

**Bishop Kelly High School 2009
10-12th Grade Summer Reading List**

Book/Author	Description
<p><u>All the King's Men/</u> Robert Penn Warren (Mike Kalange)</p>	<p>Fiction: Willie Stark is a southern-fried politician who builds support by appealing to the common man and playing dirty politics with the best of the back-room deal-makers. However, this novel which is loosely based on the life of Huey Long, the Governor of Louisiana, is also the story of Jack Burden who works for Long and becomes embroiled in the blackmailing and political intrigue that surrounds Stark. Set in the 1920's, this book has several sub-stories that keep the action moving in swirls of depth and meaning.</p>
<p><u>Associate, The/</u> John Grisham (Adam Kinalski)</p>	<p>Suspense: Kyle McAvoy excelled at Yale, was elected editor-in chief of its law journal, and had a future of limitless potential. However, due to a dark secret from his Yale days, Kyle is forced to take a job he doesn't want at the largest law firm in the world. In addition to practicing law, he is expected to lie, steal, and take part in a scheme that could send him to prison, if not get him killed. This is another page-turner that pulls readers in and keeps them wanting more.</p>
<p><u>Basque History of the World, The/</u> Mark Kurlansky (Dominic Chumich)</p>	<p>Historical: Straddling the border of southern France and northern Spain, the land of the Basques has long been home to a people who may have no country but still feel they are a nation. Viewed as an anomaly in Europe the Basques have a long history rich in politics, economics, and culture. The author, tracing their history from pre-Roman times to their recent renaissance in language and arts, relates how they came to be among Europe's first whalers, capitalists, explorers, industrialists and international traders. The most unifying influence from this lone ethnic group of people is their language, Euskera, which is considered the oldest European language still spoken.</p>
<p><u>Bless Me, Ultima/</u> Rudolfo Anaya</p>	<p>Multi-cultural: Throughout this novel Antonio Marez, a young Mexican boy growing up in New Mexico, faces confusion over religion and spirituality. His father, a man of the "llano" or land, wants Antonio to become a cowherd, but his mother wants him to be a priest and a man of learning. Ultima, a healing woman, comes into Antonio's young life and helps him to face many uncertainties, even after she is gone. This wonderful coming-of-age story presents several conflicts: Hispanic vs. American culture, Catholicism vs. paganism, parents expectations vs. the child's desires. Curses, healings, and dead people are entwined within these conflicts to make this a valuable read.</p>

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<p><u>Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking</u>/ Malcolm Gladwell (Kyle Kiehn)</p>	<p>Psychology: The first two seconds of looking is a “blink,” according to Malcolm Gladwell, and a blink translates into a decisive glance that “knows” in an instant or becomes a snap judgment. Building his case with scenes from a marriage, speed dating, selling cars, military maneuvers, and more, Gladwell persuades readers to think small and focus on snap judgment, or “thin slices” of behavior in order to warn us of danger, read a stranger, or react to a new idea. He believes that we can make better instant judgments by training our mind and senses to focus on the most relevant facts and not cloud our mind with too much input. However, he also examines the flip side: the times when too little input misleads us or gives us the wrong results. An enjoyable and informative read.</p>
<p><u>E=MC2</u>/ David Bodanis (Pedro Rodriguez)</p>	<p>Science: This is a terrific read! David Bodanis traces the development of Einstein’s equation in a fun and interesting way. He not only describes the work of the scientists, but also their personal quirks and nasty traits. Especially fascinating is the story of a brilliant woman physicist of Jewish origin who was denied recognition and respect for her discoveries by her colleagues. The chapter describing the race to develop the atomic bomb is chilling. The book concludes with an awesome description of the end of the earth.</p>
<p><u>Ender’s Game</u>/ Orson Scott Card (Cole Kosydar)</p>	<p>Sci Fi/Fantasy: In this enthralling, complex, story government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. One such genius is Ender Wiggin, whose skills makes him a leader in school and respected on the orbiting Battle School. However, he suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the teachers, and fear of the alien invaders. Back on earth, his sadistic brother Peter and his loving sister Valentine create an intellectual alliance to change the course of history; a situation that adds to the challenge of saving the world from malevolent alien “buggers.”</p>
<p><u>Five People You Meet in Heaven, The</u> / Mitch Albom (Tori Cummings)</p>	<p>Inspirational: As part parable, this poignant novel weaves together three stories of 83-year-old Eddie, the head maintenance person at Ruby Point Amusement Park. The first story tells of Eddie’s death, his funeral, and the subsequent days as friends clean out his apartment. In flashbacks, the second story portrays Eddie’s life story through birthday celebrations. He reaches heaven and meets five people in the third story – five people who each have a secret to reveal and a lesson to share in regard to their relationship with him. With Eddie searching for inner peace he discovers the answers to the eternal questions of “why are we here?” and “what is our life purpose?”</p>

