

# Saints Peter and Paul School

## Summer Reading Program

### Entering Eighth Grade: Mrs. Anain

**Directions:** Students must read the required reading book and one book from the recommended reading list. They will complete a summer reading assignment in the fall.

**Required Reading:** The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton

*The Outsiders* is the story of Ponyboy Curtis—a boy growing up with his two older brothers since his parents passed away. Ponyboy's real family is the boys he is in his gang, the greasers. They grease their hair and wear leather jackets, but they are not the thugs society believes they are. Ponyboy gets A's in school and is in honors classes. The greasers, however, are in constant conflict with the socs—the preppy boys from the other side of town. A terrible confrontation between some of the boys leads to a heartbreaking end for both gangs. You will never forget this novel. If you have read it, you know it's worthy of a second read. Pay attention to all the symbols in the book.

**Recommended Reading: Scroll down and read all the options before choosing**  
**The Red Pyramid. Rick Riordan**

If you loved Percy Jackson, you must try this new series by the same author. Instead of the unsuspecting teenage descendants of Greek Gods trying to save the world, this time it's the unsuspecting teenage *siblings* of descendants of Egyptian Gods who have to save the world. This isn't a repeat of Percy Jackson—the genre is the same; the characters are much different. This series adds sibling rivalry to the challenges of saving the world and wielding newfound superpowers. The universe of Egyptian Gods is less well known than their Greek counterparts, and Riordan explains it concisely. It's entertaining while informing—the recipe you devoured in Percy Jackson. You may even be inspired to read up a bit on Egyptian history and mythology while waiting for the next installment in the Kane Family Series...

**The Hunger Games Series, Suzanne Collins**

In this SSPP people overwhelming favorite, teens in a futuristic society must fight to the death on a televised games show while their hometowns cheer them on. Characters must make heart wrenching decisions as they befriend fellow characters only to face-off against them in mortal combat. This story is utterly captivating, thought provoking and thoroughly entertaining. Boys and girls alike love this series; you will not be disappointed. You have just enough time to read this and the follow up **Catching Fire** before the release of the third and final installment **The Mockingjay** comes out in August.

**The Killing Sea, Richard Lewis.**

Inspired by the catastrophic events of the 2004 tsunami and his experiences as a relief worker, Lewis writes the story of two teenagers trying to survive the aftermath of a tsunami in Southeast Asia. Sarah is sailing through the region with her family when the deadly wave strikes. She is left to care for her sick brother and search for her father on the devastated coast. Ruslan, a local boy from Sumatra, is searching for his father also. The two separate stories of anguish and survival intertwine as Sarah and Ruslan join forces. Lewis does not spare the reader any of the sometimes-horrifying details, but the book offers moments of great kindness as well. Fans of *Hatchet* will enjoy *The Killing Sea*.

**Uglies Series, Scott Westerfeld.**

“Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society that acculturates its citizens to believe that they are ugly until age 16 when they'll undergo an operation that will change them into pleasure-seeking "pretties." Anticipating this happy transformation, Tally meets Shay, another female ugly, who shares her enjoyment of hoverboarding and risky pranks. But Shay also disdains the false values and programmed conformity of the society and urges Tally to defect with her to the Smoke, a distant settlement of simple-living conscientious objectors. Tally declines, yet when Shay is found missing by the authorities, Tally is coerced by the cruel Dr. Cable to find her and her compatriots—or remain forever "ugly.”” ALA Starred Review If you like the *Uglies*, try the other two books in the trilogy, *Pretties*, and *Specials*.

**The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, Avi**

Charlotte Doyle is a thirteen year old girl attending school in England while her family lives in Providence, RI. She is scheduled to cross the Atlantic on the brig Seahawk over the summer to meet her family. Charlotte is enthusiastically anticipating the voyage. The only drawback is that her father insists she keep a journal of her time on the Seahawk. Her journey becomes far more dangerous than she could have imagined, and all is recorded in her thrilling journal. Fans of historical fiction should not miss this book.

**Within Reach: My Everest Story, Mark Pftzter and Jack Galvin.** (Non-fiction)

This is the story of a sixteen year old boy who climbs Mount Everest. It is full of all the suspense and drama you would imagine--blinding snowstorms, 300 foot crevasses, If you've ever wondered why people take such risks or where they get the courage, you must read this book. It is inspiring and exciting all the way to the summit.

**If You Come Softly, Jacqueline Woodson**

Jeremiah (Miah) who is black, and Elisha (Ellie) who is white, meet during their first year at an exclusive New York prep school and fall in love. Both teens are dealing with difficult family situations, and they must also deal with the subtle and not-so-subtle bigotry that they are subject to as a mixed-race couple. Miah and Ellie work through their problems both individually and together as their friendship blossoms. This is a tragic love story with an important social message as well. It is told through alternating voices, Ellie's in the first person and Miah's in the third.

**The Empty Mirror James Lincoln Collier**

If you liked *Things Not Seen* and *My Brother Sam is Dead*, then look no further. This novel combines historical fiction and fantasy with suspenseful results. Nick Hodges, a 13-year-old orphan with the reputation of being a troublemaker, lives with his Uncle in a New England village in 1931. His parents both died in the influenza epidemic of 1918, which the villagers are reluctant to talk about. The story opens with Nick's waking from a disturbing dream in which he feels he has lost something. Soon he is stunned to find that he has no reflection. He continues to be seen at destructive incidents that increase in their severity. The townspeople are ready to hang Nick for murder or send him to a mental institution when he continues to insist that he is innocent. A gravestone of a boy of Nick's age who died in the epidemic, provides the clues in this fast paced, spooky thriller.