

2009
NOTRE DAME-BISHOP GIBBONS
SUMMER READING: Planning for Success!

All (returning and new) ND-BG students are required to do assigned reading over the summer. Students receive the list of options for their grade level from their English teachers in early June, or from the Admissions Office, either at the time they enroll at ND-BG or in a mailing that should arrive home by July 1. The Summer Reading List is also posted on the ND-BG website.

All students will be tested in mid September on the reading material, and this score will count as 10-15% of students' First Quarter grade.

Frequently students report the following “problems” as the test date looms near:

- “I read the book in the beginning of the summer and don’t remember it.”
- “My mother tried to get the book, but the library didn’t have a copy.”
- “My mother tried to buy the book at the bookstore, but it’s not available anywhere.”

To address these problems, the ND-BG English Department makes the following suggestions:

1. Don’t wait until Labor Day to try to locate your required books.
2. All of the books on the list are in print and readily available at big bookstores like **Barnes and Noble** (Mohawk Mall and on Wolf Road in Colonie) or **Borders** (Wolf Road and Colonie Center). If those stores happen to sell out, they can order a copy for you, and you would have it within a week.
3. You can order a book online from amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, or alibris.com. All three of these vendors have excellent reputations, and all offer “**Buy it used**” options at big savings. Again, it is rare for a book on a summer reading list to take longer than a week to arrive at your doorstep after you place an order.
4. You can buy **used books** locally at
 - The Whitney Book Corner (Clinton and Union Streets, Sch’tdy. 377-4670)
 - The Book Barn (200 Troy Schenectady Rd, Latham. 786-13680)
5. This year’s list is the same as last year’s. Try connecting with **ND-BG students** who are a grade ahead of you – see if they will give, sell, lend you their copies. (Hey, returning ND-BG students: Why not donate your last year’s books to our school library? We can have a resource available for those needy last minute shoppers?!!!)
6. It’s true that **libraries** have limited copies of high demand books, or you will probably have to return it before the test, making it unavailable for review even if you are lucky enough to get a copy. Probably the library is not the best way to go, **BUT**:
 - You can log on to your library’s website and reserve the book
 - You can try to take it out twice- early summer and early fall
 - Don’t rely on the library after August 1.
7. No matter when you read the book – mid-June or mid-September,
 - Read actively: Predict** what you think a character will/can do next; **Connect** yourself to the setting or situation; **Visualize** what is happening, even draw illustrations; **Summarize** major events in each chapter; **Stay on Task**.

- **Create some notes** for yourself, perhaps making a chart that looks like the one below.

Title	
Author	
Genre (e.g., fiction or non fiction? Sci-fi, mystery, fantasy, historical fiction?)	
Setting (time and place) How is the setting same or different from your own time and place?	
Major characters Who is the protagonist? How are other characters related to him/her?	
Conflict What are some problems the major character(s) must face in this book?	
My favorite part of the book... (because)	

SENIORS: ADVANCED PLACEMENT and UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGH SCHOOL: You must read the required book and two additional books from the list of four. NOTE THE REQUIRED WRITTEN REFLECTION.

REQUIRED READING: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon. For this book, **you must turn in on Monday of the first full week of school** a 3-5 page reflection focusing on the narrative point of view and the vision associated with that view. What makes this view unique? What insights to you get from this particular point of view.

CHOOSE **TWO** ADDITIONAL BOOKS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

Life of Pi by Yann Martel – Imagine being stranded with a tiger on a twenty seven foot raft after a ship wreck. This book is a wonderful fable about our lives.

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield. How do you tell the truth about someone who has spent her life creating fiction? A classic modern mystery.

The Sweet Hereafter by Russell Banks --A school bus accident in the Adirondacks sets the stage for the study of four people whose lives are forever changed by the event.

I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak – After Ed receives strange messages on playing cards, he begins a journey of reaching out to others and ultimately discovering who he is.

SENIORS: REGENTS LEVEL: You must read the required book and one additional book from the following list of four or any book from the AP list.

REQUIRED READING: Deception Point by Dan Brown.

