



**St. Mary Academy – Bay View
Seventh Grade
Summer Reading List 2017**

You will be required to read three books this summer. The summer reading requirement is designed to encourage you to become avid, life-long readers and learners by inviting you to take pleasure in reading substantial, thought-provoking books. We hope you will find reading a pleasure in itself and that reading more than the required number of self-selected reading choices is encouraged! Although the majority of these novels are recommended by the American Library Association, we encourage parents and students to investigate and discuss book options together in order to make appropriate choices.

Sign the reading contract and bring all documents to your first English class. You will need to print out **two copies** of the summer reading fiction notes and **one copy** of the biography pyramid.

**Book List
Biography and Fiction**

Choose **one book** from the biography list (in this document) and complete the biography pyramid, both posted under grade 7 summer learning.

Choose **two books** from the following fiction list and complete the summer reading notes, posted under grade 7 summer learning.

READING CONTRACT

I have read the following assigned and self-selected books this summer vacation:

BOOK 1 _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

BOOK 2 _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

BOOK 3 _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

FICTION LIST:

- ***Heist Society*** by Ally Carter
A group of teenagers uses its combined talents to re-steal several priceless paintings and save fifteen-year-old Kat Bishop's father, himself an international art thief, from a vengeful collector.
- ***A Mango-Shaped Space*** by Wendy Mass
13-year-old Mia Winchell has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. Forced to reveal her condition, she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation of her gift in this coming-of-age novel.
- ***The Grimm Legacy*** by Polly Shulman
New York high school student Elizabeth gets an after-school job as a page at the "New-York Circulating Material Repository," and when she gains coveted access to its Grimm Collection of magical objects, she and the other pages are drawn into a series of frightening adventures involving mythical creatures and stolen goods.
- ***Lily's Crossing*** by Patricia Reilly Giff
Elizabeth Mollahan lost her mom when she was little. Her father and her grandmother are her only family. Every summer the three of them flee sweaty New York City for a beach house in the Rockaways – until now. This is a different summer – one of pain, secrets and adventures – when Lily's father enlists in the army and she meets Albert.
- ***Stargirl*** by Jerry Spinelli
High school is a time of great conformity, when being just like everybody else is of paramount importance. So it is no surprise that Stargirl Caraway causes such excitement and confusion when she arrives at Mica High in Arizona. Initially, everyone is charmed by her unconventional behavior. Naturally, this cannot last and eventually her individuality is reviled. The story is told by Leo, who falls in love with Stargirl's zany originality, but who then finds himself unable to let go of the need to be conventional. This novel teaches its readers to understand how it feels to not quite fit the mold of conformity.
- ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry
In a world with no poverty, no crime, no sickness and no unemployment, and where every family is happy, 12-year-old Jonas is chosen to be the community's Receiver of Memories. Under the tutelage of the Elders and an old man known as the Giver, he discovers the disturbing truth about his utopian world and struggles against the weight of its hypocrisy. In this 1994 [*Newbery Medal*](#) winner, Lowry examines the idea that people might freely choose to give up their humanity in order to create a more stable society. Gradually Jonas learns just how costly this ordered and pain-free society can be, and boldly decides he cannot pay the price.
- ***I Capture the Castle*** by Dodie Smith
I Capture the Castle is a novel that takes the form of a collection of journals kept by seventeen-year-old Cassandra Mortmain. Set in the 1930's, Cassandra and her family live in an abandoned castle in the English countryside. They are poor and have barely met ends for several years. But when two young men, Simon and Neil Cotton, appear in their lives, their fortunes take a turn for the better, and everyone at the castle starts to change. *I Capture the Castle* touches on the importance of family, forgiveness, and how life can't always be planned out. The conclusion will leave you satisfied with the way that Cassandra accepts whatever happens next.