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<p><u>Goose Girl, The/</u> Shannon Hale</p>	<p>Fiction: The engaging plot of this book is the retelling of the Grimm’s fairy tale of the same name. Ani, a crown princess learns at an early age that her special gifts of whispering to horses and communicating with birds are not valued by her queen mother. Sent to marry a prince in a different kingdom, Ani is overthrown by her lady-in-waiting along the way and ends up tending geese in the new kingdom. Through the treacheries, tests, hardships, and friendships she encounters, she begins to understand what her privileged palace life had not taught her and searches for a way to return to the one she wishes to marry and the throne that is rightfully hers.</p>
<p><u>Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, The/</u> Mary Ann Shafer, Annie Burrows</p>	<p>Fiction: Author Juliet Ashton becomes friends with a group of residents on the British island of Guernsey who had formed a book club right after World War II. Written as a series of letters, this novel reveals the quirky, lovable residents as quite knowledgeable of literary authors but also having their own tragic stories of life under Nazi occupation. The characters have unique relationships and Juliet is a funny, but warm hearted and genuine character – all who make this a charming and delightful book.</p>
<p><u>Hell’s Cartel/</u>Diarmuid Jeffreys (Karl Schutz, Sam Kosydar)</p>	<p>World War II: This is a compelling account of the collaboration of Germany’s major chemical conglomerate with Hitler’s objective of genocide. A cluster of German chemical firms including Bayer, the aspirin company, formed the cartel IG Farben, which made huge donations to the newly powerful Nazi party and complied with the purge of valuable Jewish scientists from its industries. It took over the chemical plants in Poland and France and erected a new factory manned by slave labor from Auschwitz. This book is a gripping investigation of the transformation of German corporate executives into monsters who made the Holocaust technically possible.</p>
<p><u>Host, The/</u> Stephenie Meyer (Bregeen McClure, Melanie Garland)</p>	<p>Sci Fi/Fanatsy: Planet-hopping parasites are inserting their silvery centipede selves into human brains, curing cancer, eliminating war and turning Earth into paradise. But feisty Melanie Stryder refuses to surrender her mind to the alien soul called Wanderer, and emotions flare and relationships are tested as the host and soul must share one body and learn to co-exist and survive. Melanie persuades Wanderer to help her search for her brother and boyfriend in the Arizona desert. From there the story develops into a tantalizing adventure as a renegade group of remaining humans struggle to survive the advanced alien conquerors.</p>

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<p><u>Hunger Games, The/</u> Suzanne Collins</p> <p>(Courtney Goldy, Kristin Strough)</p>	<p>Sci Fi/Fantasy: In a brilliantly plotted tale that begins after North American society has been decimated by climate change and war, the Capitol, in the country of Panem, establishes the annual Hunger Games. Two young representatives from each of the 12 districts fight to the death in ritual games — a form of both repression and entertainment that is broadcasted like reality TV – with a life of ease for the winner, and death for the losers. When her younger sister is picked to compete, Katniss Everdeen, a skilled hunter, makes the fateful choice to take her place. To make the situation even more interesting, Katniss is pitted against her male friend Peeta, who seems to have a romantic interest in her. An exciting and suspenseful book that the reader will not want to put down.</p>
<p><u>I Am America (And So Can You!)/</u> Stephen Colbert</p> <p>(Katie Husk, Rachel Flachbart)</p>	<p>Humor: Colbert is best known for his TV satire on Comedy Central, “The Colbert Report.” He plays a clueless right-wing pundit who has an opinion on everything – which is never based on fact. Now he has written a book in which he takes on the forces aligned to destroy our country, whether they be terrorists, environmentalists, or Kashi brand breakfast cereals. There are also funny margin notes and footnotes on each page, and as a special bonus, he reprints his 2006 White House Correspondent’s Dinner speech.</p>
<p><u>Kite Runner/</u> Khaled Hosseini</p> <p>(Kendahl Melvin)</p>	<p>Fiction: Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the present, this novel is the beautifully told story of the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. One is the son of a prominent and wealthy man, while the other is a member of a shunned ethnic minority. Their story entails the rich culture and beauty of a land being destroyed and includes betrayal and the price of loyalty.</p>
<p><u>Life of Pi/</u> Yann Martel</p> <p>(Joey McCarrel)</p>	<p>Fiction: 16-year-old Pi Patel, the precocious son of a zookeeper, is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries out various faiths for size. When the father is ordered to sell the zoo he moves his family to Canada by way of an enormous freighter. After a harrowing shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with a wounded zebra, a spotted hyena, a seasick orangutan, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. After much gore and infighting, Pi and Richard Parker end up drifting for 227 days and must fight hunger, the elements, and an overactive imagination.</p>
<p><u>Lone survivor, The/</u> Marcus Luttrell, Patrick Robinson</p> <p>(Cory Richelieu, James Marria)</p>	<p>Military: This is the story of the only survivor of Operation Redwing, SEAL fire team leader Marcus Luttrell, and the firefight in Afghanistan that led to the largest loss of life in American Navy SEAL history. The four-man team were on a mission to kill a Taliban leader thought to be allied with Osama bin Laden, but due to a decision of Luttrell’s nearly a hundred SEAL’s were killed. Luttrell crawls through the mountains for four days and is rescued by a small village of Afghans who risk their lives to keep him safe from the Taliban warriors. In addition to this true account of lost friends, valor, courage, and the intricacies of modern war, the book also goes into detail on the rigorous training of a Navy SEAL.</p>

