Please choose one of the books from this list as your summer reading book. When you return to school in September, your teacher will use this book as the subject for the first assignment(s) of the year. Assignments may include written and/or oral reports, projects, presentations, etc.

Since one of our goals is to encourage the habit of life-long reading, we will be assigning independent reading books to you all year long. This summer reading assignment is the first of the books you will read on your own this year.

Some of these books have been recommended by previous freshmen; others fit the general reading focus of the freshman curriculum – literature from or about Africa, South Asia, and East Asia. You can pick up a copy of your book from any of the area libraries, or if you want personal copies, purchase them from a local bookstore or a website like amazon.com or bn.com (Barnes & Noble).

**Note:** We have found that students sometimes have trouble remembering the smaller details of the books they have selected for summer reading. In order to help you remember the finer details and your initial reactions to them, we have attached to this list a template for note-taking, or what we often call a “reader-response journal.” If you’d like to use this template—it’s optional—simply photocopy the template for each chapter or scene, and then: 1) jot down the basic plot details; 2) think of a question that might spark an interesting discussion; and 3) copy some key quotations from the chapter and write down your reactions to them. As noted above, use of this template is not a requirement.

Abagnale, Frank & Stan Redding  
*Catch Me If You Can: The True Story of a Real Fake*

Albom, Mitch  
*Tuesdays with Morrie; The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

Angelou, Maya  
*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Banks, Russell  
*Rule of the Bone*

Binchy, Maeve  
*Circle of Friends*

Burns, Olive Ann  
*Cold Sassy Tree*

Conroy, Pat  
*The Great Santini; Lords of Discipline*

Choi, Sook Nyul  
*Year of the Impossible Goodbyes; Gathering of Pearls; Echoes of the White Giraffe*

Courtney, Bryce  
*The Power of One*

Crichton, Michael  
*Congo*

Dangarembga, Tsitsi  
*Nervous Conditions*

Gaiman, Neil  
*Stardust; American Gods*

Grisham, John  
*The Firm; The Client*

Grossman, David  
*Someone to Run With*

Hamill, Pete  
*Snow in August*

Harr, Jonathan  
*A Civil Action*

Kahn, Roger  
*Boys of Summer*

Kidd, Sue Monk  
*The Secret Life of Bees*

Kingsolver, Barbara  
*The Bean Trees*
Kinsella, W.P.  
Shoeless Joe Jackson

Knowles, John  
A Separate Peace

Krakauer, Jon  
Into Thin Air

Lee, Gus  
China Boy

L’Engle, Madeline  
Summer of the Great-Grandmother

Lewis, C.S.  
The Chronicles of Narnia

Lord, Walter  
A Night to Remember (about the sinking of the Titanic)

McBride, James  
The Color of Water

McCourt, Frank  
Angela’s Ashes

Oyono, Ferdinand  
Houseboy

Robinson, Marilynne  
Housekeeping

Rowling, J. K.  
Harry Potter, Books 1 – 7

See, Lisa  
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

Smith, Maggie  
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Staples, Suzanne F.  
Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind

Tan, Amy  
The Kitchen God’s Wife; The Bone-Setter’s Daughter

Tolkien, J.R.R.  
The Hobbit

Tsukiyama, Gail  
The Samurai’s Garden; Women of the Silk

Uchida, Yoshiko  
Picture Bride

Vonnegut, Kurt  
Cat’s Cradle

Wells, Rebecca  
Little Altars Everywhere

White, T.H.  
The Once and Future King

Wolfe, Tom  
The Right Stuff

Wolff, Tobias  
This Boy’s Life

Yoshimoto, Banana  
Kitchen; Asleep
# READING JOURNAL TEMPLATE

**TITLE OF TEXT**

**AUTHOR**

**SCENE/CHAPTER NAME/#**

**Scene/Chapter Plot Summary:**

**Discussion Question** (may be an open-ended, thought-provoking question for the class OR something from the reading that didn’t make sense):

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<tr>
<th>QUOTE (with page #)</th>
<th>REACTION/REFLECTION</th>
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