

## Mercyhurst Preparatory School Required Summer Reading

### Freshmen

At Mercyhurst Prep, we believe that to be truly educated, one must read. We want all of our students to experience the joy that reading brings, and we also want them to be exposed to the art of beautiful writing. We encourage all of our students to read closely, with attention and curiosity. We hope that all of our students read for pleasure. To help them along, MPS requires that all students enrolled in a College Prep (CP) English course read **TWO BOOKS** during the summer. Students enrolled in an MPS Pre-IB English course must read **THREE**.

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### SUMMER READING SELECTIONS

for

### FRESHMEN

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.” – Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

- 1) Students enrolled in CP Intro to Genres choose one book from the list below.
- 2) Students enrolled in MPS Pre-IB Intro to Genres choose two books from the list below.
- 3) All students are also required to personally choose one work to independently read. This work can be in any language and any genre.

### FICTION

*The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells

In this tale of psychological terror, a young scientist’s experiments lead him into a living nightmare. Using himself as the subject, the scientist discovers the key to invisibility but is unable to reverse the results.

*Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger

A beautifully written book with many Christian themes, this national bestseller is narrated by a young boy as his family sets out on a journey through the Midwest to find his brother who has been charged with murder. It is a story of family and faith.

*The Phantom Tollbooth* by Jules Feiffer

In this adventure story from 1961, a bored young boy drives his toy car through a magic tollbooth that transports him to the Kingdom of Wisdom. In this text full of puns and wordplay, the boy and two new companions go on a quest to restore the exiled princesses to the kingdom.

Elaborate exploration of idioms, such as when the boy jumps to Conclusions (an island in Wisdom) add to the complexity of this novel.

***One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*** by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

This novel gives us a glimpse of what millions of people endured in the Soviet work camps in Siberia and is a powerful affirmation of the human spirit.

***Rebecca*** by Daphne DuMaurier

This gothic novel from 1938 begins in Monte Carlo, where a young American woman working as a lady's maid finds herself swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter. However, the naïve orphan is overwhelmed by the responsibilities of being Mrs. de Winter, in charge of a massive estate - especially since the deceased wife threatens to destroy the new marriage from beyond the grave.

***The Outsiders*** by S.E. Hinton

*The Outsiders* is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy who finds himself on the outskirts of regular society. Ponyboy Curtis has his brothers and friends, but he also has a lot of trouble with a vicious gang of rich kids. That gang gets away with everything until one night someone takes things too far.

***Citadel of God*** by Louis DeWohl

An historical novel that tells the dramatic story of St. Benedict, the father of Western monasticism, this is an inspired and interesting account.

***The Joy Luck Club*** by Amy Tan

This story of four struggling, strong women encompasses two generations and a rich blend of Chinese and American history.

***Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida*** by Victor Martinez

This National Book Award winner is a vivid portrait of a Mexican-American boy's life – his test of courage, his initiation into a gang, a time of pain and awkwardness, and the excitement of growing up in a crazy world.

***The Hunger Games*** by Suzanne Collins

Set in what was once North America, this novel tells of the nation of Panem and its twelve outlying districts who must send representatives to appear in the Hunger Games. What happens when people choose entertainment over humanity?

***Percy Jackson and the Olympians*** by Rick Riordan

Choose any one book from this series. Follow the thrilling adventures of Percy Jackson as he is thrust into a world he never knew existed. Percy and his demigod friends encounter gods, monsters, battles, and prophecies while they embark on daring quests to save Western civilization.

### **SACRED TEXT**

***Genesis and Exodus*** (Holy Bible)

The first two books of the Bible tell the stories of the creation of the world and the flight from Egypt.

### **NONFICTION**

***The Omnivore's Dilemma (Young Adult Version)*** by Michael Pollan

We are not only what we eat, but how we eat, too. Should we pay more attention to the labels? Should we grow our own food? The author examines the current food situations of mass produced calories, the growing culture of organics, and reviews his own food foraging.

***Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*** by Dee Brown

Using council records, autobiographies, and firsthand descriptions, Brown allows the great chiefs and warriors of the Dakota, Ute, Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes to tell in their own words of the battles, massacres, and broken treaties that finally left them and their people decimated and demoralized.

***The Hot Zone*** by Richard Preston

A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak.