

**Bishop Kelly High School 2009
9th Grade Summer Reading List**

Title/Author	Description
<u>Alchemyst</u> / Michael Dylan Scott	Twin 15-year-old siblings, Sophie and Josh Newman, take summer jobs in San Francisco across the street from one another: she at a coffee shop, he at a bookstore owned by Nick and Perry Fleming. When the Golems storm the bookstore, kidnap Perry, and steal the Codex, an ancient text of magical wisdom, the stage is set for the battle between the Dark Elders with their hired gun, Dr. John Dee, and the forces of good, led by Nick and the twins. By incorporating ancient myth and legend with history, the author has written an enthralling and fast-paced story based upon the 14 th -century alchemist who could turn base metal into gold.
<u>Boy in the Striped Pajamas</u> / John Boyne	Set in 1942 Berlin, this historical fable is a vivid, descriptive tale of Nazi Germany and its persecution of Eastern European Jews. Through the eyes of Bruno, a naïve nine-year-old raised in a privileged household by strict parents, the reader experiences the confusing new world he discovers when the family moves from Berlin to Poland. Bruno is mystified by his new life and surroundings, particularly with the high wire fence that keeps him from clearly seeing the hundreds of people behind it. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own. With a surprise ending, this bittersweet, but poignant, fable is a must read.
<u>City of Bones</u> / Cassandra Clare	While hanging out at Pandemonium, an “all-ages club,” 15-year-old Clary Fray witness’s three tattoo-covered teenagers murder another teen; but the victim disappears right in front of her eyes, and she is the only one who can see the killers. She learns that the teenagers are Shadowhunters, humans who hunt and kill demons that are called Night Children. Within 24 hours her mother, Jocelyn, is kidnapped by creatures in the service of Valentine because Jocelyn is the only person who knows the whereabouts of the Mortal Cup, a dangerous magical item that turns humans into Shadowhunters. As more secrets of her past are revealed, Clary, with her friend Simon, become embroiled in a quest to understand her past and to save the world. Exciting, fun, and full of several types of fantasy figures, this book will entice you to read the rest of the series.
<u>Gym Candy</u> / Carl Deuker	This thoughtful, sobering novel is the story of high-school football player Mick Johnson, who is determined not to make the same mistakes that derailed his father’s NFL career. However, when he is tackled just short of the goal in a pivotal game, he makes the wrong decision to purchase “gym candy,” or steroids, from the trainer at his local gym. “Roid rage,” depression, and unsightly acne are the consequences, as well as, large muscle gain. How Mick deals with his new body and personality amounts to a compelling story of a real problem in today’s world of sports.
<u>Good Enough</u> / Paula Yoo	Patti Yoon’s parents expect nothing less than the best from their Korean-American daughter: get a perfect score on the SAT’s; get into Harvard, Yale, or Princeton; don’t date boys. In this funny, but serious, novel about an overachiever who longs to fit in and strives to stand out, the issues of pressure and prejudice are honestly dealt with and become a message of self-discovery and empowerment. The story relates events that are humiliating when they happen but hilarious in retrospect. Being happy seems like an elusive dream for Patti as she struggles with what it means to be happy and successful, but her journey is a delightful and engaging experience for the reader.

<p><u>House of the Scorpion/</u> Nancy Farmer</p>	<p>In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. Matt escapes from the land of Opium with his deeply religious servant and a friend, only to return to rid the country of its evils.</p>
<p><u>Marley and Me/ John Grogan</u></p>	<p>Labrador retrievers are generally considered even-tempered, calm and reliable; and then there's Marley, the subject of this delightful tribute to one Lab who doesn't fit the mold. Grogan and his wife decide to own a dog to give them a foretaste of parenthood, and the author's chronicle of the adventures with an overly energetic but endearing dog is delivered with great humor. How the Grogan family and Marley grow together through celebrations as well as times of grief, will surely provoke both laughter and tears.</p>
<p><u>New Moon/</u> Stephenie Meyer</p>	<p>After her hospital stay from the result of a vampire attack, Bella celebrates her birthday with her boyfriend Edward and his family, a clan of vampires that has sworn off human blood. But an accident happens, resulting in Edward deciding to leave in order to keep her safe. Bella spirals downward until she meets a new friend, Jacob, who has a penchant for motorcycles. Their adventures are wild and risky, and fun, but become dangerous when she uncovers the true identities of Jacob and his friends. You don't want to miss Book 2 in the <i>Twilight</i> series.</p>
<p><u>Pretty One, The/</u> Cheryl Klam</p>	<p>All Megan Fletcher had wanted was to be like her sister Lucy: beautiful, thin, and adored. Lucy is a drama major at the Chesapeake School of the Arts and a star, while Megan works quietly backstage as a "techie." When Megan's face is disfigured due to being hit by a car, plastic surgeons reconstruct her face, forever changing her life. Megan's wishes have come true, but at what price? Her classmates now treat her differently, but who is she really? Will the previous loving relationship she had with her sister and parents be forever ruined?</p>
<p><u>Sunrise Over Fallujah/</u> Walter Dean Myers</p>	<p>In this novel, Robin Perry's parents want him to go to college, but following September 11, he feels compelled to join the Army. In 2003 he is deployed to Iraq, where he becomes part of a Civil Affairs Unit charged with building the trust of the Iraqi people to minimize fighting. He and his fellow soldiers soon find that their definition of "winning" is elusive and their good intentions are being replaced by feelings of despair and the reality of just surviving. With colorful characters the author offers a powerful study of the confusion and randomness of war, and its ultimate goal of winning at all costs.</p>