

Brentwood Academy
Summer Reading List 2010
8th Grade English

A Rationale for Summer Reading:

- To generate interest and pleasure in reading that enriches the educational experience
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading done leisurely

Texts:

Required:

The Hiding Place

Corrie Ten Boom

No Promises in the Wind

Irene Hunt

Choose one book from the list below. The book must **not** be one that you have already read, one that has been read to you, or one whose movie you have seen.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Mildred Taylor

kira-kira

Cynthia Kadohata

The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Elizabeth Speare

Safely Home

Randy Alcorn

The Devil's Arithmetic

Jane Yolen

Before We Were Free

Julia Alvarez

Letters from Rifka

Karen Hesse

General Instructions/Evaluations:

The summer reading list is compiled to reflect the eighth grade theme of the quest for justice and citizenship in society. While reading, students should mark their books with underlining and take detailed notes on the central conflict that the main character of each book experiences. Consider how the role of discrimination and the need to belong influence character behaviors and decisions. Furthermore, students should be well-acquainted with the *who*, *what*, *when*, and *where* of each story. Keeping a reading journal may be helpful, but it is not required.

Students will be expected to participate in discussion generated by each summer reading book, to take a multiple choice test on the summer reading books, and to compose a paper that reflects how this theme of the quest for justice and citizenship in society is exemplified in each book. These assignments will be given during the first week of school. Students will find it helpful to read the book of choice first, *The Hiding Place* second, and *No Promises in the Wind* last. There are no written assignments to be completed prior to the beginning of school.

Please remember the B.A. policy: do not consult Cliff's Notes, Spark Notes, internet novel guides, or any other electronic or printed summaries: work with the text themselves.