

2010 Summer Reading Program

“PERSEPOLIS”

This common reader was selected to promote the graphic novel as a legitimate literary and art form, as well as to focus on the Middle East as a curricular topic.

During the summer, students in grades 7-12 are required to read the common reader as well as one pair of books, as described below:

Grades	Common Reader	Additional Required Summer Reading
7-8	<p><i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood</i> by Marjane Satrapi Random House (Pantheon) ISBN: 978-0375714573 (\$12.95) Please note: Grades 7 & 8 will read Vol. 1 only</p>	<p>One pair of books selected for the student's grade level from the 2010 paired selections</p>
9- 12	<p><i>Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood & Persepolis: The Story of a Return</i> by Marjane Satrapi Random House (Pantheon) <i>Complete Persepolis</i> (paperback) ISBN: 978-0375-714832 (\$24.95) Boxed set (paperback) ISBN: 975-0375-423963 (\$25.90) Please note: Grades 9-12 will read both Vols. 1 & 2</p>	<p>One pair of books selected for the student's grade level from the 2010 paired selections</p>

Purchasing Common Readers

While copies of the common reader will not be for sale at the school, a 20% discount will be offered to Friends Select students at the Joseph Fox Bookshop, 1724 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19103 (215-563-4184). *Persepolis* is widely available at area book stores.

Paired Selections -- Students in grades 7-12 also select **one pair** from the following list. While students are encouraged to read more than one pair, students should not substitute or mix titles outside the designated pairs. Pairs read during the summer will be discussed with the sponsoring teacher at a seminar scheduled in September. Though there are no tests, papers, worksheets nor grades associated with summer reading, seminar attendance is required. Students may be asked to integrate summer reading material in course work discussions, tests, and papers during the school year.

Parents: Parents are encouraged to review the summer reading list, approve the pair their children select and read both the pair and the common book which all students, faculty and staff will read. We anticipate that lively conversations will ensue around some of the themes in the common reader, such as war in the Middle East, coming of age, political and military revolution and the role of women.

This summer, upper school students will read both volumes of *Persepolis*. The second volume contains mature themes that will be contextualized in school assemblies next fall. If any parent strongly believes his or her child should not read volume two, however, please contact the director of the upper school, Jesse Dougherty at jessed@friends-select.org.

FRIENDS SELECT

2010 Paired Selections

RECOMMENDED FOR 7th GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

47 by Walter Mosley

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

Do you want to get a jump on 7th grade English? Do you want to read powerful and compelling historical fiction during the summer? Do you want to get valuable practice with front loading, an invaluable reading strategy of skilled readers? Do you want to read great books that will help you better negotiate our readings about the Puritans and American slavery - all without the pressure of tests, quizzes and what not? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this book pair is for you!

47 is an incredible work of historical and magical fiction about an enslaved boy on a plantation. He doesn't know his birthday; his mother is dead and he has no name but the number that is assigned to him when he is sent to work out in the cotton fields at the tender age of 14. After days of back-breaking work, cruelty and deprivation, 47 begins to lose hope. Everything changes for him (and everyone on the plantation) when he meets a captivating, mysterious and wise young man who is simultaneously trickster, brave soul and magician. This globe-trotting, time-travelling stranger gets 47 imagining a different world - one without limitation - a world without slaves or masters, and nothing is the same.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond is an exciting book about a free-thinking and independent young woman named Kit, who is dropped into the middle of a Puritan community. Our heroine runs into all kinds of difficulties after she befriends a Quaker woman who is regarded with suspicion by the community. When a mysterious illness overtakes the village, both Kit and her friend are accused of witchcraft. To find out what happens next, you'll want to read this Newberry Award Winner!

Suggested by Dianna Newton

RECOMMENDED FOR 7th & 8th GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Behind the Curtain by Peter Abrahams

Sixth-grader Miranda lives in 1978 New York City with her mother and her life compass is Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*. When she receives a series of enigmatic notes that claim to want to save her life, she comes to believe that they are from someone who knows the future. Miranda spends considerable time observing a raving vagrant who her mother calls the laughing man and trying to find the connection between the notes and her everyday life. (*School Library Journal*)

Ingrid Levin-Hill, the eighth-grade Sherlock Holmes lover introduced in *Down the Rabbit Hole*, is back for another adventure. She quotes her hero quite often as she tries to sort out details that she observes around her. In trying to figure out why her brother is so moody, why her dad is in jeopardy of losing his job, and why her grandfather's property is so valuable, the teen stumbles upon some of her town's secrets. Then, when she is kidnapped but is able to escape, she can't get anyone to believe her. (*School Library Journal*)

Suggested by Christine Jefferson

RECOMMENDED FOR 7th & 8th GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Scat by Carl Hiaasen

On Wednesday afternoons, while his Catholic and Jewish schoolmates attend religious instruction, Holling Hoodhood, the only Presbyterian in his seventh grade, is alone in the classroom with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, who Holling is convinced hates his guts. He feels more certain after Mrs. Baker assigns Shakespeare's plays for Holling to discuss during their shared afternoons. Each month in Holling's tumultuous seventh-grade year is a chapter in this quietly powerful coming-of-age novel set in suburban Long Island during the late 1960's. Seamlessly, [the author] knits together the story's themes: the cultural uproar of the '60s, the internal uproar of early adolescence, and the timeless wisdom of Shakespeare's words. Holling's unwavering, distinctive voice offers a gentle, hopeful, moving story of a boy who, with the right help, learns to stretch beyond the limitations of his family, his violent times, and his fear, as he leaps into his future with his eyes and his heart wide open. (*Booklist*)

Once again, Hiaasen has written an edge-of-the-seat eco-thriller. When their unpopular biology teacher goes missing in a suspicious fire during a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp, Nick and Marta don't buy the headmaster's excuse for her absence and decide to do some investigating of their own. The teens' dangerous detective work, with help from some unlikely sources, and the ethics of environmental awareness are well balanced. This well-written and smoothly plotted story will certainly appeal to mystery lovers. (*School Library Journal*)

Suggested by Maureen Haurin

What happens when there is no longer room for everyone? Here are two different takes on a future in which science must sort out the 'privileged to live' from the leftovers.

The Diary of Pelly D by L. J. Adlington

Unwind by Neal Shusterman

A young driller breaking up rubble in war-devastated City 5 unearths an old water can with a diary inside and then breaks the Rules and Regulations by keeping it, rather than surrendering it to the authorities. So begins Toni V's relationship with the diarist, Pelly D, a teen who, before the war, had it all. Toni V enters the everyday thoughts and experiences of a privileged girl who, despite her societal status, may not be protected when the most powerful of the planet's three genetic clans demand that all citizens be identified and sorted by genetic type.

Set in the future, the second civil war is fought over abortion. To end the war, a compromise is reached that ends the practice of abortion but creates an alternative called "unwinding." Between the ages of 13 and 17, parents or guardians can choose to have their children unwound, which involves having every part of their bodies harvested to be "donated" to another person so, technically, they don't really die. The complex and compelling plot follows three teens whose stories intertwine when they escape while on their way to the harvest camps. Fifteen-year-old Connor's parents can no longer control him. Lev was raised by religious parents for the sole purpose of being unwound. Risa, a ward of the state, is a victim of shrinking budgets since she is not a talented enough musician to be kept alive. (*School Library Journal*)

Suggested by Sandy Guild

RECOMMENDED FOR 7th & 8th GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

Catalyst by Laurie Halse Anderson
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Catalyst, Laurie Halse Anderson's third novel for teens, is a deftly fashioned character study of a seldom explored subject in YA fiction: the type-A adolescent. Teens will identify (if not exactly sympathize) with prickly Kate instantly, and be shocked or perhaps secretly pleased to discover that life is no easier for the honor roll student than it is for the outcast. Anderson earns an A plus for this revealing and realistic take on life, death, and GPAs. (*Amazon.com*)

Part fairy godmother, part outcast, part dream-come-true, the star of Spinelli's novel shares many of the mythical qualities as the protagonist of his *Maniac Magee*. Spinelli poses searching questions about loyalty to one's friends and oneself and leaves readers to form their own answers. (*Publishers Weekly*)

Suggested by Martha Van Nuis

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass
Things Not Seen By Andrew Clements

Both of these books have male protagonists who go on a journey to discover an answer. One looks for the meaning of life while one looks to discover the origin of his invisibility. Both learn things about themselves they never quite imagined. Teens can truly identify with the stories of these two boys and will be sitting on the edge of their seats waiting to discover the answers. (*School Library Journal*)

Suggested by Betsy Lamitina

RECOMMENDED FOR 7TH – 9TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Serafina's Stories by Rudolfo Anaya

Arnold Spirit spends his time lamenting life on the Spokane Indian reservation, drawing cartoons (which accompany, and often provide more insight than, the narrative), and laughing with his aptly-named best friend, Rowdy. When a teacher pleads with Arnold to escape the hopelessness of the reservation, Arnold switches to a rich white school and immediately becomes as much an outcast in his own community as he is a curiosity in his new one.