CHOOSE **ONE** ADDITIONAL BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card -- An intense science fiction tale of a young man who is being trained in battle games to take on alien forces.

Big Mouth and Ugly Girl by Joyce Carol Oates. When Matt is escorted out of class by two detectives, Ursula comes to his rescue.

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson. A hysterical story about two obese men hauling themselves over the great trail. Very funny!

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. The true story of a tragic Everest climb. Intense.

JUNIORS: ADVANCED PLACEMENT LEVEL: You must read the 2 required books and do the **AP summer writing assignment below**. This assignment will be due on the Monday of the first full week of school in September.

Required Reading:

Dreams of My Father (Barack Obama)

Funny and Farsi (Firoozeh Dumas)

Both memoirs may be purchased used at greatly reduced prices from online booksellers. See Amazon.com

AP English Language (Grade 11) Summer Writing Assignment 2008

You have exactly 999 words (not a word more or less) and 3 pictures to define yourself.

Suggested titles: The Tattoo; Out of My Element; Once...; (You may create another title. The point is for you to think outside of the box and create a tone and pace with the words you choose, the sentence lengths and styles you build, the little stories or vivid details you relate.) Your 3 pictures may be personal photos of you/from your personal albums, or ones you have taken for artsy purposes, or original works you have drawn or painted, or pictures from magazines, music albums, the art world in general that somehow are relevant to you or what you are writing, or a graphic designs that capture the feeling/message you are trying to communicate. If possible, scan or download the pictures/images into your document. If the image is not your own original work, be sure to identify/cite your source.

You may write in any genre you choose.

You will hand in both a paper copy and an electronic version of this assignment.

Assume that what you write will be shared with the class, and that you will be asked to talk about your writing choices with the class.

- ❑ Hardcopy must be typed in Times New Roman or Ariel, or some similar easy to read font (Nothing cutesy, ornate, etc). You may single space to save paper.
- ❑ Electronic copy may be emailed to yourself (then opened and downloaded to computer in Room 24), or stored on a portable device (3.5 floppy, CD, USB travel drive). If your word-processing program is not WORD, save your file in rtf format.

Juniors Honors Level Summer Reading Assignment 2008

- **Required Reading:**

Dreams of My Father (Barack Obama)

Funny and Farsi (Firoozeh Dumas)

Both memoirs may be purchased used at greatly reduced prices from online booksellers.

See Amazon.com

- **Required Writing: None**

JUNIORS REGENTS LEVEL: You must read the required book and one additional book.

- **Required Reading:**

The Catcher in the Rye (JD Salinger)

Growing Up (Russell Baker)

- **Required Movie Viewing:**

The Secret Life of Bees (2008 Rated PG 13)

SOPHOMORES: HONORS: You must read the required book and two additional books from the list of four.

REQUIRED READING: The Moon is Down by John Steinbeck

CHOOSE TWO ADDITIONAL BOOKS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

Big Russ and Me by Tim Russert. The popular host of *Meet the Press* recalls his growing up and his finest teacher.

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier – A young girl marries a wealthy man, but does he still love his first wife and how did she die?

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury—Firefighters are ordered to burn books. Will one firefighter obey?

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom -- Albom chronicles the time he spent with Morrie, his terminally ill mentor, and shares what Morrie taught him about how to live.

SOPHOMORES: REGENTS LEVEL: You must read the required book and one additional book from the list of four.

REQUIRED READING: Burning Up by Caroline B. Cooney

CHOOSE ONE ADDITIONAL BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer...Hope and her aunt leave Brooklyn for Wisconsin to learn about diner food and crooked politics.

Backwater by Joan Bauer. A young girl finds a lost aunt and encounters danger.

My Dog Skip by Willie Morris. Learn about the difference a dog makes in one young boy's life.

Skipping Christmas by John Grisham Think Christmas is too commercialized? Join one family who decides to ignore tradition.

FRESHMEN: HONORS: You must read the required book and two additional books from the list of four.

REQUIRED READING: Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

CHOOSE **TWO** ADDITIONAL BOOKS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals. A close look at one girl's response to integrating a public high school.

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie. A man is found dead in a locked compartment on the famous train. Who did it?

