

St. John the Baptist School
Summer Reading Requirements for students
Entering Grade 8

Students entering Grade 8 will be responsible for completing several books over the summer. Students in 8S may choose two of the three books, one each from a different category. Students in 8P will be choosing one book, and 8C will read just the one Mandatory assignment. The Mandatory book titles should be purchased as students will be highlighting and writing in them. After reading each book students will complete written assignments which will be due the first day of school.

Mandatory Reading Assignments

8S Students: Read *The Last Apprentice Revenge of the Witch* by Joseph Delaney

8P and 8C Students: Read *The Last Apprentice Revenge of the Witch* by Joseph Delaney

1. Put your name on your book 5 pts.
2. Highlight any new vocabulary words within the reading that you do not recognize and list by chapter. Define the words. We will generate a list of words together and you will be tested on them. Be sure you have good working definitions. You will have at least 25 words. 25 pts.
3. After reading the book, choose one character who interests you. Underline every scene which alludes to your chosen character. Make a list of that character's personality traits from the beginning of the story to the end. Write a paragraph summarizing the changes and the reasons for them in the story. 50 pts.
4. ON a half sheet of poster board create a new character who will be added to the book's plotline. You are that new character. What would your powers be? What would you wear? What would your name be? Your character traits? Decorate the poster of your character with five symbols that would represent you in the book. 20 Points
5. Books and work will be collected the first day of school.

Choice book assignments

8S: choose 2 books and complete both assignments

8P: choose 1 more book to read and do assignment #2

8S Choose two more books from the attached list. You must pick books from two different categories. For example, one could be from the classics listed, one of the ALA Newbery Medal Winners or Newbery Honor books or one book from the contemporary list. Each list contains a variety of reading skill levels, be sure to challenge yourself! Read beyond the three if you are able to! I especially encourage you to take advantage of the "Getting Ready for High School List" throughout our year together.

8P: choose one more book from the attached list and complete assignment 2.

8C: further reading is optional

1. For Book 1: Return to **one** of the two books after you have finished reading it and choose one character which interests you. Create a 'day in the life' of the character which highlights the way they view their own story as it was told in the book. This self-reflection should be three paragraphs, typed.
2. For Book 2: (assignment 2) Create a 'Time Capsule' for the main character or protagonist for **one** of the two books you chose. The capsule should contain at least ten items which you think the character would think are important to his/her life and why they would want to remember them later in life. You may draw pictures of the items, find them, make them, or print them. Be creative! Write one paragraph describing the items you chose and why you thought they would be important to include in the Time Capsule.

***The more challenging choices are asterisked.**

The Classics

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

**Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Old man and the Sea by Hemingway

The Time Machine by H.G. Wells

The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper

**The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkein

**Watership Down* by Richard Adams

**Death Be Not Proud* by Gunther

**October Sky* by Hickman

**Lord of the Flies* by Golding

**Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

The Tale of Little Tree by Carter

My Brother Sam is Dead by Collier

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt

Award Winners

Finnikin of the Rock by Melina Marchetta

I am the Messenger by Markus Zusak (situations and language)

Paper Towns by John Green

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

**The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein

The Princess Academy by Shannon Hale

Shabanu by Staples
Tunnel in the Sky by Robert Heinlein
Guts by Gary Paulsen
The Boy who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
The Contender by Robert Lipstyle
Peeled by Joan Bauer
The Skin I'm in by Sharon G. Flake
Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor
Taking Sides by Gary Soto
Whirligig by Paul Fleischman
Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene
Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers (language)
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn
The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt
Four Perfect Pebbles by Lazan and Perl
The House of Dies Drier by Virginia Hamilton
Hiroshima by Laurence Yep
So Far from the Bamboo Grove by Watkins
Sunrise Over Fallujah by Myers (some language)
Goodby, Vietnam by Whelan
Perfect by Natasha Friend
A Door Near Here by Heather Quarles
After the Rain by Norma Fox Mazer

Contemporary Literature

Snowsummer by Kit Peel
Winter's Bullet by William Osborne
The Fault in our Stars by John Green
Pathfinder by Orson Scott Card
The Wish List by Eoin Colfer
Ironman by Chris Crutcher
Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton
The Dragonriders of Pern by Anne McCafferey
Once Upon a Marigold by Jean Ferris
Fablehaven by Brandon Mull
Girl Coming In for a Landing: A Novel in Poems by April Halprin Wayland
The Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings
The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood
Necessary Roughness by Marie G. Lee

So Be It by Sarah Weeks
The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo
Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements
Jumping the Nail by Eve Bunting
Bones from a Dry Sea by Dickinson
Life in the Fat Lane by Cherie Bennett
The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordan by Stephen King
Durango Street by Frank Bonham
Tunnels by Rhoderick Gordon
Cinder by Marissa Meyer
What I saw and How I lied by Judy Blandell
Out of the Easy by Ruta Sepety
Hidden by Helen Frost
How to be Popular by Meg Cabot
After ever After by Jordan Sunnenblick
Scrubs on Skates by Scott Young
We were Liars by E. Lockhart
This one Summer by Mariko Tamaki
Chime by Franny Billingsley
The Diviners by Libba Bray
Variant by Robison Wells
Never Fall Down by Patricia McCormack
Trapped by Michael Northrop
The Killing Sea by Richard Lewis
The Compound by S.A. Bodeen
I'll Give You the Sun by Judy Nelson

Getting Ready for High School

This list is, of course, not definitive or complete for every high school, however, the suggestions are grounded in a solid formation for literacy excellence and no read will ever be wasted. Some books do deal with adult themes (as most often do in the high school forum) parents may wish to preview picks if unsure as to the readiness and maturity level of their student. I will have many of these choices available in a special section of the classroom for students interested in reading them throughout the year.

A Prayer for Owen Meaney by John Irving
Into the Wild by John Krakauer
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Kite Runner by Hosseini
In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
Sherlock Holmes Collections by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austin
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
Silas Marner by George Eliot
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Moby Dick by Herman Melville
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer
The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly
The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven by Sherman Alexie
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon