

**Bishop Kelly High School 2010  
10th - 12th Grade Summer Reading List**

<p><b><u>Art of Racing in the Rain,</u></b> <b><u>The/</u></b> Garth Stein</p>	<p><b>Fiction:</b> This is a story with a dog who speaks and the thrill of competitive car racing that is written in a heart-tugging manner. Enzo is a lab terrier mix who lives with the Swift family. He has spent years watching daytime television, especially race footage with his master, Denny Swift, who dreams of being a successful racecar driver. As narrator, Enzo reveals a life that has love, tragedy, redemption, danger, and humanity for him and the family who takes care of him. How he yearns to be human...</p>
<p><b><u>Big Burn,</u></b> <b><u>The/</u></b> Timothy Egan</p>	<p><b>Non-Fiction:</b> Teddy Roosevelt created the Forest Service in 1905, but it was not prepared for the massive and swift fires in the Pacific Northwest in 1910. Underfunded, understaffed, unsupported by Congress and President Taft, and challenged by wealthy businessmen, the Forest Service fought valiantly but lost. Three million acres and five towns were destroyed, leaving 100 firefighters dead. Egan goes back and forth between the national stage of politics and the conflicting visions of the nation's future in regard to its forests through letters, newspaper articles, firsthand testimony, and Forest Service records.</p>
<p><b><u>Black Tattoo,</u></b> <b><u>The/</u></b> Sam Enthoven</p>	<p><b>Supernatural:</b> This adventurous and gripping novel takes the reader into the world of an emperor and gladiators, but of the demon kind. When Charlie becomes a host for the Scourage, who wishes to end time, Jack and Esme join together to help Charlie escape from a world of evil and horror. Super powerful characters, magical creatures, and plenty of action will keep you engrossed in this tale about a moving tattoo and its relation to a secret society.</p>
<p><b><u>Bright-Sided/</u></b> Barbara Ehrenreich</p>	<p><b>Non-Fiction:</b> The author of <u>Nickel and Dimed</u> delivers a biting look into the flourishing business of positive thinking. Spurred by her own reaction to a bout with cancer Ehrenreich traces the origins of America's "cult of optimism" from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present practices found in churches, businesses, academia, and psychiatry. She explores the insistence upon optimism and its close relationship with capitalism that allows poverty, obesity, unemployment and relationship problems to be marketed as obstacles that can be overcome with the right mindset. But has this mindset delivered us not into a life of ease but a worldwide economic meltdown, instead?</p>
<p><b><u>Broker, The/</u></b> John Grisham</p>	<p><b>Suspense:</b> Joel Blackman was a lawyer making \$10 million a year and could get anything he wanted in Washington. Then he tried to broker a deal selling access to the world's most powerful surveillance system to the highest bidder. He ends up in prison, convicted of treason. His real troubles begin when he's released. With a new name and identity Blackman intends on living a quiet life, but the CIA has other plans for him. Will he survive?</p>

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<p><b><u>Catching Fire/</u></b> Suzanne Collins</p>	<p><b>Science Fiction:</b> As the second book in the <u>Hunger Games</u> trilogy, this sequel explores the nation of Panem: its power structure, a rumored secret district, and a spreading rebellion. Katniss is at first uncomfortable with her new-found fame, but she discovers that she has become the figurehead for the movement against the Capitol. She and Peeta are to continue their romance; otherwise there will be horrifying consequences. But where does her friend, Gale, fit in the picture? This is a rollercoaster ride of a story with action, romance, horror, hope, despair, and humanity.</p>
<p><b><u>Fast Food Nation/</u></b> Eric Schlosser</p>	<p><b>Non-Fiction:</b> A groundbreaking work of investigation, this book takes the reader into the both engrossing and alarming rise of the fast food industry. From Schlosser’s point of view the explosion of fast food businesses have propelled the expansion of malls, fueled an obesity epidemic, created a chasm between rich and poor, and launched American cultural dominance abroad. Whether one agrees totally with him, or not, the food industry will never be looked upon as an unassuming, dull, harmless part of life, again.</p>
<p><b><u>First and Long /</u></b> Greg Borowski</p>	<p><b>Football:</b> Two high schools - one suburban, mostly white, the other, Catholic, inner city, mostly black - combined their resources to field a football team in 2001. This book recounts that first, difficult season, as the team struggles to win a game while trying to maintain racial harmony and control a volatile coach. Against all odds, a small group of determined kids learn valuable lessons about perseverance, brotherhood, and life. A great read for anyone who loves high school football.</p>
<p><b><u>Give Me a Break/</u></b> John Stossel</p>	<p><b>Television Journalism:</b> Stossel, the well-known 20/20 correspondent, presents his thesis: there is nothing government can do that the private sector can’t do better. Although the book is clearly one man’s opinion, he powerfully laments that we are being ripped off by excessive taxation, incompetent and bloated bureaucracies and politicians who make decisions based on self-interest rather than public interest. It is a powerful, well-argued, and immensely thought-provoking book that sticks up for the “little folks.” This book is a quick, energetic read that will get you pumped up, regardless of your political persuasion.</p>
<p><b><u>Glass Castle, The/</u></b> Jeannette Walls</p>	<p>In this incredible memoir, Walls chronicles her upbringing at the hands of eccentric, nomadic parents – Rose Mary, her frustrated-artist mother, and Rex, her brilliant, alcoholic father. Her journey across country, from a trailer in Arizona to a poor mining town in West Virginia, and finally ending up in New York City is a harrowing, but fascinating, tale of survival. Walls respects her parents’ knack for making hardships feel like adventures (although others might see it as abuse or neglect) and her love for them—despite their overwhelming self-absorption—resonates from cover to cover. <b>Recommended for Juniors and Seniors.</b></p>

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<p><b><u>God's Battalions: The Case for the Crusades/</u></b> Rodney Stark</p>	<p><b>Historical Non-Fiction:</b> Sociologist Rodney Stark goes to war against the many politically correct myths surrounding the history of the Crusades and has written a superbly readable, concise, and fascinating book that challenges popular assumptions. He relates that the real story began in the 7<sup>th</sup> century when Muslim armies swept over the Middle East, North Africa, and southern Europe, and that the Knights wished to liberate the Holy Land from their tyranny. Read this compelling book to see another point of view in regard to the Dark Ages and the Crusades.</p>
<p><b><u>Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, The/</u></b> Mary Ann Shafer, Annie Burrows</p>	<p><b>Fiction:</b> 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><b><u>Hell's Cartel/</u></b> Diarmuid Jeffreys</p>	<p><b>World War II:</b> 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><b><u>Help, The/</u></b> Kathryn Stockett</p>	<p><b>Fiction:</b> As a budding social activist and writer, Eugenia Skeeter Phelan begins to collect the stories of the black women who work for the country club set, at the onset of the civil rights movement. She enlists the help of Aibileen, a maid who has raised 17 children, and Aibileen's friend, Minny, who has been fired several times for talking back to her employers. But since Eugenia's friends are bridge players and fellow Junior league members, she is forced to write in secret. In this page-turner the author spins a story of social awakening with characters that are vivid, well-rounded, and seem to jump off the page.</p>

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<p><b><u>How Starbucks Saved My Life/</u></b> Michael Gates Gill</p>	<p><b>Autobiography:</b> Michael Gill had it all: money, success, and the trapping that go with it. However, when he loses his marriage, due to personal demons, and his job, life becomes a scary ordeal. One day while sitting in a Starbucks coffee shop he encounters a young, female manager who offers him the possibility of working in one. This is a well-paced and honest reflection on a man’s journey through life with its ups and downs. One lesson among several includes the willingness to learn and grow, spiritually.</p>
<p><b><u>Left to Tell/</u></b> Immaculee Ilibagiza</p>	<p><b>Multi-Cultural Memoir:</b> In 1994, Rwandan native Ilibagiza comes home from college for the Easter weekend and witnesses the beginning of the brutal murders/genocide in Rwanda. This horror lasted over three months and nearly one million Tutsis were slaughtered. She survived by hiding in a Hutu pastor’s tiny bathroom with seven other starving women for 91 days while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them. The story of her unquenchable faith and connection to God resonates as the book tries to make sense of humankind’s seemingly bottomless depravity. Imaculee’s story is simply not a story of survival, but it is a journey of faith and an amazing account of forgiveness.</p>
<p><b><u>Let the Great World Spin/</u></b> Colum McCann</p>	<p><b>Fiction:</b> Based on a true event this novel uses the 1974 real-life walk between the World Trade Center towers by Philippe Petit as the catalyst to submerge you into the intense lives of ten colorful characters. It is the aftermath, in which petit appears in the courtroom of Judge Solomon Soderberg, that sets events into motion. How the characters interconnect is played out in an eerie way and makes you keep reading to see how it all ends.</p>
<p><b><u>Lost Symbol, The/</u></b> Dan Brown</p>	<p><b>Suspense:</b> Set in Washington, D.C. and concerning the Freemasons, this new novel once again has brilliant Harvard professor Robert Langdon incorporating his vast knowledge of symbols and superior problem-solving skills to save the day. At a relentless pace the reader follows Langdon and Mal’akh, the evil villain, through their battle of a dark, ancient conspiracy that threatens the world. A severed hand mounted on a wooden base and pointing towards the Rotunda’s ceiling fresco is the first clue that takes readers on a “can’t put this book down” journey.</p>
<p><b><u>Marked/</u></b> P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast</p>	<p><b>Supernatural:</b> This is the first book in the <u>House of Night</u> series and has vampyres galore. 16-year-old Zoey Redbird is “marked” as a fledgling vampyre and is to enter the House of Night school; however, her special powers create problems for her. She realizes that all is not right in the vampyre world and that problems she thought she left behind in the real world exist at the school as well. True friendship, loyalty, romance, as well as mistrust and deception, are to be found in this dark, but funny novel. Old religious themes and ancient Cherokee history are also woven into the plotline to give it a rich texture. <b>Recommended for Juniors and Seniors.</b></p>

