

## Blessed Trinity 2011 Summer Reading List

6, 7, 8 Middle School

\*\*Summer reading novels MUST come from the list below. Only one book is required.\*\*  
They must be “**new reads**” = books that have not been previously read by the student.

\*\*Please look for books that are noted **only for a particular grade.**\*\*

**PARENTS:** If you are concerned about monitoring the material your student reads, please refer to research sites such as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) to learn more about the book’s content. I have not read all of these books.

### Great Mysteries

***Kingdom Keepers Series: 1. Disney After Dark, 2. Disney at Dawn, 3. Disney at Shadow***  
(Ridley Pearson) Fantastical mysteries for students who live so close to the Magic Kingdom!  
Check them out! **\*\*Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders and upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders only.**

***Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*** (John Feinstein): Sports writer John Feinstein weaves a tale of mystery as a middle school student discovers a plan to throw the NCAA Final Four games.

***Crispin: The Cross of Lead*** (Avi). Set in 14th century England, a boy known as “Asta’s son” is fingered for the village priest’s murder and is wanted dead or alive. A real page-turner.

***Nothing But the Truth*** (Avi). A documentary novel, this book tells the story of ninth grader Philip Malloy’s trouble that starts out small and grows national. It all started when he hummed “The Star Spangled Banner” in class one day.

***The A.B.C. Murders*** (Agatha Christie). Agatha Christie puzzles readers as they try to discover the identity of a murderer who chooses his victims alphabetically. **(8<sup>th</sup> only)**

***Swindle*** (Gordon Korman). Griffin Bing’s family needs money, and he discovers the solution to all of their problems – a 1920 Babe Ruth baseball card found in an abandoned home. Unfortunately, the local pawn shop swindles him out of the card, and he and his friends set out to right the wrong.

***Dead Girls Don’t Write Letters*** (Gail Giles) Fourteen-year-old Sunny is surprised when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire five months earlier.

***Cover-up: Mystery at the Super Bowl*** (John Feinstein) Teen reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson are at it again. This time, they uncover a scandal at the Super Bowl. Part mystery, part sports, this book entertains.

## Great Beach & Pool Reads

***Guys Write for Guys Read: Boys' Favorite Authors Write About Being Boys*** (Jon Scieszka) This collection of short stories, drawings, poems & memoirs includes pieces by several writers of “guy” fiction such as Stephen King, Will Hobbs, Gary Paulsen, and others.

***Click Here To Find Out How I Survived Seventh Grade*** (Denise Vega) New to middle school, Erin Swift keeps a diary on her own private web page. She never intends for anyone else to read it, but accidents happen and the consequences are disastrous. An easy-to-read book with humor, warmth, and lessons about friendship.

***Death by Eggplant*** (Susan Heyboer O’Keefe). Bertie is a middle school student with a secret that he must protect at all costs. His life’s ambition is to be a chef, something his classmates, hippie mother, and accountant father would never understand. To make things even worse, Bertie is failing his classes and must be the “parent” to a flour sack baby in order to pass the semester!

***Surviving the Applewhites*** (Stephanie S. Tolan). The Applewhites, an eccentric family of artists, offer to let Jake Semple live with them after he is kicked out of yet another school. Humorous.

***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*** (Willis Holt). Life in a small town in Texas is boring for Toby, until the “world’s fattest boy” shows up.

***So B. It*** (Sarah Weeks). Twelve-year-old Heidi seeks to find some of the missing pieces of her life in this heart-warming tale of discovery. Using words from her mother’s limited vocabulary as clues, Heidi strikes off to learn the truth.

***Flipped*** (Wendelin Van Draanen). A fun story of friendship that flips back and forth between a male and female perspective.

***The View from Saturday*** (E.L. Konigsburg). An unlikely group of 6th graders forms an academic team and overcomes their differences.

***Born to Rock*** (Gordon Korman). A conservative, Republican, Harvard-bound senior discovers his real dad is King Maggot, the leader of a famous punk rock band. He spends the summer on the road with the band.

***Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf*** (Jennifer L. Holm). Told through the notes, lists, report cards, and other creations of new 7th grade student Ginny, this book follows her middle school experiences.

***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*** (Kate DiCamillo). In search of its rightful owner, a stuffed rabbit takes an extraordinary journey around the world.

***Leaping Beauty*** (Gregory Maguire). The author of *Wicked* is at it again, recasting our best loved fairy tales in this collection of short stories.

***Small Steps*** (Louis Sachar). The characters from *Holes* appear again, in a less humorous and more poignant novel dealing with physical and mental handicaps.

***The Janitor's Boy*** (Andrew Clements). A 5th grade boy combats the “embarrassment” of his father’s career. **Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders only.**

***The Landry News***, (Andrew Clements). A secret class newspaper has unintentional results. viewpoints of girls and boys.

***Schooled***, (Gordon Korman). Capricorn Anderson is home-schooled by his hippie grandmother Rain. All is well, until Rain falls and breaks her hip, rendering her unable to care for Capricorn. The boy is placed with a temporary foster family, and enters the world of public school, shopping malls, and television. Read to find out what happens!

***The Homecoming*** (Cynthia Voigt). Their mother abandons them, so Dicey had no choice but to lead her two younger brothers and little sister on a long a difficult journey to find the grandmother they’d never met.

***That Girl Lucy Moon***, (Amy Timberlake). A Middle School girl who promotes animal rights launches a campaign to fight against corruption in her hometown.

***Al Capone Does My Shirts*** (Gennifer Choldenko). Moose, a 12-year-old boy, lives on Alcatraz Island, where his father is a guard and Al Capone is a prisoner.

## **Sports Reads**

***The Boy Who Saved Baseball***, (John H. Ritter) Big developers want to take over a small town baseball field in California. Young Tom and other residents are against this idea. With plenty of play-by-play action and lots of humor, this is more than just a baseball story.

***Downriver***, (Will Hobbs) Fifteen-year-old Jessie and her six friends decide to “borrow” rafting gear from the outdoor adventure company they work for. As they take off down the Colorado River, they find themselves in huge rapids. Can they survive this reckless adventure?

***Football Genius***, (Tim Green) Twelve-year-old Troy White has lots of frustration—his father left the family years ago, his beloved Atlanta Falcons are losing again, and his talents as a quarterback are ignored while he warms the bench. But things change in this fast-moving read that football fans will love.

**Crackback**, (John Coy) Miles, a high school football star, feels pressure from everyone—his best friends, his demanding father, and his pushy new coach. Miles must decide where he stands in this tale of “nail-biting drama” from the football field. **Upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders only.**

**Going for the Record**, (Julie Swanson) Leah expects the perfect senior year when she makes the regional Olympic soccer team. But when she learns that her father has cancer, soccer takes a back seat to family matters. A sad but ultimately affirming novel.

**The Big Field**, (Mike Lupica) Fourteen-year-old Hutch doesn't mind not being the star of his baseball team. He plays for the love of the game, just as his father did before him. When his team gets their chance to play on the big field where ML teams play for spring training, problems arise. A great book for baseball fans, with lots of father/son action as well.

**Heat**, (Mike Lupica). A feel good baseball story about a too-good-to-be-true athlete from Cuba with no birth certificate to prove his age so that he can play baseball here in the US. **Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders only.**

**Travel Team**, (Mike Lupica). A second chance for the smallest guy on the basketball court.

**On the Court with Lisa Leslie**, (Matt Christopher). WNBA starter for the Los Angeles Sparks part time fashion model, full of grace and natural ability.

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**The following novels are scheduled to be read during the 2011-2012 school year.  
Do not read ahead – they will be read and discussed in class.**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade**

*The Ghost's Grave* by Peg Kehret

*Colder Than Ice* by David Patneaude

**7<sup>th</sup> grade**

*Baseball in April* by Gary Soto

*The Giver* by Lowis Lowry

**8<sup>th</sup> grade**

*Surviving Antarctica* by Andrea White

*The Wednesday Wars*

*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie