

**Bishop Kelly High School 2010  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List**

<b>Title/Author</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b><u>Acceleration</u></b> / Graham Mc Namee	This chilling page-turner defines acceleration: “the escalation of increasingly destructive aberrant behavior,” the very trait of serial killers. That’s what 17-year old Duncan discovers after he begins investigating a shocking journal that turns up in the Toronto subway lost-and-found where he works. When the police refuse to take it seriously, Duncan enlists the aid of two very different friends to help him find the identity of the journal’s author, a man who tortures animals and starts fires, as well as tracks human prey. The fast-paced manhunt will keep the readers on the edge of their seats.
<b><u>Alchemyst</u></b> / 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 <sup>th</sup> -century alchemist who could turn base metal into gold.
<b><u>Between a Rock and a Hard Place</u></b> / Aron Ralston	From April 26, 2003, until May 1, Aron Ralston was pinned between a boulder and a canyon wall with scant water, little food, and no jacket for the painfully cold nights. Unable to sit, lie down, sleep, or use his right arm this ordeal tests his physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual being to the fullest and is described in detail with intelligence, warmth, and sometimes humor by Ralston. What makes this book so compelling is his dramatic means of escape: severing his arm with a dull, dirty knife. His courageous survival, as well as, the narration of previous near death experiences makes this an insightful book in regard to persistence and drive.
<b><u>City of Bones</u></b> / 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.
<b><u>Gym Candy</u></b> / 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.

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<p><b><u>Good Enough/</u></b> Paula Yoo</p>	<p>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>
<p><b><u>Have a Little Faith: a true story/</u></b> Mitch Albom</p>	<p>This is a powerful story of “finding faith” in relationships with others and with something greater than us. Albom is asked by his rabbi to deliver his eulogy when it is time for his funeral. Since Albom doesn’t know his rabbi well, he decides to spend time with him and along the way meets a former drug dealer and ex-con who is a pastor. Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, he observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older suburban rabbi embracing death while the younger inner-city pastor fights to keep his church alive.</p>
<p><b><u>Last Shot/</u></b> John Feinstein</p>	<p>Too short for a career in basketball, 13-year old Stevie turns to sports writing and wins a chance to cover the NCAA Final Four games. His adolescent insecurities are heightened when the other winner turns out to be the tall, pretty, and seemingly perfect Susan Carol. But the budding journalists unwittingly uncover a dangerous conspiracy to fix the games, and Stevie is forced to overcome his fears as the two race to stop the conspirators. This “slam dunk” mystery includes guest appearances by famous basketball personalities interwoven with the fictitious characters and moves at a fast pace.</p>
<p><b><u>Pretty One, The/</u></b> 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>