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<p><u>Miracle of St. Anthony, The/</u> Adrian Wajnarowski</p>	<p>Basketball: Bob Hurley coached the boy's basketball team at St. Anthony's High School in Jersey City, NJ, for over 30 years. This fine biography portrays Hurley's drive and passion towards building a powerhouse program in a small school run by Felician Nuns that constantly struggled to educate "the poorest of the poor." Competing with poverty, drugs, violence, and racial stigma, Hurley demands more of his players and shows them the path for college and a better life. The book is also an indictment of many AAU programs that don't have the players' best interests at heart.</p>
<p><u>Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain/</u> Oliver Sachs</p>	<p>Music: Dr. Oliver Sachs is a British neurologist with a love of music and science. In his book he examines the extreme effects of music on the human brain and how lives can be transformed by the simplest of harmonies. With clinical studies covering both tragic and triumphant situations he describes the relationship between music and unusual brain disorders. One example is that of the British conductor Clive Wearing who developed amnesia after a brain inflammation but was still able to remember how to conduct and sing. This is an informative, as well as, entertaining book on the human condition.</p>
<p><u>My Sister's Keeper/</u> Jodi Picoult (Brittany Martinez)</p>	<p>Fiction: Anna was conceived to provide a donor match for her sister, Kate, who has a rare form of leukemia. At 13, Anna rebels and hires a lawyer to sue her parents to stop a kidney transplant. She wants the right to make her own decisions as to how her body is used. The author skillfully relates the ensuing drama from the points of view of all the characters in the book; and although the novel doesn't answer many questions it is definitely thought-provoking. From the details of the unrelenting medical procedures to the burdens the older brother of Kate and Anna brings to the family, this book is not one to be ignored.</p>
<p><u>Northern Light, A/</u> Jennifer Donnelly (Tori Kerkman)</p>	<p>Fiction: 16-year-old Mattie Gokey is at a crossroads in her life. She has a gift for writing and has been accepted to Barnard College in New York City, but she's held back by her sense of responsibility to her father and younger siblings; plus a budding romance with handsome Royal Loomis doesn't help either. To add to her confusion a young woman turns up dead near the hotel where Mattie works, a drowning victim whom the day before had asked Mattie to burn a packet of love letters. Set in 1906, this is a remarkable and gripping story of Mattie's journey towards self-discovery and self-fulfillment against the ordeals of poverty, racism, and feminism.</p>

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<p><u>Playing for Pizza</u>/John Grisham (Nick Brady)</p>	<p>Sports Fiction: Not the typical Grisham thriller, this lively, funny, novel with some surprising twists is a winsome football fable loaded with team bonding and character building dilemmas. Third-string Cleveland Browns quarterback Rick Dockery sabotages his career in the closing minutes of a championship game and is forced to flee his vengeful fans. He joins a team in Italy to start a new life, avoid a paternity suit, and meet the team cheerleaders. What follow is an entertaining lesson in Italian culture and the chance of redemption as he and his teammates strive to win the Italian Super Bowl.</p>
<p><u>Rumor of War, A</u>/ Philip Caputo (Connor Lineberger)</p>	<p>Viet Nam War: For anyone who has wondered about the realities of the Vietnam War, this autobiographical book is a must read. It is a testimony about the true nature of war with all of its atrocities and horrors: the heat, the insects, endless mines and booby traps, and “death, death, death.” Caputo joined the Marines as an enthusiastic idealist, only to have that enthusiasm turn to pessimism, pessimism to despair, and despair to rage. Eventually, the rage vents itself in mindless violence against anything Vietnamese, another manifestation of war.</p>
<p><u>Sarah’s Key</u>/ Tatiana de Rosnay (Lauren Naughton, Laura Pegram)</p>	<p>World War II: Sarah Starzynski, a ten-year-old Jewish Parisian girl, is captured in the round-up of June 16, 1942 and imprisoned with others in the Velodrome d’Hiver, an indoor cycling arena, to await transportation to Auschwitz. Sixty years later, while researching for a story on the arena, the American journalist, Julia Jarmond, stumbles upon Sarah’s family history. The past and present catch up with each other as Julia uncovers dark secrets surrounding her husband’s family that are connected to the deportations of Jews from France. France had even stricter laws regarding Jews than those of the Third Reich, a fact that makes this book a remarkable historical novel.</p>
<p><u>Secret Life of Bees,</u> <u>The</u>/ Sue Monk Kidd (Kayla Gordon)</p>	<p>Fiction: It’s 1964 and young Lily and her nanny, Rosaleen, are fleeing both Lily’s abusive father and the police who battered Rosaleen for defending her right to vote. Lily is also running from memories, particularly her jumbled recollection of how, at the age of four, she accidentally killed her mother. Among her mother’s possessions is a picture of a black Virgin Mary with “Tiburon, S.C.” on the back. They travel to Tiburon where she is put to work in the honey house run by three beekeeping sisters. This is a wonderful novel full of hope, energy, humor and a journey of healing.</p>