In 1680, 15-year-old Serafina is captured along with 11 other Pueblo Indians who are accused of plotting against the Spaniards governing New Mexico. She speaks fluent Spanish and is also a storyteller, and a bargain is struck with the governor: in return for telling the lonely widower a story, one of the prisoners will be released. Each evening Serafina delights him with a tale; next morning he questions and releases a prisoner. Most stories are familiar to him, like "Cinderella" retold as "Miranda's Gift." Others are Indian. The governor's enemies are aghast at his friendship with Serafina, believing that natives should be punished harshly, not freed. At last it is Serafina's turn to be tried. If the governor releases her, an agent of the Inquisition will take her away to be tried for heresy, so he decrees that she must remain in his custody for the present, her "prison" a room behind his kitchen. The folktales tell of the struggle between the Pueblos, determined to preserve their religion and culture, and the settlers, determined to suppress and convert them. (*School Library Journal*)

Suggested by Terry Kessel

RECOMMENDED FOR 8TH – 10TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint Exupéry
The Host by Stephenie Meyer

The theme for this pair is the transformative nature of travel and the discovery of self amongst the "strange". Within the pages of the slim volume of *The Little Prince*, lies a tale ripe with allegory and symbolism. One of my all-time favorites, this novel changes for me with each reading, depending on what is happening within my life at the time. What will you see within the experiences of the petit sojourner?

What *The Little Prince* lacks in detail and forces you to fill in for yourself, Stephenie Meyer's book, in contrast, includes it all. Follow yet another traveler and the lessons that she learns as she struggles to adapt to her new environment.

Suggested by Ed Rhee

RECOMMENDED FOR ALL STUDENTS, GRADES 7-12

Flight, Volume Four edited by Kazu Kibuishi
Skin and Other Stories by Roald Dahl

To go with the common reader (the graphic novel *Persepolis*), I've chosen an anthology of graphic short stories, *Flight, Volume Four*. These stories are not only amazingly illustrated, but many are as sophisticated as good old-fashioned written short stories, which is what we have for our other book in the pair, Roald Dahl's *Skin and Other Stories*. Many people know Roald Dahl from their younger days (*James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*), but Dahl wrote for older readers too, and this collection proves to be as wildly creative as the graphic short stories we'll read with it.

Suggested by Jim Miller

Funny in Farsi (A memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America) by Firoozeh Dumas
The Muslim Next Door: The Qur'an, the Media, and That Veil Thing by Sumbul Ali-Karamali

Keeping with the common reader theme of growing up in Iran, this first book is the story of a girl born in Iran and raised in California. The title refers to expressions in one language that have a totally different meaning in another. (Farsi is the language spoken by most Iranians.) The book is full of hilarious moments, such as when her family tries to figure out if a hot dog and a hush puppy are similar. At a time when the media suggests Muslims should be considered potential terrorists, *The Muslim Next Door* looks at the myths and misconceptions of what Islam means to a majority of its adherents, and that it has really become as American as a good falafel sandwich!

Suggested by Galen Horst-Martz

RECOMMENDED FOR ALL STUDENTS, GRADES 7-12

Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs
Before Adam by Jack London

Tarzan of the Apes is the first book in the Tarzan series. We learn how Tarzan was abandoned in the jungle, raised by apes, and learned about his true identity as Lord Greystoke.

First serialized in 1906, *Before Adam* is London's take on the jungle man theme made popular by Kipling's *The Jungle Book* and Burroughs's *Tarzan*. The story follows a California man who experiences visions of a prehistoric society led by Big-Tooth, who actually is the protagonist. This edition contains a map of Big-Tooth's world as well as numerous illustrations. (*School Library Journal*)

Suggested by Ralph Reinwald

RECOMMENDED FOR 9TH – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

Killer Angels by Michael Shaara
Sophie Scholl and the White Rose by Jud Newborn and Annette Dumbach

Killer Angels is a heroic tale about the battle of Gettysburg. The story shows the battle from the viewpoints of Confederate officers including Lee, Longstreet and Pickett; and Union officers including Buford, Chamberlain, and Meade. The Confederate and Union armies meet in a small town located in southern Pennsylvania known as Gettysburg. The battle goes fairly well for the Confederates until Robert E. Lee orders a massive attack against the Union's lines. The attack turns out to be disastrous for the Confederates and tips the balance of the battle, and even the war, in favor of the Union.

Sophie Scholl and the White Rose is the true story of how five students and one professor from the University of Munich stood up against the Nazis. The novel takes place during the spring and summer of 1943, when Nazi power was at its peak. Sophie Scholl and the other members of the White Rose risked persecution and death to resist Hitler's dictatorship and expose it for what it truly was.

