



St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

2021 FY Summer Reading

Nothing is “required.” **Everything** is a “choice.”

The world is run by those who can read and write. Those who aspire to be Benedict's men aspire to be readers and writers.

Read one of the six books listed below. **The book you read is your choice. Choose a book from the list that interests you.** Use the information provided here to guide your decision. Record your thoughts about the book as you read it. Write down any questions, observations, complaints, praises, evaluations of the book as you read. **Write down any and every reaction you have to the book as you read it piece by piece, not all at once.** Read for as long as you like each time; read as many pages at a time as you like - but after each reading record your reactions. **Read and record your reactions to the entire book.**

Your recording should be ongoing as you read the book you have chosen, and should be typed in a **Google Doc** and updated on a regular basis as your reading of the book progresses, **but know this...**

- You are expected to submit your work via Google Classroom by 11:59 pm on September 8th, the first day of Fall Term. No submissions will be accepted after this date.
- Your submission will be graded as your first assignment in FY (first year) English: 100 for complete, 0 for incomplete or missing. **In addition to that...**
- Your completed recording is expected to respond to the **entire** book.
- A major part of your final grade for FY English will be based on a portfolio of written work you choose to submit for that teacher's final evaluation. Your “summer reading” is your first opportunity to prepare work for that portfolio.

Book List

Choose a book from the list below:

Book 1: A Life in the Woods, by Felix Salten.

- Bambi, a Life in the Woods, originally published in Austria as *Bambi: Eine Lebensgeschichte aus dem Walde* is a 1923 Austrian novel written by Felix Salten and published by Ullstein Verlag. The novel traces the life of Bambi, a male roe deer, from his birth through childhood, the loss of his mother, the finding of a mate, the lessons he learns from his father and experience about the dangers posed by human hunters in the forest. An English translation by Whittaker Chambers was published in North America by Simon & Schuster in 1928, and the novel has since been translated and published in over 30 languages around the world. The novel was well received by critics and is considered a classic, as well as one of the first environmental novels. It was adapted into a theatrical animated film, *Bambi*, by Walt Disney Productions in 1942, two Russian live-action adaptations in 1985 and 1986, and a stage production in 1998. A ballet adaptation was written by an Oregon troupe, but never premiered.

Book 2: Something Upstairs, by Avi.

- When 12-year-old Kenny Huldorf moves to Providence, Rhode Island, he soon discovers that his attic bedroom is haunted by the ghost of a teenage slave named Caleb. Before long, Caleb summons Kenny back in time, where Kenny finds himself entangled in Caleb's murder and deeply troubled by the century-old injustice. Ultimately, it is up to Kenny to solve Caleb's murder or remain forever trapped in history. Part ghost story, part social commentary, this thought-provoking, hair-raising page turner from master tale spinner, Avi, is a perfect chilling summer read.

Book 3: Tiger Eyes, by Judy Blume.

- After Davey's father is killed in a hold-up, she and her mother and younger brother visit relatives in New Mexico. Here Davey is befriended by a young man who helps her find the strength to carry on and conquer her fears. "This is a masterly novel."—Jean Fritz, *The New York Times Book Review*.
- What does it take to recover from tragedy? This masterful Judy Blume novel has a fresh new look. Davey Wexler has never felt so alone. Her father has just been killed—shot in a holdup at the 7-Eleven near their home. And now her mother has transplanted her and her little brother, Jason, to Los Alamos, New Mexico, to stay with family and recover. But Davey is withdrawn, full of rage and fear and loneliness. Then one day, while exploring a canyon, she meets an older boy who calls himself Wolf. Wolf is the only one who understands her—the only one who can read her sad eyes. And he is the one who helps her realize that she must find a way to move forward with her life. Davey is one of Judy Blume's most hauntingly true human beings, capturing the deep ways a person can change that can't be seen—only felt. Her story has been felt, deeply, by readers for decades.

Book 4: Rain Reign, by Ann M. Martin.

- Rose Howard, a young girl dealing with autism, is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different—not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father. When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines

Book 5: Voices After Midnight, by Richard Peck.

- Why is Chad so uneasy when his California family rents a townhouse in New York City? Once there he hears voices—late at night, after midnight in this strange house that's at least one hundred years old. Then he finds that his younger brother, Luke, hears them, too, and even their older sister Heidi's afraid to stay in the house alone. As Chad and Luke explore the house, they begin to slip in and out of their own time, back to the winter of 1888. Are the voices they hear crying out for help? Will Chad ignore the voices or plunge into the unknown danger of one hundred years before?

Book 6: The Language of the Goldfish, by Zibby Oneal.

- As Carrie Stokes confronts the end of her childhood and the coming of adulthood, she is filled with anxiety and finds herself breaking down, ready to give up life itself. Carrie Stokes used to live in Chicago. She wishes her family had never moved. She wishes a lot of things had never changed. After her family moves, Carrie and her older sister Moira have their own rooms. Despite this, her sister and her now having separate rooms, they initially retain a common bond: being able to beckon to them the goldfish that swim in their garden pond. Then Moira starts to grow up. She becomes interested in dances, music, and boys; Carrie prefers math and art. The two begin to drift, perhaps when Carrie most needs her older sister. Before the family move, Carrie used to have a best friend. Now she does not have any close friends. Her classmates are all beautiful people, except for ones like Katherine who are ugly and mean. Carrie does have her art lessons. But when her art becomes more experimental, Carrie feels as detached from even it. Everything is changing, from her relationships to her interests and even her body.

If you have any specific questions about how to select from the list, you can email your FY English teacher at hstafford@sbp.org.

Writing Assignment

Your writing should be ongoing as you read the book you have chosen, and should be typed in a **Google Doc** and updated on a regular basis as your reading of the book progresses. The format of your document should follow the instructions below:

- **Google Doc should be titled:**
 - Last Name, First Name - FY Summer Reading
- **The left-aligned heading on the first page should be:**

Last Name, First Name
FY Summer Reading
Title of the book you have selected

- **Each response/reaction to the reading should:**
 - Indicate the chapter(s), page(s), and/or excerpt(s) from the novel to which you are responding.
 - Use 12-point Times New Roman font throughout the document

You are free to write anything you want about the book you are reading. There is no right or wrong “thing” that you can write, so long as it is **your writing**, based on **your reading**. There is no specific word count requirement on your writing, but I do expect you to respond - in writing - to the **entire novel** that you chose to read. If you need help, feel free to use the questions below to help you, but only if you do not know what to write. You do not have to answer these questions. Nothing is “**required.**” Everything is a “**choice.**”

- Who is the story about? What is their story?
- What is the protagonist (the main character) trying to do?
- Have you ever tried to do something like this?
- What people or forces work against the protagonist?
- What is the story’s setting? Where does the plot (the story) take place? Does the place have a name? What does it look like, feel like, smell like, sound like?
- Do you like this setting? Why or why not? Have you ever been to a setting like this? Would you like to visit a setting like this? Why or why not?
- Who are some of the characters in the story? What sort of things do they do? What does that tell you about their personality?
- Have you ever been to a place like this?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What do you know that the main character (the protagonist) does not know?
- Write about something that you knew was going to happen.
- Write about something that surprised you.
- What is wrong with the story?
- Do you admire anyone in the story? Who? Why?
- Do you have bad feelings about anyone in the story? Who? Why?
- Does anything happen in the story that makes you mad? Afraid? Worried?

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