

Crossroads Academy
Incoming Eighth Grade Required Summer Reading
July 2008

The following books are required as summer reading. You will discuss and write about these books in class in the fall.

Please note that you will receive a grade for your summer reading. If you read the **minimum number of four books**, and **record** your reading, you will receive a grade of B. Reading **more** than the basic requirement of four books, including an **additional book** from requirement #2, and **recording** what you have read will help you to earn a grade of an A.

1. Read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee.

Available on loan from Crossroads Academy. Contact Mrs. Price. It is suggested that you read this book towards the end of the summer as we will be dealing with it at the start of the school year.

Read *The Fellowship of the Ring*, J.R.R. Tolkien

2. One book is required from the three listed below for the basic grade of B. Reading an additional book from this list is required for a grade above B.

a. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Baroness Emmuska Orczy

Available on loan from Crossroads Academy. Contact Mrs. Price.

b. *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte

c. *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas.

There are many versions of this novel, both abridged and unabridged. We recommend an abridged version: TOR Associates, ISBN #0-812-56568-1. Available at the Dartmouth Bookstore.

3. Read a biography of a heroic person who lived at any time from World War II to the present. The subject of the book must be an individual who actually lived, not a character in a story. The person you choose may represent any area of expertise, science, mathematics, literature, music, art, politics. Read more than one biography if you get interested in the lives of people who influenced your heroic subject.

A heroic person is an individual who:

- a) promoted real change for the good of the world of his/her time period.
- b) lived an exemplary life by practicing essential virtues, including responsibility, perseverance, courage, justice, honesty, or self-discipline.

Examples: Harry Truman, Winston Churchill, Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa, etc.

4. Required Reading Response: You will keep a **record** of your reading on the included form. You will submit this form to your English teacher on the first day of class. If you read more than the required books, please **attach a list of titles and authors to the required form**. Read, Read, Read!!!!

Reading is the cornerstone of scholarship and academic success.

Use the **Middle School Reading List** to give you more suggestions for great summer reading. *The Good Earth* by **Pearl Buck** is particularly recommended as a well-written book dealing with China, an area of the world that you will study in eighth grade history. You are also encouraged to read other titles from the four books listed above in #2.

Crossroads Academy Required Summer Reading Form

_____ has completed the following required reading:
(Student's Name)

1. Title: _____ Author: _____

Date Completed: _____

2. Title: _____ Author: _____

Date Completed: _____

3. Title: _____ Author: _____

Date Completed: _____

4. Title: _____ Author: _____

Date Completed: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____