

**Saint Ursula School  
8900 Harford Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234**

**GRADE 8  
SEPTEMBER, 2010**

May, 2010

Dear Parents:

Each student is expected to read three books. The starred (\*) on the list is required and a test will be given on that book the first full day of school. A second book should be chosen from Column 1 to be summarized at home following the attached instructions. The third book, chosen from Column 2, will be read and discussed in reading circles during the first full week of school. **Students should list three choices from Column 2 on the lines below and will be assigned a book prior to the close of school.** The report, participation in reading circles, and test will count toward the first trimester reading grade.

We encourage you and your child to visit the library frequently. The reading of these and other books is a way to establish good reading habits and build a strong vocabulary.

**NOTE: BARNES AND NOBLE WILL HAVE AN IN-STORE BOOK FAIR ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010. IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE ANY BOOKS ON THE LIST, PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS BOOK FAIR – SAINT URSULA SCHOOL WILL RECEIVE A PORTION OF THE SALE. OUR VOUCHER NUMBER IS 10199487**

Sincerely,

The Reading Curriculum Committee

\* \* \* \* \*

**Please return this form by Friday, MAY 21, 2010**

The books my child has chosen to read for the reading circle discussion are:

First Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Third Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Students will be notified of the book they will read for reading circles by 5/24.**

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I have read the letter regarding summer reading.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**SAINT URSULA SCHOOL**  
**READING LIST**  
**GRADE 8**

1. All students are required to read the tested book listed below and two other books.
2. Summarize one book from Column 1 on looseleaf. Remember to summarize means to discuss only major events and characters, including the ending. Begin the summary with a description of the problem or conflict presented in the novel, and be sure to include the 5 W's (who, when, where, what, why). Use 2 paragraphs in the summary. A paragraph should be 7 - 10 sentences in length. Write on one side of looseleaf only. Do not skip lines. Pages should be stapled. Book reports can also be typed on the computer using 12 point/Times New Roman font. If reports are done on the computer, be sure to double space. This will be collected on Friday, September 10, 2010.
3. Students will read one book from Column 2 and participate in reading discussion circles during the first full week of school. Be prepared to discuss based on the guidelines given for the written summary. The book may be brought to school for reference.

\* *The Giver* by Lois Lowry is required for students entering Grade 8.  
Students will be given a test on this book on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**COLUMN 1**  
**(Student Choice)**

**COLUMN 2**  
**READING CIRCLE CHOICES**  
**(A slip will be returned with**  
**assigned book highlighted)**

**Avi**

*Nothing But the Truth*

**Curtis, Christopher Paul**

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham*

+ **Bennett, Jay**

*Coverup*

**Hesse, Karen**

*Out of the Dust*

**Christie, Agatha**

*And Then There Were None*

**Hunt, Irene**

*Across Five Aprils*

**Clark, Mary Higgins**

*Silent Night*

**McSwigan, Marie**

*Snow Treasure*

+ **Duncan, Lois**

*Don't Look Behind You*

**Paterson, Katherine**

*Park's Quest*

+ **Paulsen, Gary**

*Hatchet*

**Wakatsuki, Jeanne**

*Farewell to Manzanar*

+ = you may read any book by that author