



Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

Dear 8th 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, to be excited by everything that life has to offer - and so we have created a short reading list for you. **You are required to read one book as a whole class, and choose at least one from a list we have compiled.** The required reading will be used as your first text in English class next year, so **please buy the paperback and bring it to school in August.**

Summer reading ought to be enjoyable, so we chose books we think you might like based on the overarching theme for 6th grade English, **Perspectives**. Make sure to read the synopsis of each book before you choose one. You can also read a few pages of each to see whether it matches your mood and your vocabulary. If you prefer to read novels not on this list, feel free. Also feel free to read all the books on this list!

Convent Elementary School 8th grade

Required::

- *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman

+ Student Choice of ONE or more of:

- *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor
- *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak
- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- *Alanna the Lioness* by Tamora Pierce
- *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson
- *The Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown (young readers' edition available)
- *If I Ever Get Out of Here* by Eric Gansworth
- *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness
- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson (young readers' edition available)
- *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley
- *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller
- *Circe* by Madeline Miller

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 six entries** using these prompts or any other of your own. Each journal entry should be **at least a page long**. 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 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.
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 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@sacredsfs.org or Mr. Horan at dan.horan@sacredsfs.org.

On behalf of the English Department,

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