

Belmont Preparatory School

English Department

## Upper School Reading List

**A selection of classics and modern fiction by a variety of authors. Comedy, history, graphic novels and adventure – there is something for everyone.**

◇ **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase** by Joan Aiken. Wolves are outside the walls of Willoughby Chase, but for cousins Bonnie and Sylvia the real danger lies inside.

◇ **Skellig** by David Almond. Michael and Mina look after a strange, magical creature they find in the garage.

◇ **Five on a Treasure Island** by Enid Blyton. Classic adventure story.

◇ **Carrie's War** by Nina Bowden. Carrie is evacuated to Wales in World War II.

◇ **Millions** by Frank Cottrell Boyce. When a bag of money falls from a train, Damian is convinced it is a gift from God.

◇ **Matilda** by Roald Dahl. A modern fairy tale.

◇ **The London Eye Mystery** by Siobhan Dowd. When Ted's cousin goes missing from the London Eye, Ted follows a trail of clues across London to solve the mystery.

◇ **Flour Babies** by Anne Fine. When the annual school science fair comes round, Mr Cartwright's class, to their disgust they get the Flour Babies - sweet little six-pound bags of flour that must be cared for at all times.

- ◇ **Once** by Morris Gleitzman. A powerful account of the Holocaust as told through the eyes of Felix.
- ◇ **Asterix the Gaul** by René Goscinny. In a tiny corner of Brittany, one small village of indomitable Gauls hold out against the almighty, all-conquering Romans.
- ◇ **The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe** by C S Lewis. Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy step through a wardrobe door into the land of Narnia.
- ◇ **Goodnight Mister Tom** by Michelle Magorian. Willie Beech is evacuated in World War II to a tiny village to stay with reclusive widower Thomas Oakley.
- ◇ **Warhorse** by Michael Morpurgo. Set during World War I, the novella documents the experiences of the cavalry.
- ◇ **The Borrowers** by Mary Norton. Classic tale of tiny people who live hidden away, surviving by borrowing anything they can from human.
- ◇ **Wonder** by R J Palacio. The uplifting tale of August, a ten year old boy, and how what's on the inside is far more important than how we look. A modern classic.
- ◇ **Swallows and Amazons** by Arthur Ransome. Classic adventure as the Walker children sail their boat 'Swallow' and camp on Wild Cat Island.
- ◇ **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone** by J K Rowling. First in the series in which Harry Potter leaves his cruel aunt and uncle, to start a new life at Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft.
- ◇ **Dead Man's Cove** by Lauren St John. Sent away to live in Cornwall, Laura Marlin sets out to discover why her mysterious uncle will not allow her to go to Dead Man's Cove.
- ◇ **The Arrival** by Shaun Tan. Graphic novel following a young man who leaves to start a new life in another country.
- ◇ **The Hobbit** by J R R Tolkien. Fantasy adventure as Bilbo Baggins becomes part of a quest to raid the treasure of Smaug the Dragon.
- ◇ **Charlotte's Web** by E B White. Fern, with the help of a friendly talking spider, saves her pig Wilbur.

- ◇ **The Story of Tracy Beaker** by Jacqueline Wilson. Tracy lives in a children's home but dreams that one day her glamorous Mum will come and take her away.
- ◇ **The Adventures of Tintin** by Hergé. Resourceful reporter Tintin embarks on a series of exciting international adventures, accompanied by his faithful dog Snowy.
- ◇ **Journey to the River Sea** by Eva Ibbotson. Orphan Maia's Amazon adventure.
- ◇ **Stig of the Dump** by Clive King. In the old chalk pit Barney meets a strange boy.
- ◇ **The Sheep-Pig** by Dick King-Smith. When Farmer Hogget wins a piglet at the fair, he is amazed that Fly, his sheep-dog, welcomes him as one of her own pups.
- ◇ **Watership Down** by Richard Adams. A classic animal adventure.
- ◇ **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** by John Boyne. Bruno is exploring his new home at 'Out-With' when he meets Shmuel on the other side of the fence.
- ◇ **Artemis Fowl** by Eoin Colfer. Twelve year old criminal mastermind plans to steal all the gold in fairy land.
- ◇ **The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins. Katniss Everdeen volunteers as District 12 Tribute in the TV game-show where contestants literally fight to the death.
- ◇ **The Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman. A coming-of-age tale of orphaned Bod who is brought up in a graveyard by ghosts.
- ◇ **Maggot Moon** by Sally Gardner. Standish Treadwell stands up to the oppressive forces of the Motherland in this award winning dystopian novel.
- ◇ **The Owl Service** by Alan Garner. A classic fantasy adventure in which a group of children find themselves re-living an ancient Welsh legend.
- ◇ **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time** by Mark Haddon. Maths genius Sherlock Holmes fan with Asperger's Syndrome sets out to solve a mystery that upsets his ordered world.
- ◇ **Mortal Engines** by Philip Reeve. Fast-paced adventure set in a futuristic London.

