

2010 Summer Reading List

The Ring of McAllister

Author: Robert Marantz

Faculty: Ms. Bird

Description: How great would it be if your son could read an engrossing mystery story, while expanding his vocabulary in preparation for the SAT test? This book does just that. Will, Katie and Ty are seventeen year old high school friends that get drawn into a mysterious and creepy set of events, during a summer they'll never forget. A new family has moved into the notorious Stone Manor mansion, next to Will's house. Will starts reliving some early childhood fears about the mansion. A man named McAllister was supposedly murdered there years ago, but the body was never discovered. After the new family moves in, strange things start to happen. The author does a nice job of unfolding the mystery, and laces the story with many creepy moments. The book contains 1046 words interspersed throughout the story that are highlighted in bold.

Krakatoa

Author: Simon Winchester

Faculty: Fr. Brown

Description: This is the story of one of the greatest volcanic eruptions in human history. It occurred about 120 years ago and produced the loudest sound ever heard (over 2,000 miles away). The death toll was staggering, largely because of the tsunami. This is truly one of the most remarkable books you'll ever read. It touches on science, history, psychology, even religion.

Ender's Game

Author: Orson Scott Card

Faculty: Mr. Chase

Description: This science fiction story takes place in a future in which Earth has already narrowly fended off one attack from a strange alien species. The government expects another invasion at any time, so they desperately need to find the next great general of the human fleet. Six-year-old Ender Wiggin is shuttled away from his family to train at an orbiting military school for gifted children that features a zero-gravity battle room where young soldiers test their tactical skills against each other. Ender quickly rises through the ranks, but he has to overcome bullies, the school administrators, and his own self-doubt on his way to the ultimate battle . . . a high-stakes showdown in deep space against the approaching alien armada.

Financial Founding Fathers: The Men Who Made America Rich

Author: Robert Wright & David Cohen

Faculty: Mr. Chirieleison & Mr. Miles

Description: In this spry, smart history, Alexander Hamilton, Albert Gallatin, Stephen Girard, Nicholas Biddle and Andrew Jackson emerge as fully human characters-rather than a set of financial theories or beliefs-struggling to set the economic machine of America in motion. Wright and Cowen use biography to address financial history, showing, say, how Alexander Hamilton's life influenced his theory of finance, and how Hamilton's theory of finance influenced the United States. Readers will find that financial markets and instruments at the time were surprisingly sophisticated, and fully relevant to the discussion of finance today. Hamilton's genius lay in his Bank of the United States, established to allow America one day to compete with the foremost powers of Europe, and the story of his successors-Gallatin, Girard, and Biddle, who wisely navigated Hamilton's Bank-take readers through crises brought on by such familiar factors as speculative booms and busts, war debts, political opposition and special interests. If there is any flaw to this compelling account of the nation's early finances it is that the authors seem to lack faith in their subject's entertainment value, gilding the lily with human interest stories and catchy chapter titles like "Apocalypse No." Illuminating and ingratiating, this glimpse into the economics of the nation's first century could very well serve as required reading for students of American history and economics.

October Sky

Author: Homer Hickam, Jr.

Faculty: Mr. Clapper & Mrs. Morrison

Description: the story of a boy from West Virginia coal country who dreams of building rockets and sending them into space. Homer and his friends spend many afternoons designing, building and launching rockets; many of the townspeople of Coalwood, West Virginia help the boys make their dreams come true. This is a true story—Homer grows up to become an engineer for NASA.

Our reading discussion in August will include the construction and launching of rockets.

Motorcycle Diaries

Author: Ernesto "Che" Guevara

Faculty: Mr. Cluxton

Description: Motorcycle Diaries is book by Ernesto "Che" Guevara. It recounts his travels via motorcycle through Latin America witnessing the lives and politics (including revolution) of the peoples. The story is lively and rich. It reveals the experiences that began Che's transformation from a young medical student (he later become a doctor) into a world icon. As a socialist revolutionary, "Che" became one of Fidel Castro's most trusted associates.

Into thin Air

Author: John Krakauer

Faculty: Mr. Conner

Description: Into Thin Air is a firsthand account of the disastrous events that occurred on Mount Everest in May 1996. Krakauer takes the reader from Katmandu, to base camp, to the summit of the world's tallest mountain. While Krakauer makes it safely down, eight others, including famed guides Rob Hall and Scott Fischer, die in a catastrophic storm, and many more are stranded high up on the mountain. A must read for nonfiction lovers, outdoor enthusiasts, and adventure seekers.

Three Cups of Tea

Author: Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin **Faculty:** Mrs. Dillon & Mrs. Mahoney

Description: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time. Three Cups of Tea is one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time. Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only a thrilling read, it's proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world.

