



UPPER SCHOOL

2011 Summer Reading List

The Second Baptist School administration feels it is important to expose students to the great writers of western civilization and to the thoughts which reflect their time period and frames of reference. Thus, SBS has a mandatory reading program during the school year as well as a required summer reading program. Any student who faithfully follows this reading will be on his/her way to becoming a well-read person. Administrators and teachers labor diligently to select important pieces of literature colleges and universities expect students to have read. We carefully consider the value of the overriding themes rather than allow a few passages of crude language or a graphic description to be the ultimate determining factor affecting our choices. If there are questions about reading selections, please contact the appropriate school director.

**Second Baptist School
Summer Reading Book Sale
Woliver-Anderson Library
Tuesday, May 10
7:30 AM – 4:00 PM**

**Woliver-Anderson Library
Summer Hours:
Tuesdays (June 7 – August 2)
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**



SUMMER READING GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors

Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are expected to read two books over the summer: one assigned by the English Department and the other by the Bible Department.

English

Students will be tested over the assigned works for English classes during the first week of school. **Please note the ISBN number for the English selection as students are expected to obtain the specific edition indicated.**

Bible

The passion of the Second Baptist School faculty is to bring every student into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ while equipping them to do with all excellence that which God has called them to do. Each grade level will read a specific apologetic work intended to complement students' Bible study during the year. In establishing and deepening each student's personal relationship with Christ, teachers strive to cultivate spiritually engaging eternal knowledge. These apologetic works will augment an already rich foundation of Bible study and call on students to articulate why they believe what they believe.

All students are required to respond to a number of reflective questions as they read through the books and then, email those reflections to their Bible teachers on the due dates: June 15, July 15 and August 15. The Bible Department will provide students the questions, a copy of the assigned book, and more specific instructions regarding this assignment in the coming weeks.

Seniors

Academic seniors will have two works to read for English, and AP English students will complete the Senior Author project. Please refer to the Seniors section, page 7 for titles and more specific instructions.



FRESHMAN ASSIGNED READING

Bradbury, Ray

Fahrenheit 451

ISBN: 0-345-34296-8

A dystopian novel first published in 1953, *Fahrenheit 451* depicts a frightening vision of a future society where the appearance of happiness is the highest goal — a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad. The title alludes to the temperature at which book paper burns, and “firemen” burn books forbidden by the totalitarian regime. Guy Montag is a “fireman” who begins to question the value of his profession when his neighbor Clarisse who is interested in the ideas presented in books and learning about the world around her suddenly disappears. Please make note of the edition required.

Ortberg, John

Know Doubt (Formerly titled Faith and Doubt)

You long to live with certainty, to know without a doubt that you’ve bet your life on the truth and that no surprises await you on the other side of eternity. Even those known for their deep faith – people like Billy Graham, Martin Luther, and Mother Teresa – have wrestled with unanswerable and often painful questions. John Ortberg takes an honest look at the misgivings and uncertainties that often obscure our view of God. He candidly describes grappling with his own personal doubts as well as walking with others through the faith-shaking storms of life. He reveals how we can celebrate the gift of uncertainty as we allow the right kinds of doubt to actually deepen our faith and intimacy with God.



SOPHOMORES ASSIGNED READING

Fitzgerald, F. Scott
ISBN: 0743273567

The Great Gatsby

Gatsby and Daisy meet five years before the novel begins, when Daisy is a legendary young Louisville beauty and Gatsby an impoverished officer. They fall in love, but while Gatsby serves overseas, Daisy marries the brutal, bullying, but extremely rich Tom Buchanan. After the war, Gatsby devotes himself blindly to the pursuit of wealth by whatever means--and to the pursuit of Daisy. His millions made, Gatsby buys a mansion across Long Island Sound from Daisy's patrician East Egg address, throws lavish parties, and waits for her to appear. When she does, events unfold with all the tragic inevitability of a Greek drama. Please make note of the edition required.