- ***The Thing About Luck*** by Cynthia Kadohata
In this National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, there is bad luck, good luck, and making your own luck—which is exactly what Summer must do to save her family. Summer knows that *kouun* means “good luck” in Japanese, and this year her family has none of it. Just when she thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan—right before harvest season. Summer and her little brother, Jaz, are left in the care of their grandparents, who come out of retirement in order to harvest wheat and help pay the bills., Summer has to figure out how to change the luck herself, even if it means further displeasing her grandmother, because it might be the only way to save her family.
- ***The Total Tragedy of a Girl Named Hamlet*** by Erin Dionne
All Hamlet Kennedy wants is to be a normal eighth grader. But with parents like hers - Shakespearean scholars who actually dress in Elizabethan regalia . . . in public! - it's not that easy. As if they weren't strange enough, her genius seven-year-old sister will be attending her middle school, and is named the new math tutor. Then, when the Shakespeare Project is announced, Hamlet reveals herself to be an amazing actress. Even though she wants to be average, Hamlet can no longer hide from the fact that she- like her family - is anything but ordinary.
- ***The Maze Runner (*series)*** by James Dashner
Thomas wakes up in an elevator, remembering nothing but his own name. He emerges into a world of about 60 teen boys who have learned to survive in a completely enclosed environment, subsisting on their own agriculture and supplies from below. A new boy arrives every 30 days. The original group has been in "the glade" for two years, trying to find a way to escape through a maze that surrounds their living space. They have begun to give up hope. Then a comatose girl arrives with a strange note, and their world begins to change.

****You may opt to read any book in the selected series.***

Biographies (Reading Level/AR points)

Good Brother, Bad Brother: the Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth by James Cross Giblin (8.3/12pts)

Tells the life stories of nineteenth-century actor Edwin Booth and his actor brother John Wilkes Booth, describing the differences between the two men, chronicling John's assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and examining the impact of John's crime on the Booth family for decades afterward.

Charles and Emma: the Darwins’ Leap of Faith by Deborah Heiligman (7.6/11pts)

A biography of English naturalist Charles Darwin that provides an account of the personality behind evolutionary theory and the impact of his work on his personal life, such as his relationship with his religious wife.

Jane Addams: Champion of Democracy by Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin (8.3/7pts)

Presents a biography of Jane Addams, suffragist, civil rights activist, and founder of Hull House in the slums of Chicago that draws from hundreds of historical documents; and contains archival photographs of her life and activities.

Steve Jobs: the Man who Thought Different by Karen Blumenthal (8.2/9pts)

Chronicles the life and accomplishments of Apple mogul Steve Jobs, discussing his ideas, and describing how he has influenced life in the twenty-first century.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice by Phillip Hoose (6.8/5pts)

Presents an account of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks, and covers her role in a crucial civil rights case.

Bming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty by Russell Freedman (8.4/4pts)

A biography of Benjamin Franklin that follows him from his childhood in Boston, where he was the son of a poor soap and candle maker with seventeen children, to his death, describing how Franklin became a self-made man who died a renowned statesman, scientist, printer, author, and inventor.

Marie Curie by Kathleen Krull (8.3/4pts)

Presents a biography of Polish-French physicist and chemist Marie Curie, who was a pioneer in the field of radioactivity and won a Noble prize in both physics and in chemistry.

Amelia Lost: the Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming (6.6/5pts)

Traces the life of female aviator Amelia Earhart from her childhood to her final flight, discusses the extensive search for her and her missing plane, and includes photographs, maps, handwritten notes by Amelia, and sidebars.

Temple Grandin: How the Girl who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World by Sy Montgomery (7.0/4pts)

Examines the life and accomplishments of Temple Grandin, whose childhood diagnosis of autism and love of cows led her to revolutionize the livestock industry.

She Touched the World: Laura Bridgeman, Deaf-blind Pioneer by Sally Hobart Alexander and Robert Alexander (6.9/2pts)

Chronicles the life of Laura Bridgman, who, at the age of five, became both deaf and blind, and recounts how she learned to communicate with the world around her and became one of the most famous people in the world.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson(7.5/6pts)

Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.

Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to get Back on the Board by Bethany Hamilton(6/5pts)

The amazing story of the thirteen-year-old surfer girl who lost her arm in a shark attack but never lost her faith -- and of her triumphant return to competitive surfing.

