

Alliance Christian Academy

High School Summer Reading

Summer 2011

Dear Alliance Christian Academy students and families,

It has been a pleasure to get to know the creative and intellectual strengths of each of our students through the high school English program. **This letter describes the summer reading program for the 2011-2012 school year.**

Comprehensive high school testing becomes terribly important when it comes to college acceptance. Reading for understanding and appreciation is a skill which translates to every other academic area. Our desire is that these reading assignments will provide students with the opportunity to read a literary work of interest to them as well as a time-honored classic chosen by your teacher. The goal this summer is to read for enjoyment as well as enlightenment. Alliance Academy has higher expectations of our students and wants them to actually enjoy their reading.

Please note that effort was taken to select a variety of books, including classics, biographies of inspirational Christians, and books by well known Christian authors. We encourage parents to be involved in their child's selection and, although these books have been recommended to be summer reading books by colleges and other Christian schools, we realize that not all the books may be deemed appropriate by all families. To this end, each grade has a compilation of books that reflect a theme specifically for each grade.

Every high school student is to read two books during their summer. Students taking an honors English class shall also read a third book.

The first book has been chosen by the teacher. A test will be given over this book on the SECOND DAY OF CLASS assessing the student's knowledge, comprehension, and personal insight on the book. A reading log is not required for this book.

The **second book** is to be selected from the attached list and was chosen to foster spiritual growth and exploration of the student's heart. Students will **develop a READING LOG for this book** with a minimum of ten entries. Each entry shall include the following:

- The date of the reading
- The pages read
- Personal reflections from the student on the material read
- At least one direct quote from those pages

The log may be typed or handwritten in a journal (composition book, etc.) Each entry must be at least one paragraph of between five and seven sentences.

Honors students are required to read a teacher-selected classic. Honors students will receive their assignment for this book during the first week of class which will be due the **SECOND WEEK OF SCHOOL**.

While the primary objective of these assignments is content analysis, please be aware that grammar and spelling errors will also be graded.

Please call the school office if you have any questions. Have a wonderful summer as we look forward to a fantastic year.

Ms. Emily Bursch
High School English

Grade 9

Theme: Self-Realization/Identity

“I have been established, anointed and sealed by God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” --2 Corinthians 1:21-22

All 9th grade students are required to read:

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli, ISBN 037582233X

A test on *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli will be given the SECOND DAY OF CLASS, August 30, 2011.

In addition, all rising 9th graders are required to choose one of the following books and create a reading log due the first day of school, Monday, August 29, 2011, including at least 10 entries which include:

- The date of the reading
- The pages read
- Personal reflections from the student on the material read, between 5-7 sentences in length
- At least one direct quote from those pages

She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall by Misty Bernall, ISBN: 0743400526

In this book, a moving memoir written by Cassie’s mother, Misty, we meet the real Cassie, a typical adolescent who struggles with peer pressure and her relationship with her parents. Once headed down the common teenage path of self-loathing and depression, Cassie turned her life around through her faith and the support of a group of people who helped her find peace and purpose—her youth group at church. Though Cassie was far from the perfect child, *She Said Yes*, tells the story of how her faith gave her the strength to overcome the obstacles she faced in her young life. Regardless of what happened at Columbine, *She Said Yes*, is a moving tribute to an extraordinary young woman and a lesson for both parents and teenagers alike.

Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family and Fighting to Get Back on the Board by Bethany Hamilton, ISBN 1416503463

A moving account of Bethany’s life as a young surfer, her recovery after an attack, the adjustments she’s made to her unique surfing style, her unprecedented bid for a top showing in the World Surfing Championship and, most fundamentally, her belief in God. It is a story of girl power and spiritual grit.

He Chose You by Max Lucado, ISBN: 0849977894

Adolescence can be very difficult. You struggle to find your identity, you’re pushed and pulled in many different directions by friends, peers, as well as your own desire to fit in. We have good news for you—you can know the incredible value God places on you while you grow through these turbulent years. Here’s a powerful book based on *He Chose the Nails* also by Max Lucado. *He Chose You* reveals the plan of God’s gift of salvation and unconditional love for everyone who wants it. Through both his writing style as well as using stories that you can easily relate to, Lucado emphasizes that God’s perfect love is shown in the very details of Jesus’ life.

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis, ISBN 0060652926

Arguably the 20th century’s most influential Christian writer, C.S. Lewis sought to explain and defend the beliefs that nearly all Christians at all times hold in common. His simple yet deeply profound classic, originally delivered as a series of radio broadcasts, is a book to be thoroughly digested by believers and generously shared with skeptics.

Grade 10

Theme: Self-Realization/Identity

“I have been established, anointed and sealed by God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” --2 Corinthians 1:21-22

All 10th grade students are required to read:

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

A test on *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee will be given the SECOND DAY OF CLASS, August 30, 2011.

In addition, all rising 10th graders are required to **choose one of the following** books and create a reading log due the first day of school, Monday, August 29, 2011, including at least 10 entries which include:

- The date of the reading
- The pages read
- Personal reflections from the student on the material read, between 5-7 sentences in length
- At least one direct quote from those pages

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom, ISBN 0786868716

Recounts the life and death of an old maintenance man named Eddie. After dying in an accident, Eddie encounters five people whose lives he significantly affected, whether he realized it at the time or not. Mitch Albom dedicates the book to his uncle Edward Beitchman. He says that he wants people like his uncle who felt unimportant during their lives to realize how much they mattered.