Tooth and Nail by Charles Elster and Joseph Elliot -- A terrific way to prepare for the SAT by reading a mesmerizing (your first SAT word) mystery.

The Scarlet Pimpernel by Emma Orczy -- An English aristocrat risks his life and that of the woman he loves to save French aristocrats

FRESHMEN: REGENTS: You must read the required book and one additional book from this list of four.

REQUIRED READING: Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

CHOOSE **ONE** ADDITIONAL BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer -- Jenna Boller drives her boss halfway across America, becomes a shoe store spy, and learns about the rules of life.

Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dumphrey by Margaret Peterson Haddix -- Trish does not want to write a journal for English class. But she soon finds she needs to confide the growing tragedy of her life to someone or something.

Choosing Up Sides by John Ritter -- Luke has spent his whole life trying to please his father. Now that he's learned he can really pitch, will Luke have to give up the game he loves?

The Silent Boy by Lois Lowry—A young girl makes friends with a silent boy that the rest of society doesn't understand.

EIGHTH GRADERS: REGENTS: You must read the required book and one additional book from the list of four.

REQUIRED READING: The Pigman by Paul Zindel

CHOOSE **ONE** ADDITIONAL BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

Redwall by Brian Jacques -- Matthias, a young mouse, searches for the sword that will save the inhabitants of Redwall Abbey.

The Grey King by Susan Cooper – Can Will, the last born of the Old Ones, save the world from the forces of evil, the Dark?

Don't You Know There's a War On? by Avi. Howie has many questions while growing up in Brooklyn during WWII. But they all have the same answer, "Don't you know there's a war on?"

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor -- The story of a black family's struggle to remain strong and independent against powerful odds.

SEVENTH GRADERS: REGENTS: You must read the required book and one additional book from the list of four.

REQUIRED READING: Star in the Storm by Joan Hiatt Harlow

CHOOSE **ONE** ADDITIONAL BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

Mandy by Julie Edwards -- For Mandy, the orphanage is her only home. Then she finds a deserted cottage to make her own. But will she be able to keep her secret?

Sounder by William Armstrong -- When his father is arrested, a young boy and his beloved dog must work together to help the family survive.

Lily's Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff -- A young girl copes with loss, love and a new friendship while waiting for her father's return from war.

The Wreckers by Iain Lawrence -- A young boy seeks to survive when his ship wrecks and his father dies (or does he?)

SIXTH GRADERS: You must read the required book and one additional title from the list of five.

REQUIRED READING: The Trouble with Lemons by Daniel Hayes

CHOOSE ONE ADDITIONAL BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

The Secret Garden by Frances H. Burnett -- A young girl goes to live with her uncle after her parents' death and has wonderful times with her new friends.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George -- A young boy tells of his adventures during the year he spends alone in the Catskill Mountains.

Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene -- A poignant story of a mistreated Jewish girl who befriends an escaped German prisoner of war.

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell -- A haunting and unusual story based on the fact that in the early 1800's an Indian girl spent 18 years alone on an island off the coast of California.

The River by Gary Paulsen -- It is a year after Brian survives the crash of a small plane and being stranded alone for 54 days. Now Brian must go through it all again.

OTHER RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Grades 6-8

Fiction

The War Within by Carol Matas
The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
Don't You Know There's a War On? By Avi
Holes by Louis Sachar
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
The Hero and the Crown by Robin McKinley
The High King by Lloyd Alexander
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
The Trumpeter of Krakow by Eric Kelly
Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi
A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park
A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck
Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Curtis
Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse
The View From Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg
The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
Missing Sisters by Gregory Maguire
Shabanu by Suzanne Fisher Staples
Who Killed My Daughter by Lois Duncan
That Was Then, This is Now by S.E. Hinton
One Fat Summer by Robert Lipsyte
Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers
The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon
Marigolds by Paul Zindel
Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Death Watch by Rob White
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
Missing May by Cynthia Rylant
Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
The Transfigured Hart by Jane Yolen