Both of these books share the common theme of courage and leadership in desperate times. Sophie Scholl and members of the White Rose showed courage when they stood up for what is right, even when no one else did. Both Union and Confederate officers showed courage when they were forced to give orders that they knew they would regret.

Suggested by Stephen Rawls and Matt Matusky

Keeping You a Secret by Julie Anne Peters
Luna by Julie Anne Peters

In *Keeping You a Secret*, a girl discovers her identity and deals with acceptance and rejection because of it. In *Luna*, Regan has always been there for her transgender brother, Liam, but when he announces that he is ready to transition into Luna permanently, Regan is not sure she can handle the consequences.

Suggested by Fred Kogan and Caitlin Chamberlain

RECOMMENDED FOR 9TH – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

Galileo's New Universe: The Revolution in Our Understanding of the Cosmos

by Stephen P. Maran & Laurence A. Marschall

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson

The historical and social implications of the telescope and that instrument's modern-day significance are brought into startling focus in this fascinating account. (From the publisher)

Bill Bryson is one of the world's most beloved and bestselling writers. In *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, he takes his ultimate journey – into the most intriguing and consequential questions that science seeks to answer. It's a dazzling quest, the intellectual odyssey of a lifetime, as this insatiably curious writer attempts to understand everything that has transpired from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization. (From the publisher)

Suggested by Jim Brubaker

To Every Thing a Season: Shibe Park and Urban Philadelphia, 1909-1976 by Bruce Kuklick

Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game by Michael Lewis

Pass the summer with the summer pastime. Both of these books focus on baseball, but also tell another story. *To Everything a Season* looks at the twentieth century in north Philadelphia and the history of the neighborhood around 22nd and Lehigh, where the Philadelphia A's played. *Moneyball* draws a portrait of current A's general manager Billy Beane and his strategies to compete with the big market teams like the Yankees and Red Sox despite having to keep a much smaller payroll.

Suggested by Rufus Frazer

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski

These novels are two of my favorite books. Both are amazing stories with characters that stay with you long after you finish reading. In *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving introduces us to Owen, a child with dwarfism, who believes that he is an instrument of God. The narrator, Owen's best friend Johnny, has his life forever changed by Owen because Owen accidentally kills Johnny's mother with a baseball and because simply knowing Owen and his story is life-changing. In *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, we meet Edgar, a mute boy who is a member of a family with a long history of breeding dogs that possess special personality traits which make them the perfect human companions. Edgar begins to uncover the mystery of his father's death and, in doing so, is forced to come of age on the run, accompanied by three yearling pups. Wroblewski inserts elements of the supernatural, but he does it in a way that feels believable and adds depth to the story. These stories force you to think about friendships, family, spirituality, love and loss while being immersed in creative and captivating worlds.

Suggested by Abbi Smith

RECOMMENDED FOR 9TH – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

Pompeii by Robert Harris

Pompeii by Robert Connolly

Join us for a journey to one of the most famous historic sites in the world. Read about one of the most famous natural disasters of all time - a volcanic eruption that froze the everyday lives of the ancient Romans in time for subsequent generations of archaeologists, historians, and curious tourists. We will read a fictional account of the eruption, *Pompeii* by Robert Harris, in which an enterprising young engineer, Marcus Attilius Primus, and the famous naturalist, Pliny the Elder, join forces. The two men soon find out that there are many forces – both natural and man-made – threatening to bring disaster to the region. We will also read a non-fiction account of the life of the town and the eruption: *Pompeii* by Robert Connolly. This book explores, in great visual detail, the immense impact that the preservation of Pompeii has had on the fields of ancient Roman archaeology and history. Not only does the book devote attention to the science of volcanic eruption, but it also delves deeply into features of Roman architecture, engineering, and public entertainment, all accompanied by lavish illustrations.

Suggested by Dan Capecchi and Carolyn Shank

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Everything Flows by Vasily Grossman

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich is a short work of autobiographical fiction, in which Solzhenitsyn takes the reader into the daily life of a zek (or prisoner) in the vast network of Soviet forced labor camps (gulags) that took in tens of millions of citizens during the decades of Communist rule in Russia. Solzhenitsyn himself survived the gulags, and was able to escape to Vermont where he wrote--at great risk to himself and his family--dozens of books about Russia (including his seminal three-volume *Gulag Archipelago*).

Everything Flows is a fictional tale of an ex-prisoner's readjustment to life, love, family, friends and work after thirty years in the Gulag.

Taken together, the two represent different but equally vital facets of understanding this period in history. First, what was it actually like inside the gulag? Second, what was it like afterward for anyone who survived?

