

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

*Students entering Grade 8 will be responsible for completing four books over the summer. Students may choose three of the four books, one each from a different category. The Mandatory fourth book should be purchased as students will be highlighting and writing in it. After reading each book students will complete written assignments which will be due the first day of school.*

**Mandatory Reading Assignment**

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

1. Put your name in the book on the inside of the front cover.
2. Highlight any new vocabulary words you do not recognize. Create a list by Chapter and define the words. We will generate a final list of words together and you will be tested on them. Be sure you have good working definitions!
3. Return to the book after you have finished reading it and choose one character which interests you. Underline every scene which alludes to your chosen character. Make a list of that character's personality traits starting at the beginning of the story until the end. Note the ways in which your chosen character changes and write a paragraph summarizing those changes. Be prepared to discuss your findings in class.
4. Create a portrait of your chosen character on a half-size sheet of poster board. Include symbols on the poster of objects that reflect events in the story or important aspects of your character. These do not have to be drawn but may not be computer images or copies. Be creative! You will be sharing these in class.
5. Create a thesis statement or two for the book. The statement should be a concrete idea which you came away with after reading the book and which you would like to explore further. This statement should be no more than four lines.

*Choose three books from the attached list. You must read one of the classics listed, one of the ALA Newbery Medal Winners or Newbery Honor books and one book from the contemporary list. Each list contains a variety of reading skill levels, be sure to challenge yourself! Read beyond the four if you are able to! I especially encourage you to take advantage of the "Getting Ready for High School List" throughout our year together. Students who love reading will have the option of joining our new book club which will run once a week during lunch/recess time.*

Assignment for **each** book:

1. Write a letter from the main character's point of view which describes the main problem the main character faces in the story. The journal entry should:
  - a. Be written in complete paragraphs with attention to details, with special attention to how the main character feels dealing with this crisis at different phases of the story.
  - b. Include a date that reflects the 'date' the character wrote the entry.
2. Write a second letter from a secondhand character's point of view to the main character, and in it describe the solution to the main character's problem as it happened in the story.
3. These will be collected the first day of class.

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

*The Classics*

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell  
*Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes  
*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(continued)*

*The Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale  
*Shabanu* by Staples  
*Tunnel in the Sky* by Robert Heinlein  
*My Thirteenth winter* by Samantha Abeel  
*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  
*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  
*Goodby, Vietnam* by Whelan  
*The Burn Journals* by Brent Runyon  
*Perfect* by Natasha Friend  
*A Door Near Here* by Heather Quarles  
*After the Rain* by Norma Fox Mazer

*Contemporary Literature*

*The Wish List* by Eoin Colfer  
*Sabriel* by Garth Nix  
*Ironman* by Chris Crutcher  
*Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton  
*The Dragonriders of Pern* by Anne McCafferey  
*Farewell to Manzanar* by Houston  
*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  
*Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman  
*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  
*The Last Book in the Universe* by Rodman Phillbrick  
*The Knife of Never Letting go* by Ness (some language)  
*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

### **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