

The Summer Reading List:
April 30, 2009
University Prep English Department

Middle School

6th grade

Required:

Uglies

Scott Westerfeld

Choose one book from the following list:

A Girl Named Disaster

Nancy Farmer

Any book from the *Alex Rider* series

Anthony Horowitz

Any book from the *Gilda Joyce* series

Jennifer Allison

Hoot

Carl Hiaasen

Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery

John Feinstein

Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller

Sarah Miller

Peter and the Starcatchers

Dave Barry

Rodzina

Karen Cushman

Any book from the *Roman Mysteries* series

Caroline Lawrence

Ruby Holler

Sharon Creech

Shakespeare's Secret

Elise Borach

The Lightning Thief

Rich Riordan

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

Avi

The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963

Christopher Paul Curtis

Where the Red Fern Grows

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.**

The Summer Reading List:
April 30, 2009
University Prep English Department

Middle School

7th grade

Required:

The Giver

Lois Lowry

Choose one book from the following list:

Nothing but the Truth

Avi

Peak

Roland Smith

Fever 1793

Laurie Anderson

Red Scarf Girl

Ji Li Jiang

Other Side of Truth

Beverly Naidoo

The Pearl

John Steinbeck

Flush

Carl Hiaasen

Sold

Patricia McCormick

Redwall

Brian Jacques

The Pigman

Paul Zindel

The Devil's Arithmetic

Jane Yolen

Hoops

Walter Dean Myers

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Mildred Taylor

The House of the Scorpion

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 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 choice book and required book available to you in September.**

The Summer Reading List:
April 30, 2009
University Prep English Department

Middle School

8th grade

Required:

Peak

Roland Smith

Choose one book from the following list:

Purple Hibiscus

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

In the Time of the Butterflies

Julia Alvarez

Joy Club

Elizabeth Berg

Fahrenheit 451

Ray Bradbury

Summerland

Michael Chabon

*They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky**

Alephonsion Deng, Benson Deng, and Benjamin Ajak

Sister of My Heart

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

A Northern Light

Jennifer Donnelly

*Funny in Farsi**

Firoozeh Dumas

The House of the Scorpion

Nancy Farmer

Lord of the Flies

William Golding

*Death Be Not Proud**

John Gunther

*A View from the Summit**

Sir Edmund Hillary

Mister Pip

Lloyd Jones

The Secret Life of Bees

Sue Kidd

*My Forbidden Face**

Latifa

Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister

Gregory Maguire

*Kaffir Boy**

Mark Mathabane

Master and Commander

Patrick O'Brian

The Professor and the Housekeeper

Yoko Ogawa

When the Emperor Was Divine

Christina Otsuka

Eragon

Christian Paolini

The Book Thief

Markus Suzak

*Last Night I Dreamed of Peace**

Dang Thuy Tram

The Bridge of San Luis Rey

Thornton Wilder

American Born Chinese

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 your required and choice book available to you when school resumes.**

The Summer Reading List:
April 30, 2009
University Prep English Department

Upper School

Each Upper School grade has its own required book; in addition, all four grades are required to read this year's "University Prep Reads" book selection.

9th grade

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian Sherman Alexie

10th grade

1984 George Orwell

11th grade

The Things They Carried Tim O'Brien

12th grade

A Prayer for Owen Meany John Irving

All Upper School Grades (University Prep Reads)

Old School Tobias Wolff

One Book, One Community: University Prep Reads

"The city that opens the same book, closes it in greater harmony."
– Mary McGrory, *The Washington Post*

University Prep Reads is 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 all readers from our community to share the experience of reading the same book. Faculty, parents and staff are also encouraged to participate. All Upper School students will be expected to have read their community book by the time the school year begins.

University Prep Reads is ultimately a mission-centered exercise predicated on the belief that reading fosters life-long learning and reading together fosters community.

This year's selection: *Old School* by Tobias Wolff

Amazon.com Review of *Old School*

Tobias Wolff's *Old School* is at once a celebration of literature and delicate hymn to a lost

innocence of American life and art. Set in a New England prep school in the early 1960s, the novel imagines a final, pastoral moment before the explosion of the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and the suicide of Ernest Hemingway.

The unnamed narrator is one of several boys whose life revolves around the school's English teachers, those polymaths who seemed to know "exactly what was most worth knowing." For the boys, literature is the center of life, and their obsession culminates in a series of literary competitions during their final year. The prize in each is a private audience with a visiting writer who serves as judge for the entries.

At first, the narrator is entirely taken with the battle. As he fails in his effort to catch Robert Frost's attention and then is unable--due to illness--to even compete for his moment with Ayn Rand, he devotes his energies to a masterpiece for his hero, Hemingway. But, confronting the blank page, the narrator discovers his cowardice, his duplicity. He has withheld himself, he realizes, even from his roommate. He has used his fiction to create a patrician gentility, a mask for his middle class home and his Jewish ancestry. Through the competition for Hemingway, fittingly, all of his illusions about literature dissolve.