

Mercyhurst Preparatory School Required Summer Reading

Juniors

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 our students to read closely, with attention and curiosity, and hope that they 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 IB English course must read THREE.**

SUMMER READING SELECTIONS JUNIORS

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies, said Jojen. The man who never reads lives only one.” – George R. R. Martin, *A Dance with Dragons*

- 1) Students enrolled in British Literature CP choose one book from the list below.
- 2) Students enrolled in World Literature I Honors/IB Standard Level choose two works from the list below.
- 3) Students enrolled in World Literature I Higher Level IB choose two works from the list below.
- 4) Students enrolled in Biology I/IB Honors need to read *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson (see description below) as one of their selections.
- 5) **Additionally, all students are required to personally choose one work to independently read. This work can be in any language and any genre.**

FICTION

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

If you love Arthurian legend, you'll love this interpretation that follows the life of a young boy named Wart who was tutored by a magician named Merlin.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Alice wanders through a fantasy world of talking rabbits, royal playing cards and smoking caterpillars.

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift

Through the eyes of Lemuel Gulliver, this satire takes readers into worlds formerly unimagined. Visit four strange and remarkable lands: Lilliput, where Gulliver seems a giant among a race of tiny people; Brobdingnag, the opposite, where the natives are giants and Gulliver puny; the ruined yet magical country of Laputa; and the home of the Houyhnhnms, gentle horses far superior to the ugly humanoid Yahoos who share their universe.

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis.

Choose any one novel from this series. Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, four siblings evacuated from London during World War II, enter the magical world of Narnia where they are charged with saving the realm from the evil White Witch.

Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

A classic and one of the most admired novels in world literature, *Anna Karenina* tells the story of a magnificent heroine, doomed love and the deepest questions about how to live a fulfilled life.

Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions by Edwin A. Abbott

A masterpiece of science and mathematical fiction, this is a highly entertaining satire that has charmed readers for more than 100 years.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

A masterful story of a woman's quest for freedom and love, this novel is filled with social criticism and sinister Gothic elements.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

A realistic depiction of life of the poor in Victorian England, this classic will draw you in as it deals seriously with themes of social injustice and apathy.

A Passage to India by E.M. Forster

Among the greatest novels of the 20th century, *A Passage to India* tells of the clash of cultures in British India after the turn of the century.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Austen's romantic masterpiece is a joy to read and an interesting study of 19th century prose and social conventions.

NON-FICTION

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

In a letter to his teenaged son, Coates narrates his awakening to the truth about his place in the world as a black man. This personal and emotionally charged story follows his series of revelatory experiences from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris.

In the Heart of the Sea by Nathaniel Philbrick

The ordeal of the whaleship *Essex* was an event as mythic in the 19th century as the sinking of the Titanic was in the 20th. In the middle of the South Pacific the ship was rammed and sunk by an angry sperm whale. This actual occurrence was the basis for the novel *Moby Dick*.

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson

In order to understand – and, if possible, answer – the oldest, biggest questions about the universe and ourselves, the author has attached himself to a host of the world's most advanced (and often obsessed) archaeologists, anthropologists, and mathematicians, traveling to their offices, laboratories, and field camps. Bryson's well-researched book is presented with humor and common sense.

The Einstein Paradox: And Other Science Mysteries Solved by Sherlock Holmes by Colin Bruce

The author does a masterful and entertaining job of introducing the reader to modern physics as the famous sleuth solves a series of crimes. This book is addictive.

The Golden Ratio: The Story of Phi, the World's Most Astonishing Number by Mario Livio

This book tells the tale of the number phi, or 1.6180339887. . . and the mysterious relationship between numbers and the nature of reality. Discovered by Euclid more than two thousand years ago, this relationship has shown a propensity to appear in mollusk shells, sunflower florets, rose petals and the shape of the galaxy.

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

The author presents the reader with a case for orthodox Christianity, employing logical arguments that are eloquently expressed.