My Losing Season

Author: Pat Conroy

Faculty: Mr. Gyves

Description: An intensely personal account of the season of '67 when Pat Conroy played basketball at the Citadel, the military college in Charleston, South Carolina, My Losing Season is no ordinary sporting memoir. It is an American classic of young men, their dreams, their ambitions, the friendships they forged, and the losses they suffered, both on and off the court. But more importantly, it is a tale of the triumph of the human spirit. Pat Conroy reveals in heartbreaking, utterly mesmerizing detail his young life with his overbearing father--and in exquisite, seamless prose the truth about the Great Santini (the title character of another of Conroy's novels). In his trademark language, we witness a youthful Conroy walk away from his life as an athlete to become the inimitable writer the world would come to know--and love--as a result of his losing season.

Scratch Beginnings

Author: Adam Shepard

Faculty: Mr. Harris

Description: Adam Shepard had graduated from college and disillusioned by the apathy he sees throughout the country and wonders if the “American Dream” is still possible to attain. The year is 2006. With \$25 in his pocket, the clothes that he is wearing and a sleeping bag, he randomly picks a major city out of a hat and decides to go there and see if he can start a life. His goal is to have, after one year, \$2,500 in the bank, a furnished apartment and a working automobile. This book follows his adventures from his arriving on the bus in Charleston, S.C and through the year. Read the book with me this summer and find out he attains his goal!

Uncommon: Finding Your Path to Significance

Author: Tony Dungy

Faculty: Coach Harris & Mr McMurry

Description: Super Bowl–winning coach and #1 New York Times best selling author Tony Dungy has had an unusual opportunity to reflect on what it takes to achieve significance. He is looked to by many as the epitome of the success and significance that is highly valued in our culture. He also works every day with young men who are trying to achieve significance through football and all that goes with a professional athletic career—such as money, power, and celebrity. Coach Dungy has had all that, but he passionately believes that there is a different path to significance, a path characterized by attitudes, ambitions, and allegiances that are all too rare but uncommonly rewarding. Uncommon reveals lessons on achieving significance that the coach has learned from his remarkable parents, his athletic and coaching career, his mentors, and his journey with God. A particular focus of the book: what it means to be a man of significance in a culture that is offering young men few positive role models.

Walk in the Woods

Author: Bill Bryson

Faculty: Ms. Kinney

Description: In the grand tradition of the travel memoir, writer Bill Bryson tells the story of his trek through the wilderness along the Appalachian Trail. As the main characters begin their journey in Georgia, it becomes clear that they're ill-equipped and inexperienced for all that is ahead of them. Bryson details his trip with humor and keen observation. A Walk in the Woods can be classified as a travel narrative for readers who have an interest in the AT experience without the biting urge to actually explore it themselves. If nothing else, the book will give potential hikers a glimpse of life on the trail and the months (!) it takes to hike end to end.

A Short History of Nearly Everything

Author: Bill Bryson

Faculty: Mr. Martin

Description: "This is a book about how it happened," the author writes. "In particular how we went from there being nothing at all to there being something, and then how a little of that something turned into us, and also what happened in between and since."

What Would Lincoln Do?

Author: David Acord

Faculty: Mr. Mohney

Description: A 166 page book detailing President Lincoln's Most Inspired Solutions the Challenging Problems and Difficult Situations.

How much easier would it be to tackle your everyday problems if you could have Lincoln advising you. Using the tactics Lincoln advised in his letters and speeches, learn the best ways to:

Deal with unpleasant people

Give advice to a close friend without hurting their feelings

Clear the air after an argument

Say no to a request

Respond to unfair rumors and accusations

Stand your ground in difficult circumstances

Inspire the people around you

.....and much more

Where Eagles Dare

Author: Alistair Maclean

Faculty: Mr. Mouer

Description: Eight Allied agents -- seven men and a woman -- parachute onto a mountainside behind enemy lines in wartime Germany. Their mission: to rescue an American general before the Nazis can force him to reveal secret D-Day plans.

The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine

Author: Michael Lewis

Faculty: Mr. Neff

Description: The author of Moneyball and The Blind Side, Michael Lewis takes on the story of Wall Street, the market collapse that led to the Great Recession, and the odd-ball money managers who foresaw it all. Lewis tracks the story of these outsiders, who use their unique perspectives to make crazy money betting against everyone else. At the same time, Lewis uses their experiences to both entertain and to demystify "sub-prime", "credit default

swaps”, and the “housing bubble” that nearly lead to the collapse of the Western financial world.

