

University Prep Summer 2008 Reading List

Middle School

6th grade

Required:

Uglies Scott Westerfeld

- And choose one book from the following list:

<i>A Girl Named Disaster</i>	Nancy Farmer
Any book from the <i>Alex Rider</i> series	Anthony Horowitz
Any book from the <i>Gilda Joyce</i> series	Jennifer Allison
<i>Hoot</i>	Carl Hiaasen
<i>Last Shot: A final Four Mystery</i>	John Feinstein
<i>Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller</i>	Sarah Miller
<i>Peter and the Starcatchers</i>	Dave Barry
<i>Rodzina</i>	Karen Cushman
Any book from the <i>Roman Mysteries</i> series	Caroline Lawrence
<i>Ruby Holler</i>	Sharon Creech
<i>Shakespeare's Secret</i>	Elise Borach
<i>The Lightning Thief</i>	Rich Riordan
<i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i>	Avi
<i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	Wilson Rawls

When the school year begins, you will be asked to write a short paper about your choice book. There will be discussions and assignments related to your required book. As you read this summer, you may wish to underline or highlight important points in your books and/or make notes. Please have a copy of both your required book and choice book available to you in September.

7th grade

Required:

Read any two or more books from the following list:

<i>Nothing but the Truth</i>	Avi
<i>Peak</i>	Roland Smith
<i>Fever 1793</i>	Laurie Anderson
<i>Red Scarf Girl</i>	Ji Li Jiang

<i>Other Side of Truth</i>	Beverly Naidoo
<i>The Pearl</i>	John Steinbeck
<i>Flush</i>	Carl Hiaasen
<i>Sold</i>	Patricia McCormick
<i>Redwall</i>	Brian Jacques
<i>The Pigman</i>	Paul Zindel
<i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i>	Jane Yolen
<i>Hoops</i>	Walter Dean Myers
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	Mildred Taylor
<i>The House of the Scorpion</i>	Nancy Farmer

The books on this list vary a great deal in subject matter, length, tone, and difficulty. At the library, online, or at a bookstore, browse the titles until you find one that captures your interest. There will be discussions and assignments related to the required books. As you read this summer, you may wish to underline or highlight important points in your books and/or make notes. Please have a copy of the books you chose available to you in September.

8th grade

Required:

<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding
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- And choose one book from the following list:

<i>Purple Hibiscus</i>	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	Julia Alvarez
<i>Joy Club</i>	Elizabeth Berg
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury
<i>Summerland</i>	Michael Chabon
<i>They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky*</i>	Benson Deng et. al.
<i>Sister of My Heart</i>	Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
<i>A Northern Light</i>	Jennifer Donnelly
<i>Funny in Farsi*</i>	Firoozeh Dumas
<i>The House of the Scorpion</i>	Nancy Farmer
<i>Death Be Not Proud*</i>	John Gunther
<i>A View from the Summit*</i>	Sir Edmund Hillary
<i>Mister Pip</i>	Lloyd Jones
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	Sue Kidd
<i>My Forbidden Face*</i>	Latifa
<i>Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister</i>	Gregory Maguire
<i>Kaffir Boy*</i>	Mark Mathabane
<i>The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears*</i>	Dinaw Mengstu
<i>Master and Commander</i>	Patrick O'Brian
<i>When the Emperor Was Divine</i>	Christina Otsuka
<i>Eragon</i>	Christian Paolini

The Book Thief
*Last Night I Dreamed of Peace**
The Bridge of San Luis Rey
American Born Chinese

Markus Suzak
Dang Thuy Tram
Thornton Wilder
Gene Luen Yang

*non-fiction

The books on this list vary a great deal in subject matter, length, tone, and difficulty. At the library, online, or at a bookstore, browse the titles until you find one that captures your interest. Bring your choice home and enjoy your reading! There will be an essay and poster assignment ready for you in September. Please have a copy of both *Lord of the Flies* and your choice book available to you when school resumes.

Upper School

Each Upper School grade has one grade-specific required book. In addition, the entire Upper School must read the “University Prep Reads” community book selection (see below).

9th grade

Required:

The Alchemist

Paulo Coelho

10th grade

Required:

1984

George Orwell

11th grade

Required:

In Cold Blood

Truman Capote

12th grade

Required:

A Prayer for Owen Meany
(read through Part 5)

John Irving

All Upper School grades:

One Book, One Community: University Prep Reads

“The city that opens the same book, closes it in greater harmony.”

– Mary McGrory, *The Washington Post*, March 17, 2002

The University Prep English Department is pleased to present the second annual “One Book, One Community: University Prep Reads.” Modeled after the Library of Congress’s “One Book” program whose local incarnation, “Seattle Reads,” invites Seattle readers to share a common

experience by reading the same book, University Prep Reads invites the readers of our community to share in that same experience. Faculty, parents and staff are encouraged to take part!

This year's selection: *unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation* by Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson

University Prep Reads replaces the Upper School students' optional summer reading choices that previously varied from grade to grade. Instead, all Upper School students are expected to read their community book by the time the school year begins. Discussions will take place in class and may occur across disciplines (not solely within the English department). Discussions will also take place during advisory and students can look forward to flex periods inspired by the book and its general themes. It is our hope that the community reader will spur discussions at lunch in the Commons Café, at mealtimes across dinner tables, on the grass of Dahl field or wherever our community congregates. University Prep Reads is ultimately a mission-centered exercise predicated on the belief that reading fosters lifelong learning and reading together fosters lifelong communities.

In a schoolwide popular vote, our community chose a most timely title for the second annual University Prep Reads program. With an important election a few months away, candidates, parties and political organizations will jockey for position. Part of that jockeying process involves "spin," to frame or to use the framing of an issue as a means of persuasion. Jackson and Jamieson, however, define it differently: "'Spin' is a polite word for deception."

Jackson and Jamieson do more, however, than merely point out spin; they teach their readers how to recognize it. They use recent communications and psychological research to point out what scientists know about human susceptibility to persuasion. They share the tools consumer advocates use to peel away company claims such that truth can be revealed, and they discuss how to find reliable information on the Internet and how to recognize the opposite.

Enjoy this year's University Prep Reads selection and, even more, engage it. Talk about its contents over lunch. What do you agree with? What do you disagree with? Did you see an ad today that used spin? What about it made you distrust its message? Perhaps a political ad just aired. Talk about it as a family. Did the ad use spin and in what ways? Have you noticed spin in places that are understood as ideally spin-free, like hard-news shows and newspapers? And finally, why might it be important to recognize spin and what can happen if we fail to?