Keller, Timothy

The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith

Newsweek called Timothy Keller a “C. S. Lewis for the twenty-first century” in a review of his first book, *The Reason for God*. In that book, he offered a rational explanation of why we should believe in God. Now, in *The Prodigal God*, he uses one of the best-known Christian parables to reveal an unexpected message of hope and salvation. Taking his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity, Keller uncovers the essential message of Jesus, locked inside his most familiar parable. Within that parable Jesus reveals God’s prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way.



JUNIORS ASSIGNED READING

Academic Students

Golding, William

Lord of the Flies

ISBN: 0140283331

Golding's gripping novel explores the boundary between human reason and animal instinct, all on the brutal playing field of adolescent competition. A group of English schoolboys are stranded on a deserted island, and at first, they cooperate attempting to gather food, make shelters, and maintain signal fires. Overseeing their efforts are Ralph and Piggy, Ralph's chubby, wisdom-dispensing sidekick whose thick spectacles come in handy for lighting fires. Although Ralph tries to impose order and delegate responsibility, there are many in their number who would rather swim, play, or hunt. Soon Ralph's rules are being ignored or challenged outright. The situation deteriorates as the trappings of civilization continue to fall away, until Ralph discovers that instead of being hunters, he and Piggy have become the hunted.

Advanced Placement Students

Hardy, Thomas

Tess of the d'Urbervilles

ISBN: 0393959031

The subtitle *A Pure Woman Faithfully Presented* reveals Hardy's sense that Tess is an honorable woman who falls victim to rigid Victorian conventions. One of the first novels of the modern period, it departed from conventional Victorian fiction in its focus on the rural lower class and in its open criticism of social mores. After her impoverished family learns of its noble lineage, naïve Tess Durbeyfield is sent to make an appeal to a nearby wealthy family who bears their ancestral name of d'Urberville. Her fateful meeting with the dissolute Alec d'Urberville leads her into certain doom.

ALL JUNIORS

Keller, Timothy

King's Cross: The Story of the World in the Life of Jesus

King's Cross is a revelatory look at the life of Christ as told in the Gospel of Mark. Keller shows how the story of Jesus is at once cosmic, historical and personal, calling each of us to look anew at our relationship with God. It is, "an extended meditation on the historical Christian premise that Jesus's [sic] life, death, and resurrection form the central event of cosmic and human history as well as the central organizing principle of our own lives.... [Its purpose is] to try to show, through his words and actions, how beautifully his life makes sense of ours."



SENIORS ASSIGNED READING

Academic English IV (Two Selections)

Krakauer, Jon *Into the Wild*

ISBN: 9780307387172

Admitting an interest that borders on obsession, Krakauer searches for the clues to the drives and desires that propelled 24-year-old Chris McCandless to leave civilization behind and head into the remote Alaskan wilderness. Four months later, a hunter found McCandless's emaciated corpse at his campsite. Mesmerizing and heartbreaking, Krakauer's powerful and luminous storytelling blaze through every page.

Walls, Jeannette *The Glass Castle*

ISBN: 9780743247542

Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in fifteen minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever. Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to a dismal West Virginia mining town. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

AP English IV: Senior Author Project

AP English students will select a single author at the end of the junior year with the approval of the AP English Literature and Composition instructor. Over the summer they will read approximately 650 pages of this author's works and prepare for oral and written presentations during the fall semester. The instructor must also approve the reading selections. The senior instructor may also test over the summer reading at her discretion.

ALL SENIORS

Wright, N. T. *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*

Why do we expect justice? Why do we crave spirituality? Why are we attracted to beauty? Why are relationships often so painful? And how will the world be made right? These are not simply perennial questions all generations must struggle with, but, according to N. T. Wright, are the very echoes of a voice we dimly perceive but deeply long to hear. In fact, these questions take us to the heart of who God is and what He wants from us. Wright makes the case for Christian faith from the ground up, assuming that the reader has no knowledge of (and perhaps even some aversion to) religion in general and Christianity in particular. *Simply Christian* walks the reader through the Christian faith step-by-step and question-by-question. With simple yet exciting and accessible prose, Wright challenges skeptics by offering explanations for even the toughest doubt-filled dilemmas, leaving believers with a reason for renewed faith.