Convent & Stuart Hall
Schools of the Sacred Heart San Francisco

Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

Dear 4th graders,

Neil Gaiman, author of many wonderful books, says, "A book is a dream you hold in your hands." At Convent & Stuart Hall, we encourage dreams, both big and small. We want our students to exercise their imaginations, to travel to far off places and to be excited by everything that life has to offer, so we have created a short reading list for you. **You are required to read one book as a whole class, and (optionally) choose others from a list we have compiled.** We know that many of you love to read, so feel free to read everything on this list! If you would like to read something that isn't on the list, feel free to do that as well.

Summer reading ought to be enjoyable, so we chose books we think you might enjoy. Make sure to read the synopsis of each book before you choose one. You can also, before you buy a book, read a few pages of each to see whether it matches your mood and your vocabulary.

Convent Elementary School Grade 4

Required:

- *Riding Freedom* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Optional Summer Suggestions:

- *Trickster: Native American Tales, A Graphic Collection* by Matt Dembicki (graphic tales)
- *Home of the Brave: An American History book for Kids: 15 Immigrants Who Shaped U.S. History* by Brooke Khan (biographies)
- *Dragon's Gate* by Laurence Yep (historical fiction)
- *Bandit's Moon* by Sid Fleischman (historical fiction)
- *Riders of the Pony Express* by Ralph Moody (embellished history)
- *The Cowgirl Way: Hats Off to America's Women of the West* by Holly George-Warren (nonfiction)
- *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich

Anne Frank wrote, "I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn." Writers are historians and fortune tellers, entertainers and healers. Over the summer, we would like you to **keep a handwritten journal of at least four entries** using these prompts or any other of your own. Write as much as you can about your topics. You can **fictionalize** your entries if you like - pretend to be someone else and write in their voice. You could write in the form of **poetry, song lyrics** or **drama** as well. Be honest, be descriptive, be creative.

1. Write about your day. What happened? With whom did you interact?
2. Write about sheltering in place. What was it like for you?
3. Write a response to a book you read this summer. What did teach you? What did it make you wonder?
4. Imagine that you get to meet a celebrity. Describe what happened.
5. Write about a time you said something that you regretted.
6. Write about a time that someone said something to you that hurt you.
7. Write about something that you are proud of.
8. Choose an article out of the newspaper. Tape it into your journal. Write about it.
9. If you could live in any book, what book would it be? Why?
10. Write a review of a movie.
11. Write a review of a television show.
12. Write a book review.
13. Write a story inspired by a recent dream that you had.
14. Write a new ending for your favorite book.
15. Write a story inspired by one of your pet-peeves.
16. Write about a time you kept a secret from someone else, or someone else kept a secret from you.
17. 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!
18. 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!
19. Read the newspaper. Write a poem or short story using a headline as your first line.
20. You accidentally drink a potion that shrinks you down to two inches tall. Write a story about your day.
21. Pick a random word from the dictionary. Use this word as inspiration for a story.
22. Imagine you find a time traveling machine. Describe how you use it. Where do you go? What happens?

We wish you a healthy and happy summer and look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at sharanya.naik@sacredsf.org.
On behalf of the English Department,

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