- ◇ **Divergent** by Veronica Roth. In future all humans are divided into factions. Tris does not fit in – she is Divergent – and she uncovers a truth that threatens her family.
- ◇ **Rooftoppers** by Katherine Rundell. Magical adventure about never giving up your dreams. Set among the rooftops of Paris, Sophie is determined to find her mother.
- ◇ **Revolver** by Marcus Sedgewick. Tense thriller of gold and guns set in the Arctic.
- ◇ **My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece** by Annabel Pitcher. A young boy struggles to understand the loss that has torn his family apart.
- ◇ **Northern Lights** by Philip Pullman. First in the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, Lyra and her daemon set off to the Arctic on a quest that will reveal her true destiny.
- ◇ **The Ruby in the Smoke** by Philip Pullman. Sally Lockhart is embroiled in a dangerous and terrifying adventure in Victorian London.
- ◇ **Witch Child** by Celia Rees. Mary, the granddaughter of a witch, is sent to live in a Puritan community in seventeenth century America.
- ◇ **The Vampire Blog** by Pete Johnson. Marcus hates the thought of growing up to be half-vampire like his parents.
- ◇ **Love Aubrey** by Suzanne LaFleur. After a family tragedy, Aubrey's grandmother helps her learn to express her feelings.
- ◇ **The Last Wild** by Piers Torday. In a world without animals, Kester sets out to save the few species that have survived.
- ◇ **The Book Thief** by Marcus Zusak. Set in Nazi Germany in 1939, narrated by death.
- ◇ **The Kite Rider** by Geraldine McCaughrean. Set in Ancient China, Haoyou joins a circus and takes to the skies. However is the circus master leading him into even greater danger?
- ◇ **A Monster Calls** by Patrick Ness. A wonderful, moving, powerful and ultimately tragic story. Connor's Mum is ill, but the monster wants him to face up to the truth he is afraid of.

- ◇ **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen. A novel of manners, the Bennet daughters and Mr. Darcy.
- ◇ **All the Truth That's in Me** by Julie Berry. A dark and troubling story told in the first person by Judith, a girl who literally and figuratively has no voice.
- ◇ **Forever** by Judy Blume. Katherine is 17 when she meets a boy and falls in love. Controversial when first published in the 1970s, a sensitive look at first love.
- ◇ **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte. A Victorian coming-of-age novel.
- ◇ **Wuthering Heights** by Emily Bronte. A wild, passionate story set on a lonely moor.
- ◇ **The Bunker Diary** by Kevin Brooks. A challenging and disturbing read – the controversial winner of the *Carnegie Medal* in 2014.
- ◇ **Life: an Exploded Diagram** by Mal Peet. A teenage romance and the Cuban Missile Crisis lead to a shocking and unexpected ending.
- ◇ **How I Live Now** by Meg Rosoff. A dream-like romantic adventure set against the backdrop of World War III.
- ◇ **The Catcher In The Rye** by J D Salinger. Holden Caulfield, the epitome of teen angst and alienation. A must read.
- ◇ **Of Mice and Men** by John Steinbeck. George and Lenny, two poor farmhands in 1930s America, dream of owning a patch of land and settling down.
- ◇ **The Fellowship of the Ring** by J R R Tolkein. The first in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy – the quest to rid the world of the power of the ring.
- ◇ **Looking for JJ** by Anne Cassidy. Released on licence with a new identity, Jennifer Jones has to come to terms with the fact that she killed her best friend.
- ◇ **Blood Family** by Anne Fine. A dark and gripping tale of a boy's struggle to escape the horrors of his childhood.
- ◇ **The Great Gatsby** by F Scott Fitzgerald. Jay Gatsby is a man who has everything. But one thing will always be out of his reach.

- ◇ **If I Stay** by Gale Forman. Mia has everything going for her until the accident. Then she has only one choice left. Sad and moving.
- ◇ **Coram Boy** by Jamila Gavin. A tale of orphans and slavery set in the Coram Hospital in the eighteenth century.
- ◇ **Lord of the Flies** by William Golding. Stranded on a desert island, a group of English schoolboys try to govern themselves with disastrous results.
- ◇ **I Capture the Castle** by Dodie Smith. Classic coming-of-age novel.
- ◇ **Liar & Spy** by Rebecca Stead. Georges and a new friend pretend to be spies, but soon it's hard to tell the difference between the game and reality.
- ◇ **Treasure Island** by Robert Louis Stevenson. Classic pirate and treasure adventure.
- ◇ **Ballet Shoes** by Noel Streatfeild. Family classic in which three sisters work hard to fulfill their dreams.
- ◇ **Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz. Spy adventures with Alex Rider.
- ◇ **Gone** by Michael Grant. A fast-paced action thriller, where everyone over the age of fifteen vanishes.
- ◇ **Code Name Verity** by Elizabeth Wein. World War II spy thriller with a twist.
- ◇ **The Crystalids** by John Wyndham. Classic post-nuclear science fiction.
- ◇ **Refugee Boy** by Benjamin Zephaniah. An Ethiopian boy is abandoned in London by his parents, who want him to have a better life.
- ◇ **Junk** by Melvin Burgess. A disturbing story of teenagers on the verge of heroin addiction. A challenging read, but a contemporary teenage classic.
- ◇ **Life of Pi** by Yann Martel. Shipwrecked crossing the Pacific, Pi shares his lifeboat with a hyena, a monkey, a zebra and a tiger called Richard. A unique tale!

◇ **The Knife of Never Letting Go** by Patrick Ness. First in a trilogy, set in a land where there are only men, and people can hear each other's thoughts.

◇ **1984** by George Orwell. The novel presents an imaginary future where a totalitarian state controls every aspect of life, even people's thoughts. The state is called Oceania and is ruled by a group known as the Party; its leader and dictator is Big Brother...