The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander
The Black Cauldron by Lloyd Alexander
The Castle of Llyr by Lloyd Alexander
Taran Wanderer by Lloyd Alexander
The High King by Lloyd Alexander
The Hobbit -- J. R. R. Tolkien
The Snow Goose - Paul Gallico
The Young Unicorns by Madeline L'Engle
A Wind in the Door by Madeline L'Engle
A Swiftly Tilting Planet by Madeline L'Engle
The Red Magician by Lisa Goldstein
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling
The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley-Snyder

Non Fiction

Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic
Kon-Tiki by Thor Heyerdahl
Aku Aku by Thor Heyerdahl
Ryan White: My Own Story by Ryan White
Travels with Charley by John Steinbeck
Gretsky: An Autobiography by Wayne Gretsky
Helen Keller: My Life Story by Helen Keller

Grades 9-12

Fiction

A Distant Trumpet by Paul Horgan
Clockers by Richard Price (11-12)
A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole (11 - 12)
The Gold Bug Variations by Richard Powers (11 -12)
Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler (10-12)
The French Lieutenant's Woman by John Fowles (11-12)
Them by Joyce Carol Oates (11-12)
The Cunning Man by Robertson Davies (11 - 12)
The Portrait of a Lady by Henry James (11 - 12)
Emma by Jane Austen (11 -12)
Tender Is the Night by F. Scott Fitzgerald (11 - 12)
The Razor's Edge by W. Somerset Maugham (11 - 12)
The Glimpses of the Moon by Edith Wharton (10-12)
Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck (11-12)
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway (10-12)
Native Son by Richard Wright (11- 12)
An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser (11-12)
The Street Lawyer by John Grisham
Goodbye, Mr. Chips by James Hilton
Watership Down by Richard Adams
Advise and Consent by Allen Drury
Joshua series by Father Joseph Girzone
The Cat Who... series by Lillian Jackson Braun
Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell
A Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (12)
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison (11-12)
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
Mr. Ives Christmas by Oscar Hijuelos (11 –12)
The Echo by Minette Walters (11-12)
The Alienist by Caleb Carr (11-12)
Seneca Falls Inheritance by Marion Grace Monfredo
An Unsuitable Job for a Woman by P.D. James
For the Sake of Elena by Elizabeth George (10-12)
The Shoes of the Fisherman by Morris West
The Sculptress by Minette Walters (12)
The Good Conscience by Carlos Fuentes (12)
Possession by A.S. Byatt (12)
The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara
Twelve and One Half Keys by Edward Hays
The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart
The Hollow Hills by Mary Stewart
Life of Pi by Yann Martel
The Last Enchantment by Mary Stewart
The Wicked Day by Mary Stewart
The Lord of the Rings trilogy by J. R. R. Tolkien
The Once and Future King by T. H. White
Merlin's Harp by Anne Crompton Eliot
Grass by Sherri S. Tepper (11-12)
Out of the Silent Planet by C. S. Lewis
Perelandra by C. S. Lewis
That Hideous Strength by C. S. Lewis
The Gift by Patrick O'Leary (11-12)
The Children of Men by P.D. James (11-12)
The Diamond Throne by David Eddings
Beldan's Fire by Midori Snyder
A Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris
Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich
A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

Non-Fiction

Roots by Alex Haley (11-12)
The Perfect Storm by Stephen Junger
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
The Broken Cord by Michael Dorris (11-12)
Among Schoolchildren by Tracy Kidder
Blue Highways by William Least Heat Moon
Coming Into the Country by John McPhee
Down from Troy by Richard Selzer
Mortal Lessons by Richard Selzer
One Writer's Beginnings by Eudora Welty
Stars in their Courses: The Gettysburg Campaign by Shelby Foote
The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X and Alex Haley
The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Steven Covey
The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw
Brothers and Keepers by John Edgar Wideman
Serpico by Peter Mass (11-12)
The Right Stuff by Tom Wolfe
Jackie Robinson: A Biography by Arnold Rampersad
Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain
Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin by Benjamin Franklin
The Gift of Peace by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin
The Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux
Letters to a Young Poet by Rainer Maria Rilke
The Education of Henry Adams by Henry Adams (12)
The Seven Story Mountain by Thomas Merton