

St. Michael's Country Day School  
Summer Reading 2010  
Entering 7th and 8th Grades

**Goals:**

The goals for the Middle School summer reading program are to

- give background reading for the curriculum that will be introduced when school starts;
- provide students an opportunity to share a common discussion of literature;
- and offer students good choices for summer reading.

**Requirements:**

**7th Grade: 3 books** total that will be used in **both** History and English  
-- 2 chosen from the list below and  
-- 1 of your own choice

**8th Grade: 4 books** total that will be used in **both** History and English  
-- 2 chosen from the list below and  
-- 2 of your own choice

If you have any questions about the summer reading, contact

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**All books must be purchased, so students can make notes and highlight passages in them. Students must read actively -- take notes in their books, highlight, and mark in their books. The number after the book represents the appropriate grade level. No projects will be due this year, but students need to be prepared to create a book trailer.**

**Upstanding Behavior**

**Chotjewitz, David. *Daniel Half-Human*. (8)**

In 1933, best friends Daniel and Armin admire Hitler, but as anti-Semitism buoys Hitler to power, Daniel learns he is half Jewish, threatening the friendship even as life in their beloved Hamburg, Germany, is becoming nightmarish.

**Collins, Suzanne. *Hunger Games*. (7,8)**

Set in the cruel world of Panem, the annual Hunger Games pit young children against one another in a battle to the death on national television, so when Katniss is ordered to represent her

district, she knows an important decision between survival and the love of another will have to be made when she is called to enter the ring.

**Cushman, Karen. *The Loud Silence of Francine Green*. (7)**

In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values.

**Draper, Sharon. *Out of My Mind*. (8)**

Possessing a photographic memory in spite of an inability to walk or speak, Melody is mistaken as mentally challenged by those who cannot see beyond her cerebral palsy, impelling her to discover a way to communicate.

**Farmer, Nancy. *House of the Scorpion*. (Newbery Honor Book, Printz Award, National Book Award) (7, 8)**

The clone of a 142-year-old drug lord, Matt must make choices about his future in a future where clones are despised.

**Shusterman, Neal. *Downsiders*. (8)**

Coming from two different worlds -- one on the streets of New York and the other below, Lindsey and Talon's lives collide. How will they deal with the potential destruction of Talon's world below?

**Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Jumped*. (8)**

The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved.

### **Indifference**

**Trueman, Terry. *Stuck in Neutral*. (7,8)**

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

**Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. (8)**

1939. Nazi Germany. A country holds its breath. Death is busy. Liesel is standing by her brother's graveside when she picks up an object, partially hidden in the snow. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her foster father, learns to read.

### **Conformity**

**Brown, Brooks. *No Easy Answers*. (8)**

The author, a friend of both Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, describes the events surrounding the shootings at Columbine High School.

**Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl* (7)**

An individual, Stargirl is left out of the crowd by her fellow students at Mica High. However, Leo does appreciate her.

**Westerfeld. *Uglies*. (7,8)**

Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

### **Membership / Identity**

**Beah, Ishmael. *Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. (8)**

A human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army.

**Bruchac, Joseph. *Wabi: A Hero's Tale*. (7,8)**

Having been born an owl with a fearless constitution, Wabi's world takes a sudden turn when he falls in love with a human girl and, through his shape-shifting skills, transforms into a human to win her heart, yet with danger looming in the Valley of the Monsters, Wabi knows his personal desires must take second place to the perilous issues that await.

**Butler, Dori Hillestead. *The Truth about Truman School*. (7)**

When friends Zebby and Amr create a website about the "real" Truman Middle School, giving their classmates a forum to speak the truth, they discover that some people, when given the chance, will go out of their way to hurt someone else.

**Spinelli. *Milkweed*. (8)**

The hardship and cruelty of life in the ghettos of Warsaw during the Nazi occupation of World War II is captured through the eyes of a young Jewish orphan who must use all his wits and courage to survive unimaginable circumstances.

### **Obedience**

**Hobbs, Will . *Downriver*. (7, 8)**

While attending an outdoor survival school, fifteen-year-old Jessie and the other members of the school steal the school's rafts and go white water rafting down the Colorado River.

**Strasser. *The Wave* (8)**

Tells the story of a high school history class experiment that frighteningly demonstrated the power of fascism

### **Stereotyping**

**Alexie, Sherman.** *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (National Book Award Winner) (8)

Hoping for a better future, Junior leaves the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white school where he and the school mascot are the only Indians.

**Pratchett, Terry.** *Nation.* (Printz Award) (7, 8)

Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an English girl aboard a ship, are the lone survivors of their respective groups when a tsunami hits and leaves both stranded on the same island.

### **Community / Teamwork**

**Duprau, Jeanne.** *The People of Sparks.* (7,8)

Having escaped to the Unknown Regions, Lina and the others seek help from the village people of Sparks.

**Farmer, Nancy.** *The Ear, The Eye, and The Arm* (7)

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastics mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

**Giblin, James Cross.** *When Plague Strikes : The Black Death, Smallpox, AIDS.* (7,8)

Recounts the stories of three major diseases that have ravaged humanity and changed the course of history.

**Krakauer, Jon.** *Into Thin Air.* (8)

The author describes his spring 1996 trek to Mt. Everest, a disastrous expedition that claimed the lives of eight climbers, and explains why he survived.

**Wolff, Virginia Euwer.** *Bat 6.* (7)

In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.