at the same grade level during the recently concluded 2008-2009 school year. Students who read this work during the past year may, therefore, also be a source of this book.

@Check with Present Tense Books [101 Washington Ave., Batavia]