Ironmind: Stronger Minds, Stronger Bodies

Author: Randall Strossen, Ph.D.

Faculty: Mr. Parham

Description: Dr. Strossen explores many interesting concepts about getting stronger in the weightroom by having a better mindset. This book is a collection of many articles the author has previously published; therefore, it is a book that you can read straight through or one article at a time.

Map of Bones

Author: James Rollins

Faculty: Mrs. Pulsifer

Description: Throw The DaVinci Code into the blender with a Michael Crichton novel (Jurassic Park, Andromeda Strain, Prey... take your pick), flick the puree button and this is what you get. In this international mystery, you'll find medieval cults, corrupt Vatican officials, nasty villains and all kinds of interesting (and true!) historical and scientific detail. Yes, there's romance but it's almost lost in the action. Once you get started on this one, you won't be able to stop.

The Great Santini

Author: Pat Conroy

Faculty: Mrs. Sparacino

Description: THE GREAT SANTINI takes us into the family life of a fighter pilot. Bull Meecham is the epitome of the Marine officer — as tough a disciplinarian at home as at the base. Rebellion, or even difference of opinion, is not tolerated. Objections are met with the statement "The Great Santini has spoken." As the oldest child, Ben takes the brunt of his father's criticism. His attempts to stand up for himself or his mother and sister are contemptuously dismissed. His feelings for his father are a mixture of hate and fear, reluctant pride in his prowess, and unacknowledged love. This is the story of a boy's determination to be himself, whatever that may be. It is violent, shocking, funny, moving, and overwhelmingly real.

Fellowship of the Ring

Author: J.R.R. Tolkien

Faculty: Mr. Stender

Description: This is the first book in the Trilogy of the Ring, a fantastic fantasy of Good versus Evil in the changing of the world before the age of men. Join us in the journey of a

lifetime, with friendships and betrayal, deception and truths, high callings and exile. We shall compare the book and the movie for maximum effect. And remember, “Frodo lives!”

Open—An Autobiography

Author: Andre Agassi

Faculty: Mr. Stokes

Description: Agassi tells his life story beginning at the age of seven when he first began to play tennis. He also tells of his hatred for the game and of his internal torment, despite success. Finally, he tells of finding happiness in his life and describes in great detail the people who helped him along the way. A great read whether you play tennis or not.

A Cook’s Tour: Global Adventures in Extreme Cuisines

Author: Anthony Bourdain

Faculty: Mr. Stump

Description: Anthony Bourdain has been a chef in belly of Manhattan for almost three decades and has recently been taking his somewhat skewed view of reality on the road. He explores the far flung corners of the globe with their epicurean culture dead in his sights and relates his findings through the lens (and language...) of a professional chef. If you enjoy traveling, cooking, or simply the musings of an opinionated New Yorker with a lavish expense account then this is the book for you.

All Quiet on the Western Front.

Author: Remarque

Faculty: Ms. Tillett

Description: Perhaps the most important modern novel about war, Remarque classic tells the story of German soldiers in the trenches of World War I. While focusing on a specific plot and set of combat experiences, historians view this short novel as important for presenting universal themes about war in general: courage, camaraderie, the concept of “enemy”, the loss of innocence, and the devastation of modern warfare.

The Manchurian Candidate

Author: Richard Condon

Faculty: Mrs. Weil

Description: Sergeant Raymond Shaw was an ex-prisoner of war, a Medal of Honor winner, American hero--and assassin programmed by a foreign power.

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America

Author: Erik Larson

Faculty: Mr. Wright

Description: Their fates were linked by the magical Chicago World's Fair of 1893, nicknamed the "White City" for its majestic beauty. Architect Daniel Burnham built it; serial killer Dr. H. H. Holmes used it to lure victims to his World's Fair Hotel, designed for murder. Both men left behind them a powerful legacy, one of brilliance and energy, the other of sorrow and darkness.

Here, then, is your ticket to the greatest fair in history—a place where incredible dreams came to life alongside darkest nightmares.

Omnivore's Dilemma

Author: Michael Pollan

Faculty: Mr. Young

Description: In *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Michael Pollan writes about how our food is grown -- what it is, in fact, that we are eating. The book is really three in one: The first section discusses industrial farming; the second, organic food, both as big business and on a relatively small farm; and the third, what it is like to hunt and gather food for oneself. And each section culminates in a meal -- a cheeseburger and fries from McDonald's; roast chicken, vegetables and a salad from Whole Foods; and grilled chicken, corn and a chocolate soufflé (made with fresh eggs) from a sustainable farm; and, finally, mushrooms and pork, foraged from the wild.