Crazy Love by Frances Chan, ISBN 978-1-4347-6851-3

Chan's own life compels him to live with urgency and with good reason. His mother died giving birth to him, his stepmother died when he was nine and his dad when he was 12. As a pastor, Chan says that conducting weekly funerals for people younger than himself has sobered him to life's unexpectedness and frailty. Chan challenges Christians to take the Bible seriously. He described the state of lukewarm Christians and contrasts that with real-life accounts of believers who have given all—time, money, even their lives—in obedience to Christ's call.

The Scent of Water: Grace of Every Kind of Broken by Naomi Zacharias, ISBN 9780310327370

This book will open your eyes to the complexities of the world, showing you pain can also be beauty and how each are found in the unlikeliest of places. Zacharias doesn't have all the answers, but she has hope and encouragement that will empower you to find and begin the adventure of your life.

Hope Lives: A Journey of Restoration by Amber VanSchooneveld, ISBN 0764437887

Compassion changes everything: how you view your world, yourself, even Jesus. This five-week exploration of compassion is aimed at both head and heart, inspiring a new way to interact with the world. These 25 daily readings address poverty of the heart, what the Bible says about poverty, prayer, discovering the causes of poverty and becoming part of the solution to local and global poverty. Powerful—and life-changing.

*****All Honors English 10th grade students are also required to read:*****

1984 by George Orwell, ISBN 0452284236

Grade 11

Theme: The Tear of Things: Strength through Adversity

“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.”
--Isaiah 43:2

All 11th grade students are required to read:

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

A test on *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald will be given the SECOND DAY OF CLASS, August 30, 2011.

In addition, all rising 11th graders are required to **choose one of the following** books and create a reading log due the first day of school, Monday, August 29, 2011, including at least 10 entries which include:

- The date of the reading
- The pages read
- Personal reflections from the student on the material read, between 5-7 sentences in length
- At least one direct quote from those pages

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom, ISBN 076790592X

A *Detroit Free Press* journalist and best-selling author recounts his weekly visit with a dying teacher who, years before, had set him straight.

Through My Eyes by Tim Tebow, ISBN 0062007289

An inspirational memoir about life as Tim Tebow chose to live it, revealing how his faith and family values combined with this relentless will to succeed have molded him into the person he is today. As the son of Christian missionaries, Tebow has a unique story to tell—from the circumstances of his birth, to his home-schooling, to his record-setting collegiate football career.

It's Not About Me: Teen Edition by Max Lucado, ISBN 1591452902

Best-selling author, Max Lucado takes the biggest lie we've all believed (the one that says It's all about me) and shows us truth that will bump us squarely off the center of the world. Wouldn't it be nice to live the life you were born to live? The one that makes sense? "The 'God-centered' life words and it rescues us from a life that doesn't," Max assures us. Discover God's plans for your life and read some pretty amazing stories of real-life teens who made the shift from "Me-centered" living to "God-centered" living.

Coming Back Stronger: Unleashing the Hidden Power of Adversity by Drew Brees, ISBN 9781414339436

This is the ultimate comeback story, not only of one of the NFL's top quarterbacks, but also of a city and a team that many had all but given up on. Bree's inspiring message of hope and encouragement proves that with enough faith, determination and heart you can overcome any obstacle life throws your way and not only come back but come back stronger.

*****All Honors English 11th grade students are also require to read:*****

A Death in the Family by James Agee, ISBN 9780143105718

Grade 12

Theme: Facing a Crossroads: Choosing the godly path

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” --Jeremiah 29:11

All 12th grade students are required to read:

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde, ISBN 1613820532

A test on *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be given the SECOND DAY OF CLASS, August 30, 2011.

In addition, all rising 11th graders are required to **choose one of the following** books and create a reading log due the first day of school, Monday, August 29, 2011, including at least 10 entries which include:

- The date of the reading
- The pages read
- Personal reflections from the student on the material read, between 5-7 sentences in length
- At least one direct quote from those pages

Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris, ISBN 1601421125

Combating the idea of adolescence as a vacation from responsibility, the authors weave together biblical insights, history, and modern examples to redefine the teen years as the launching pad of life and map a clear trajectory for long-term fulfillment and eternal impact. Written by teens for teens *Do Hard Things* is packed with humorous personal anecdotes and stories of teens in action.

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch, ISBN 9781401323257

What would you say if you knew you were going to die soon? What life-lessons and advice would you give? Randy Pausch, professor of Computer Science and Design at Carnegie Mellon University, asked himself this question when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. *The Last Lecture* is his answer to that question. Gathering from years of experience as a professor and mentor, Pausch gives advice on pursuing your dreams, making the most of your time and focusing on what matters. Let his last words inspire you to live more fully and embrace the time you have.

City on Our Knees: If You Gotta Start Somewhere, Why Not Here by tobyMac, ISBN 0764208659

This book is inspired by the #1 hit radio single. Join Grammy-winning artist tobyMac for a soul-searching exploration of what it means to step out and take action for your faith. Through compelling stories and scripture, you'll see how Christians past and present have set aside differences and come together—bringing whole communities to their knees.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey, ISBN 0684856093

In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, author Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of the 7 habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with their parents and much more. In addition, this book is stuffed with cartoons, clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world. This book will engage teenagers unlike any other book!

*****All Honors English 12th grade students are also required to read:*****

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, ISBN 1441435727