

Freshman Summer Reading Choices

Directions: Each student is to read two books from the given choices. Students in the honors level must read at least one book from Group A.

Students should be prepared to write an essay on one novel, and complete a project using the other.

Group A

Gies, Miep: Anne Frank Remembered

This is a memoir of risk and heroism written by an ordinary woman who tried to save the Frank family from the Nazis.

Hemingway, Ernest: A Farewell to Arms

This is a story about the tenuous nature of love in a time of war where a young battle-weary expatriate seeks meaning in the ashes of World War I.

Herriot, James: All Creatures Great and Small

This is a series of heartwarming accounts partly based on the author's life as a young veterinary surgeon as he recalls his extraordinary years working in the English countryside, a foreign and fascinating world for the young doctor.

Potok, Chaim: The Chosen

Two Jewish boys, raised in very different families in New York after World War II, develop an unlikely friendship, albeit with rocky beginnings, in which, through confronting their differences, they learn and grow together.

Tolkien, J.R.R.: The Hobbit

The story of Bilbo Baggins, drawn from his cozy hobbit hole to wondrous adventures, involves elves, dwarves, dragons and goblins.

Twain, Mark: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Tom Sawyer is a genius at getting himself and his friends into and out of sometimes dangerous adventures. His fantastical imagination only rivaled by his mischievous nature leads to hilarious and often poignant moments, as Sawyer tells his story.

White, T.H.: The Once and Future King

This retelling of the Arthurian legend begins with the young hero pulling the sword from the stone and follows the legend to its tragic conclusion.

Group B

Peck, Robert Newton: A Day no Pigs would Die

A heartwarming story of a young Shaker boy, his pet pig, and the challenges he faces on his journey to manhood.

An Na: A Step from Heaven

This is the classic tale of a Korean immigrant child who is trying to adjust to life in America and comes into conflict with her family as she seeks to discover her identity as an American while holding onto the cultural richness of her heritage.

Crichton, Michael: Sphere

Set aboard a mysterious spherical spaceship at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, This science-fiction thriller delves into the darker nature of humanity, and the dangers of absolute power in any hands.

Keyes, Daniel: Flowers for Algernon

In a heart-rending tale, a developmentally-delayed man becomes a genius through a bold experiment.

Ryan, Pam Munoz & Hope Munoz: Esperanza Rising

Torn between a past of privilege and present of poverty, a young Mexican immigrant experiences a transformation because of the difficulties she must face in her life.

Gaines, Earnest: A Lesson before Dying is a powerful tale of overcoming barriers of racial prejudice and self loathing, as a young African American teacher in poverty-stricken Louisiana seeks to convince a poor, and unjustly convicted, young man on Death row, that he is a good and valuable man, and nothing less.