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<p><u>Suite Francaise/</u> Irene Nemirovsky</p>	<p>World War II: This novel consists of two stories: “Storm in June” and “Dolce.” The first tells of the mass, panic exodus from Paris, forced by the Nazis, in which people of all classes were thrown together. Those families used to a life of luxury were suddenly confronted with a situation that was beyond their control. Their outcome makes a gripping, complex work of fiction. The second story, set in a farming village under German occupation, tells how peasant farmers, their pretty daughters and the higher class collaborationists coexisted, or not, with their Nazi rulers. Together, the two stories vividly portray characters that discover that class, beliefs, position, or wealth can be swept away by events not fully foreseen or understood.</p>
<p><u>Teammates, The: A Portrait of a Friendship/</u> David Halbertson (Stuart Allyn, Chase Kayler)</p>	<p>Baseball: Sixty years ago Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, Dom DiMaggio, and Johnny Pesky formed a life-long friendship that began when they met and spent their whole baseball careers on the same team, the Red Sox. The book opens with Pesky and DiMaggio driving from Boston to visit with Williams in Florida before he passes away. In flashbacks they reminisce and recall anecdotes that involved the four of them during and after baseball life, portraying a deep and valuable bond. Williams was notoriously moody and difficult, and yet was the undisputed leader of the four. There are also many great baseball stories involving players of several generations for those enthusiastic baseball fans.</p>
<p><u>Three Cups of Tea/</u> Greg Mortenson</p>	<p>Inspirational: This book’s title and central theme are derived from a Baltistan proverb, and it serves as the backdrop for the story of an American mountain climber’s failure that leads to a phenomenal success. The author doesn’t make it to the top of K2 in 1993 and is dangerously ill after his attempt. Mortenson ends up sheltered in the small Pakistani village of Korphe for seven weeks and promises to build its first school, a project that grows into the Central Asia Institute that builds more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. His inspirational story reveals the enormous obstacles he comes up against in order to address poverty, the education of girls, and the cultural divides in that part of the world.</p>
<p><u>Twilight/</u> Stephenie Meyer (Anne Marie Totorico, Sarah Hassell)</p>	<p>Sci Fi/Fantasy: 17-year-old Bella befriends a group of beautiful teens at school who sits together during lunch but never eats. They are vampires who have renounced human prey, and Bella falls in love with one named Edward. The novel’s danger-factor skyrockets as the excitement of secret love morphs into a terrifying race to stay alive.</p>

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<p><u>Watchmen, The/</u> Alan Moore, Dave Gibbons (Kate Franklin)</p>	<p>Graphic Novel: This book is a landmark in the graphic novel medium and was first published as 12 issues for DC Comics in 1986. It is beautifully illustrated, with panel backgrounds that are filled with clues and details. The story reveals a group called the Crimebusters and the plot to kill and discredit them. Included as characters are Dr. Manhattan, Ozymandias, Nite Owl, Silk Spectre, and Rorschach. As an intelligent social and political commentary this book incorporates issues such as arms control and nuclear threat. An added bonus is the scenes from “Tales of the Black Freighter,” a comic book being read by a kid near a newsstand that offers an allegorical perspective on the main plot line.</p>
<p><u>Zen Golf: Mastering the Mental Game/</u> Dr. Joseph Parent</p>	<p>Inspirational: Mixing modern psychology with Buddhist teachings, Dr. Parent takes the athlete to effortless performance and confidence in knowing they are “in the zone.” A roadmap to inner self-awareness, this book gives specific examples and exercises one can perform to help the mental strength that is needed in athletics and in life. Professionals highly recommend this book as a must read for any athlete in any sport.</p>