

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." -Joseph Addison

Marshall Academy Summer Reading 2017

Dear Students and Parents:

All student in grades 7-12 have required summer reading, which must be completed by the first day of school. We have attempted to provide students with several choices to increase their summer reading enjoyment. All students **must** read one selection from their grade list. Honor students in grades 9-12 must read the selection on their grade lists with the asterisk (*) by the title, as well as a second selection. Students will need to be prepared for discussion, testing and/or writing on their reading assignments on their return to school.

While reading, consider the following:

- Who are the main characters and what do the main characters contribute to the story?
- What are the important conflicts (struggles) that move the story along?
- What is the resolution of the main conflict?

Assignment for each book: (Bring to class on the first full day of class.)

As students read, they should maintain a list of the main characters and write a description of each main character in the book. Students should also summarize each chapter of the book, writing in complete sentences. This work must be original; plagiarizing (copying from another source) is not allowed in any form.

7th Grade – Students will select one from this list.

Call of the Wild by Jack London -Kidnapped from his safe California home and thrown into a life-and-death struggle on the frozen Arctic wilderness, Buck, half St. Bernard and half Shepherd, learns many hard lessons as a sled dog. From his last owner, Buck learns the greatest lesson: the power of love and loyalty.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain – In this Twain classic, loveable Tom Sawyer and his friends experience life on the Mississippi River.

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank – Through her diary, 13-year-old Jewish girl Anne Frank tells the story of her family who are forced into hiding by the Nazis during World War II.

8th Grade – Students will select one from this list.

- *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt - Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.
- *Tears of a Tiger* by Sharon Draper – The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.
- *Boy in Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne - Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" (Auschwitz) in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

9th Grade

- *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway - *The Old Man and the Sea* is one of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal—a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

- **Animal Farm* by George Orwell - A political satire in which animals take over running a farm but find their utopian state turning into a dictatorship.
- *Pigman by Paul Zindel* - What begins as a teenage prank soon becomes a timeless examination of grief, acceptance, and the transformative power of friendship. High-school sophomores John and Lorraine had no idea what they were starting when they made a prank phone call to a stranger named Angelo Pignati.

***Required for Honors English. Honors students may select any of the other selections on their list for a second book.**

10th Grade

- *Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin - This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires, depending on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, which involves blizzards, burglaries, and bombings. Ellen Raskin has entangled a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense.
- *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White's retells the saga of King Arthur is a fantasy classic as legendary as Excalibur and Camelot, and a poignant story of adventure, romance, and magic that has enchanted readers for generations.
- **Lord of the Flies*- William Golding's compelling story about a group of very ordinary small boys marooned on a coral island has become a modern classic. At first it seems as though it is all going to be great fun, but the fun before long becomes furious and life, and the island turns into a nightmare of panic and death. As ordinary standards of behavior collapse, the whole world the boys know collapses with them--the world of cricket and homework and adventure stories--and another world is revealed beneath, primitive and terrible.

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11th Grade

- *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg - The author recalls his poverty-stricken youth in Alabama in the 1960s and 70s, focusing on the extraordinary efforts of his mother to protect her sons from the violence of their father, a man scarred by war, and telling of the sacrifices she made so her children could have a better life.
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald - This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age, This is the story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island, and his desire to prove that he is worthy of her.
- **The Optimist's Daughter* – Eudora Welty – Written by one of Mississippi's most enduring authors, this story of a young Southern woman's confrontation with death and her past.

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12th Grade

- *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho - *The Alchemist* is the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist.

- *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer - When Jon Krakauer reached the summit of Mt. Everest in the early afternoon of May 10, 1996, he hadn't slept in fifty-seven hours and was reeling from the brain-altering effects of oxygen depletion. As he turned to begin his long, dangerous descent from 29,028 feet, twenty other climbers were still pushing doggedly toward the top. No one had noticed that the sky had begun to fill with clouds. Krakauer examines what it is about Everest that has compelled so many people -- including himself -- to throw caution to the wind, ignore the concerns of loved ones, and willingly subject themselves to such risk, hardship, and expense.
- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad – The story is a complex exploration of the attitudes people hold on what constitutes a barbarian versus a civilized society and the attitudes on colonialism and racism that were part and parcel of European imperialism in Africa.

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