Suggested by Brian Kors

Sold by Patricia McCormick

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

Each of my summer reading books explores the life of a teenager, albeit in quite unique and disparate ways. *Sold* is a heartbreaking story presented in free verse form about a young girl forced into modern-day slavery. The brutal subject matter makes for a tough read at times, but the beautiful, moving story is an important one, which is ultimately infused with hope. In *American Born Chinese*, three stories are interwoven into a graphic novel that deals brilliantly with themes of race, identity, and alienation. These books are quick reads that nonetheless will stay with you long after you've finished them.

Suggested by Heather Fortune

RECOMMENDED FOR 9TH – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History by Art Spiegelman

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Maus, a graphic biography, tells the story of a Jewish survivor of the Nazi Holocaust and the later impact on his American-born son. Parts of *Maus* first appeared in underground comics in 1972 and it was published as a complete book in 1986. This is a classic of the graphic book medium – a must read!

Markus Zusak, a non-Jewish Australian writer of German and Austrian decent, creates a compelling story of the Nazi Holocaust based on the real-life experiences of his mother, who grew up in Germany, and his father, who grew up in Austria. This book is not to be missed and will become a favorite of both adolescents and adults.

Suggested by Natan Gottesman

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

The Invisible Circus by Jennifer Egan

These books explore the relationships women establish with one another, whether through the biological bonds of mothers and daughters, the bond between sisters or, in the case of *The Invisible Circus*, through the sorority of womanhood more generally. *The Red Tent* pulls Biblical characters out of their patriarchal text and allows the women to take center stage, while *The Invisible Circus* uses a more modern example to illustrate the ways in which women build and hold on to relationships, sometimes even after death, as a way of validating their own experiences.

Suggested by Jennifer Gorzelany

RECOMMENDED FOR 10TH – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

Dancing for Degas by Kathryn Wagner

Chris Cleave's *Little Bee* works because the unflinching, brutal story balances an outwardly political motive with rich, deep character development (and even some welcome humor), focusing narrowly on events before broadening to reveal some larger truths. Cleave's firm grasp of human nature and his unsparing disdain for injustice allow him to articulate lives as different as those of Little Bee and the less likeable Sarah. Both characters, though, are unforgettable. (*Bookmarks Magazine*)

With this fresh and vibrantly imagined portrait of the Impressionist artist Edgar Degas, readers are transported through the eyes of a young Parisian ballerina to an era of light and movement. An ambitious and enterprising farm girl, Alexandrie joins the prestigious Paris opera Ballet with hopes of securing not only her place in society but her family's financial future. Her plan is soon derailed, however, when she falls in love with the enigmatic artist whose paintings of the offstage lives of the ballerinas scandalized society and revolutionized the art world. As Alexandrie is drawn deeper into the art of Degas and the secrets of Paris, will she risk everything for her dreams of love and of becoming the ballet's star dancer? (From the publisher)

Suggested by Anita Voluntad-DePace

RECOMMENDED FOR 10TH – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

A Long Way Down by Nick Hornby
Not a Star by Nick Hornby

Hornby can make anything (darkly) funny, including finding out one's son is a porn star or the prospect of leaping off a tall building as a problem-solving technique. In both cases, of course, the unexpected prevails. What do you do if you decide to end it all by jumping but when you get there, there are other people with the same general idea? And how do you tell your spouse that an innocent child is perhaps not so innocent? Hornby applies his usual edgy humor to these stories of people trying to get out of the unexpected predicaments they find themselves in.

Suggested by Wendy Buckingham

RECOMMENDED FOR 11TH – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

The Way to Paradise by Mario Vargas Llosa
Island Beneath the Sea by Isabel Allende

In *The Way to Paradise*, author Mario Vargas Llosa imagines the dramatic lives of two bold and independent adventurers, the artist Paul Gauguin and his trail-blazing grandmother, Flora Tristan.

Allende returns to historical fiction to portray another resilient woman, whose life embodies the complex forces at work in the bloody forging of the New World. Zarité, called Tété, is born into slavery in the colony of Saint-Domingue, where enslaved Africans are worked to death by the thousands, and European men prey on women of color. When the slave uprising that gives birth to the free black republic of Haiti erupts, Tété flees to Cuba, then to New Orleans. In a many-faceted plot, Allende captures the racial, sexual, and entrepreneurial dynamics of each society in sensuous detail while masterfully dramatizing the psychic wounds of slavery. Sexually explicit, Allende is grace incarnate in her evocations of the spiritual energy that still sustains the beleaguered people of Haiti and New Orleans.

Suggested by Norka Maldonado