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<p><b><u>Memoirs of a Geisha</u></b>/ Arthur Golden</p>	<p><b>Multi-cultural:</b> A story written with grace, power, and beauty, this novel captures the geisha experience through one village girl's lifetime. Nine year old Sayuri is sold to an okiya and undergoes the strenuous training of a geisha until she is fifteen. She masters the arts of music, dance, clever conversation, and cunning seduction of wealthy patrons. Sayuri is a wonderfully drawn character with a wide range of emotions as she endures cruelty, jealousy, misery and a whole new way of life in which she comes to accept, excel, and embrace.</p>
<p><b><u>Miracle Life of Edgar Mint, The</u></b>/ Brady Udall</p>	<p><b>Fiction:</b> This fascinating, horrifying, engrossing, and oh, so human novel begins with seven-year-old Edgar Mint run over by the mailman. Abandoned by his grandmother and alcoholic mother, Edgar sets out on an odyssey through various institutions and homes, meeting up with hostility and bullying along the way. To shield himself against others he concocts a homemade magic feature; however, the doctor who saved him is a constant menacing presence in Edgar's life. Will he find the mailman who ran him down, and, ultimately, will he ever find peace?</p>
<p><b><u>Miracle of St. Anthony, The</u></b>/ Adrian Wajnarowski</p>	<p><b>Basketball:</b> 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><b><u>Mote in God's Eye, The</u></b>/ Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle</p>	<p><b>Science Fiction:</b> In the year 3016, the Second Empire of Man spans hundreds of star systems, and no other intelligent beings have been encountered until a probe from the Mote enters a human system carrying a dead alien. The humans discover that the Mote is a civilization at least one million years old, kind, friendly, but also harbors a dark problem. Some of the characters who make up the expedition team include a royal captain, a narrow-minded science minister, and a reclusive astrologer and help bring mystery to this gripping tale.</p>
<p><b><u>Prom</u></b>/ Laurie Halse Anderson</p>	<p><b>Fiction:</b> Her senior prom is the last thing 18 year-old Ashley Hannigan has on her mind. She's too worried about graduating by the skin of her teeth, helping her very pregnant mother with her three younger brothers, and planning to move into an apartment with her bad boy, dropout boyfriend. But when the new math teacher steals all of the prom committee money, Ashley reluctantly steps in to do whatever she can to help her friends reorganize, finance and supply the prom in less than two week's time. This story, written with humor, warmth, and wit, is about being true to oneself, the bonds of friendship and accepting others for who they really are.</p>

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<p><b><u>Stick Figure:</u></b> <b><u>A Diary of My Former Self/</u></b> Lori Gottlieb</p>	<p><b>Memoir:</b> 11-year old Lori reads books and disapproves of her parents’ shallow lifestyle. She also challenges authority and its demands to curb her frank opinions, and ultimately refuses to act more “ladylike.” To gain control over her rapidly changing world, Lori decides to concentrate on dieting. Through diary entries, she has written a poignant, heart-wrenching but sometimes humorous observation of an eating disorder and the society that contributed to it.</p>
<p><b><u>Stolen Lives /</u></b> Malika Oufkir</p>	<p><b>Multi-Cultural:</b> At age 5, Malika was adopted by King Mohammad V of Morocco and sent off to live in the royal palace. She lived a life of unbelievable luxury. Then the worst happened. Her father was executed for treason, and Malika, her mother and siblings were imprisoned in a remote penal colony. This is the true story of their 15-year confinement and desperate escape. Her harrowing memoir details the unfathomable conditions they endured and their impressive will and sense of humor that kept them alive.</p>
<p><b><u>Stones into Schools/</u></b> Greg Mortenson</p>	<p><b>Non-Fiction:</b> As a sequel to <u>Three Cups of Tea</u>, this book continues Mortenson’s quest to educate children in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He recounts the ways he has built upon relationships with Islamic clerics, militia commanders, and tribal leaders while dodging shootouts with feuding Afghan warlords and surviving abduction by the Taliban. He tells of the U.S. military helping him and his crew to build, not only schools, but also bridges and water systems. An uplifting book, it relates his constant struggle to promote peace through education among unstable ethnic minorities and a corrupt government.</p>
<p><b><u>Where Men Win Glory/</u></b> Jon Krakauer</p>	<p><b>Biography:</b> Pat Tillman, a rising pro-football star, forsakes his career to enlist in the United States Army, only to lose his life in Afghanistan two years later. However, it took weeks for his family to discover that he had probably been killed by friendly fire. The author draws on Tillman’s journals and letters, interviews with his wife and friends, conversations with his fellow soldiers, and extensive research in Afghanistan to portray a compelling, driven, complex man in his tragic odyssey.</p>