

JUNIOR SUMMER READING LIST

Theme: “The Tears of Things”: Strength Through Adversity

Optional books: (Choose two)

Bleachers by John Grisham

Neely Crenshaw, a great high school quarterback for the Messina Spartans, returns to his hometown 15 years later because his former coach is dying. Neely reunites with players from his high school team, but he feels strangely out of place and apparently harbors bitterness towards the very successful Coach Rake, who had lasting effects on his players.

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Holden Caulfield, a high school student at Pencey Prep, tells the reader his opinions of different people around him, especially the phonies. He tries to justify what he does and how he thinks, but he is not doing well at school and does not fit in with the rest of the boys. This classic contains problems and concerns that teens have experienced right up to the present day.

Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns

Cold Sassy, Georgia had never been a whirlpool of excitement. But on July 5, 1906 things took a scandalous turn. That was the day E. Rucker Blakeslee, proprietor of the general store and barely three weeks a widower, eloped with Miss Love Simpson – a woman half his age. On that day, fourteen-year-old Will Tweedy’s adventures began and the town came to life.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

This is a frightening view of the future where firemen don’t put out fires; they start them in order to burn books. Bradbury’s vividly painted society holds the appearance of happiness as the highest goal – a place where trivial information is good, and knowledge and ideas are bad.

Pudd’nhead Wilson by Mark Twain

Mark Twain tells the story of a slave of mixed blood who substitutes her son with her master’s son. The black child, who could easily pass for white, is accepted as white, while the other is treated as a slave. As the children grow, it is not their races but their circumstances that determine their behaviors and position in society.

Saint Maybe by Anne Tyler

In 1965, the Bedloe family is living an ideal life in Baltimore. Then, in the blink of an eye, a tragic event occurs that will transform their lives forever – particularly that of seventeen-year-old Ian Bedloe, who blames himself for the sudden “accidental” death of his older brother.

You Belong to Me by Mary Higgins Clark

This novel is the suspenseful story of the mysterious murders of many women. Former undercover agent Dr. Susan Chandler tries to discover the identity of the murderer by piecing together clues provided by talk-show listeners. The murderer's identity shocks her and will shock you, too.