

Mercyhurst Preparatory School Required Summer Reading

Sophomores

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 MPS Pre-IB English course must read THREE.**

SUMMER READING SELECTIONS

SOPHOMORES

“Think before you speak. Read before you think.” – Frances Ann Lebowitz, *The Fran Lebowitz Reader*

- 1) Students enrolled in British and American Literature-CP choose one work from the list below.
- 2) Students enrolled in British and American Literature-Honors/MPS Pre-IB choose two works from the list below.
- 3) **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 Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

This book is written from the perspective of an autistic teenager as he tries to identify the killer of a neighbor's dog.

The Christ Commission by Og Mandino

An edge-of-your-seat read, this book takes the reader back to the time of Christ as the greatest mystery writer in the world attempts to solve the greatest mystery of all time.

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

A shocking story of the intolerable labor practices and unsanitary working conditions in the Chicago stockyards as it tells the brutally grim story of a Slavic family that immigrates to America full of optimism but soon descends into despair.

Set All Afire by Louis DeWohl

This author, a distinguished and internationally respected Catholic writer, has presented in novel form the life of Saint Francis Xavier with humility and deep religious conviction.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The four March sisters grow up in an impoverished New England household during the Civil War.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Buck, a domesticated dog in California, is stolen and forced to become a sled dog in Alaska, where he ultimately must decide whether to remain with humans or enter the wilderness.

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Protagonist Beatrice Prior lives in a Chicago of the future in which society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue. As the story unfolds, she discovers growing conflict in this seemingly perfect world.

SACRED TEXT

Gospel of John the Evangelist, Acts of the Apostles, and St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

NON-FICTION

Is God a Mathematician? by Mario Livio

Written by an astrophysicist, this book investigates why mathematics is as powerful as it is and how such a seemingly abstract discipline could so perfectly explain the natural world. More than that – mathematics has often made predictions, for example, about subatomic particles or cosmic phenomena that were unknown at the time, but later were proven to be true.

Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination That Changed America Forever by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard

An historical narrative that you won't be able to put down, this book tells the story of the passions that ran high in America at the end of the Civil War, a band of conspiring assassins, and the detective work that followed the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela

This is the autobiography of one of the great moral and political leaders of our time. He spent more than 25 years of imprisonment, won the Nobel Peace Prize and served as president of his country. He is revered as a vital force in the fight for human rights and racial equality.

PLAY

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

From 1938, this Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about the inhabitants of the small town of Grover's Corners is a starkly emotional presentation of what is important in life.