

2011 Summer Reading

"CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA"

Common readers were selected to focus on the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda as well to promote Central and South America as a curricular topic and the subject of study for the second year of our groundbreaking international studies immersion program, InterSession.

During the summer, students in grades 7-8 are required to read the assigned common reader as well as submit an original poem about a dreamer. Students in grades 9-12 are required to read the assigned common reader as well as submit an original ode to a common object. Typewritten poems will be turned in by students in the first period of English class of the school year.

| Grades | Common Reader and Poem |
|--------|---|
| 7-8 | <p><i>The Dreamer</i> By Pam Muñoz Ryan & Peter Sís Scholastic Press ISBN: 978-0439269704 \$17.99 (Hardcover only) Write a poem about a dreamer</p> |
| 9- 12 | <p><i>Odes to Common Things</i> by Pablo Neruda Bulfinch Press ISBN 978-0821220801 \$24.99 (Hardcover only) Write an ode to a common object</p> |

Purchasing Common Readers

While copies of the common reader will not be for sale at the school, they will be available for sale at the Friends Select Barnes & Noble Day on Friday, May 20, 2011. Common readers will also be offered to Friends Select students at the Joseph Fox Bookshop, 1724 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215-563-4184) at a 20% discount.

Book Selections

Odes to Common Things by Pablo Neruda

A bilingual collection of 25 newly translated odes by the century's greatest Spanish-language poet, each accompanied by a pair of exquisite pencil drawings. From bread and soap to a bed and a box of tea, the "odes to common things" collected here conjure up the essence of their subjects clearly and wondrously. (Bulfinch Press)

The Dreamer by Pam Muñoz Ryan and Peter Sís

Readers enter the creative, sensitive mind of Pablo Neruda, the Nobel Prize-winning poet, in this beautifully written fictional biography. Ryan artfully meshes factual details with an absorbing story of a shy Chilean boy whose spirit develops and thrives despite his father's negativity. Neruda, who was born Neftalí Reyes, sees, hears, and feels poetry all around him from an early age. Sís's whimsical pen-and-ink pointillist illustrations enliven the presentation. The perfect marriage of text and art offers an excellent introduction to one of the world's most famous poets. An appended author's note gives further insight into Neruda's beliefs and accomplishments. (School Library Journal)

Common readers will be discussed during seminars scheduled in September. Though there are no tests or 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.

Additional Reading Suggestions

The common reader and composition of an original poem are the only required elements of summer reading. We strongly encourage students to read additional books by Central and South American writers and about Central and South America, both fiction and non-fiction. These are suggestions.

For grades 7 and 8:

City of the Beasts by Isabel Allende

ISBN 987-0060535032 \$7.99 (Paperback)

Adventure seekers will find plenty of thrills in Allende's first novel for young readers. When 15-year-old Alexander Cold is sent to stay with his eccentric, gruff grandmother, Kate, while his mother is being treated for cancer, he is more than a little reluctant to accompany Kate on a writing assignment in South America to search for a legendary nine-foot-tall "Beast." However, once the expedition down the Amazon begins, Alexander's doubts are pushed out of his mind by more immediate concerns, such as keeping an eye on two suspicious members of the party: a native named Karakawe and Mauro Cari, a wealthy entrepreneur. The plot moves at a rapid pace, laced with surprises and ironic twists. Readers will find the author's formula successful with its environmentalist theme, a pinch of the grotesque and a dose of magic. (Publisher's Weekly)

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For grades 9-12:

Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia)

Novelist, short story writer and journalist. Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982.

Isabel Allende (Chile)

Journalist and writer. One of the most widely read Spanish-language authors.

Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru)

Politician, novelist, journalist and essayist. Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2010.

Gabriela Mistral (Chile)

Poet, educator, diplomat and feminist. First Latin American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1945.

Rubén Darío (Nicaragua)

Diplomat, poet and founder of the modernismo movement.

Jorge Amado (Brazil)

Writer who chronicles the lives of the urban poor in the region of Bahia, Brazil.

Eduardo Galeano (Uruguay)

Novelist and journalist. He mixes genres (history, fiction, memoir) in his trilogy on the history of Latin America, *Memory of Fire*.