



**Convent &  
Stuart Hall**  
Schools of the Sacred Heart San Francisco

Dear Eighth Graders,

It is the first day of summer vacation, and here I am, sending you information about summer reading! Your teachers have worked hard to make sure you have some choices and that these choices are ones you will enjoy. **In all, you need to read four books this summer and do a writing assignment.**

Your eighth-grade **science** teacher would like you to read ***Women in Science, 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World***, written and illustrated by **Rachel Ignotofsky**.

Ms. Baker, your eighth-grade English teacher, would like you to read **three** novels over the summer. The following two are mandatory and should be read in order:

- *Matilda* by Roald Dahl
- *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman

In addition to the above novels, please read at least **one** of the following:

- *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly (young readers' edition available)
- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown (young readers' edition available)
- *March* by John Lewis (graphic novel memoir)
- Classics:
  - Anything by Jane Austen (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*)
  - *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
  - *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
  - Finish *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
  - *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
  - *The Odyssey* by Homer (also, graphic novel: *The Odyssey* by Gareth Hinds)



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- Fiction:
  - *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness
  - *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles
  - *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson
  - *Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani (graphic novel)
- Historical Fiction:
  - *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
  - *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
  - *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
- Poetry:
  - *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
  - *Honeybee* by Naomi Shihab Nye
- Dystopia:
  - *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer
  - *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman
  - *The Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- Fantasy:
  - *The Subtle Knife* and/or *The Amber Spyglass* by Philip Pullman
  - *Alanna the Lioness* by Tamora Pierce

Questions to consider and guide reading (you don't have to write down anything):

1. Which characters have a voice? Does this change throughout the book?
2. How do characters use their voice?
3. Is there a connection between using one's voice and developing one's identity?
4. Which characters control their own destiny? How?

You also have a **writing assignment** from Ms. Baker. Here is her note to you:

## WRITING

Over the summer, I'd like you to write **at least six** of the following writing prompts **in any journal**. Write as much as each prompt inspires you to write or for at least 10 minutes of continuous pencil or pen to paper writing. You may also type your journal entries and share them with Ms. Baker. You may choose to do the same prompt twice but not more than twice. Be honest, be descriptive, be creative.



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1. Write about your day from another person's perspective. Choose a person who you've interacted with. How do you think they'd see you? The day's events?
2. Describe a stranger that you saw today. What did he/she look like? What do you think they're like? What are they interested in? What do they hate?
3. Imagine that you get to meet a celebrity. Describe your interaction.
4. Write about a time you said something that you regretted.
5. Write about a time that someone said something to you that hurt you.
6. Write about something that you are proud of.
7. Choose an article out of the newspaper. Tape it into your journal. Write about it.
8. If you could live in any book, what book would it be? Why?
9. Write a review of a movie.
10. Write a review of a television show.
11. Pick a random book from your bookshelf. Then, open to a random page and pick a random sentence. Use that sentence as the first line of a story of your own.
12. Imagine that you are singing to yourself, when suddenly, the topic of the song comes true. Describe the scene.
13. Pick a formula you learned in math class. Imagine the story of the mathematician who discovered it. How?
14. Write your high school graduation speech.
15. Write about something from your childhood that you think changed you.
16. Write a story inspired by a recent dream that you had.
17. Write a new ending for your favorite book.
18. Write a poem, short story, or journal entry about a conversation that you've overheard.
19. Write a story inspired by one of your pet-peeves.
20. Write a story from the perspective of someone who does not have one of his/her major senses (sight, smell, touch, hearing, taste).
21. Write about a time you kept a secret from someone else or someone else kept a secret from you.



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22. Write a story or journal entry about a photograph you have in your house. If you can, tape your photograph into your journal. You may also draw the photograph!
23. Interview a person in your life. Write a transcription of your interview. Try to ask them questions you do not already know the answer to!
24. Write a story inspired by a slogan for an advertising campaign.
25. Write a story inspired by a trending hashtag on Twitter or Instagram.
26. Read the newspaper. Write a poem or short story using a headline as your first line.
27. Use all of the following words in a piece of writing: bit, draw, flex, perilous, bubble, corner, pound, high, open, admonish.
28. You accidentally drink a potion that shrinks you down to two inches tall. Write a story about your day.
29. Pick a random word from the dictionary. Use this word as inspiration for a story.
30. Imagine you find a time traveling machine. Describe how you use it. Where do you go? What happens?

We look forward to welcoming you to the eighth grade in August. Until then, have a wonderful summer and happy reading and writing!

Ms. Naik