



Benedictine Summer Reading 2008 – 2009 School Year

The entire student body:

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

This is the story of two boys in Brooklyn, NY, one a Hasid Jew and the other an Orthodox Jew. As they become friends against the backdrop of the major events of the 20th century, such as World War II, the Holocaust, and the creation of the Jewish state, their faith and traditions are tested by a modern and secular world. Each contributes to and changes the outlook of the other. Attention should be paid to how each influences the other, how the perspective of each is affected by the events through which they live, and the reactions of each from their perspective traditions to

Grade 9

Hot Zone by Richard Preston

The book outlines a terrifying true story that occurred when humans came in contact with a lethal virus. It was a New York Times #1 bestseller and provides the reader with a fascinating, engaging, captivating, thriller. Students will be expected to recognize the main characters in the book as well as the story line. The assessment will include a matching of the main characters as well as multiple choice questions concerning the plot and story line. Many copies of the book include a glossary of terms as well as a section at the end that outline the major characters.

Grade 10

The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini

This text provides an insight into the lives of two brothers from Afghanistan, caught up in the sad turmoil of events that separates their lives. Attention should be paid to the main story line as well as to the events that each boy experiences. How does war affect a country and a person? How do people survive conflicts that are much larger than their personal selves? What survival mechanisms does each boy create to assist in understanding the events and in moving toward adulthood?

Grade 11 Choose one of two

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

This historical classic takes the reader into the conflict between humanity and industry at the turn of the last century. Special attention should be paid to the hopes and dreams of the main characters at the beginning of the novel and detail what happens to them as the years progress. Identify the factors that affect the characters and their eventual fate.

***Everything We Had: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Thirty-Three Soldiers Who Fought It* by Al Santoli**

This classic biographical tour through the Vietnam conflict outlines the personal experience of a wide variety of Americans in combat. Attention should be paid to the various roles of the service men and women represented in the text, the viewpoint of the Americans toward the Vietnamese (both North and South) and vice-versa. Be sure to explain how the viewpoints change as the conflict progressed from the mid-1960s through the early 1970s.

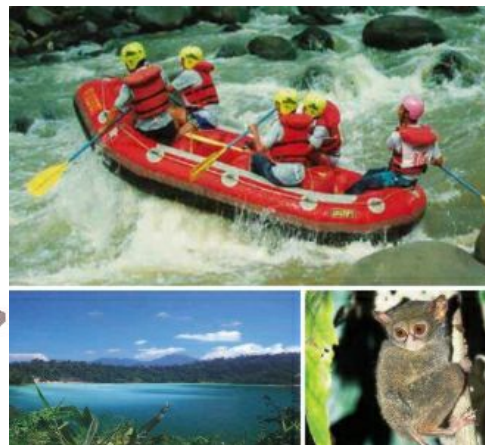
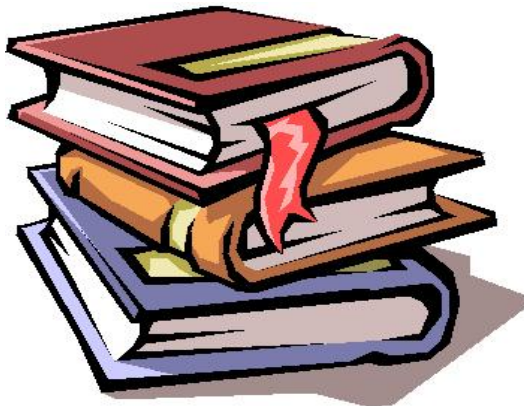
Grade 12

***The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel**

Part adventure story, part religious meditation and part comic strip, this is the story of a boy who is traveling from his native India to North America with his family and all the animals from their zoo. The ship wrecks and Pi ends up on a lifeboat with only four other survivors. His journey and attempts to survive create an imaginative and funny parable of the human condition. Be sure to identify the four other survivors, the meaning behind their symbolism, and the events that shape Pi's perspectives throughout the book.

"I can think of no greater way to expand the mind or carry one around the world and into the heart of humanity than through reading a great book."

G.K. Chesterton



Students will be examined as to their comprehension of the texts during the first week of classes. Any questions should be directed to the Dean of Academics at frmichael@cbhs.net.