



## *Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School* The 2024 Summer Reading Program

“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you’re not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.” –F. Scott Fitzgerald

- Bishop McGuinness values the transformational growth that takes place when teachers and students experience the joy of learning together. A collaborative academic culture nurtures intellectual courage, curiosity, and creativity.
- Bishop McGuinness values relationships that connect members of the school community to each other and to the larger world. BMHS aspires to be a nurturing community that respects the dignity of every human being.
- Bishop McGuinness is an academically talented and diverse community that prepares students for college and active citizenship in a global society.

Incoming freshmen and all other new students receive the summer reading assignment at New Villain Night on **Thursday, May 2**. Returning students will receive the summer reading assignment in class on **Friday, May 17**.

This year’s summer reading theme is *Extraordinary Lives*. Students will choose books from the pre-selected list of memoirs, autobiographies, and biographies detailed in this document. All students should be prepared to participate in reflection, discussion, and writing activities during the first week of the English classes they have enrolled in for the fall semester.

**Parents should help students select a book or books they consider appropriate. Parental involvement assures us that the book’s theme and content are suitable and respect a family’s values and interests.**

\*All book descriptions come from amazon.com and washington post.com.\*

### **Honors English I and English I**

**Honors English I** students will choose one book from the list provided.

**English I** students will choose one book from the list provided.

### **Honors English II and English II**

**Honors English II** students will choose one book from the list provided.

**English II** students will choose one book from the list provided.

### **AP English Language and Composition, Honors English III, and English III**

**AP English Language and Composition** will choose **two** books from the list provided. One book **MUST** be a female author, while the other book **MUST** be a male author. Students will also complete any assigned reading and writing assignments detailed on a separate AP Language assignment sheet.

**Honors English III** will choose one book from the list provided.

**English III** will choose one book from the list provided.

### **AP English Literature and Composition, Honors English IV, and English IV**

**AP English Literature and Composition** will choose **two** books from the list provided. One book **MUST** be a female author, while the other book **MUST** be a male author. Students will also complete any assigned reading and writing assignments detailed on a separate AP Literature assignment sheet.

**Honors English IV** will choose one book from the list provided.

**English IV** will choose one book from the list provided.

**All students must choose from the following list of memoirs, autobiographies, and biographies:**

***Barracoon: The Story of the Last Black Cargo* – Zora Neale Hurston**

In 1927, Zora Neale Hurston went to Plateau, Alabama, just outside Mobile, to interview 86-year-old Cudjo Lewis. Of the millions of men, women, and children transported from Africa to America as slaves, Cudjo was then the only person alive to tell the story of this integral part of the nation's history. Hurston was there to record Cudjo's firsthand account of the raid that led to his capture and bondage 50 years after the Atlantic slave trade was outlawed in the United States. In 1931, Hurston returned to Plateau, the African-centric community three miles from Mobile founded by Cudjo and other former slaves from his ship. Spending more than three months there, she talked in depth with Cudjo about the details of his life. During those weeks, the young writer and the elderly formerly enslaved man ate peaches and watermelon that grew in the backyard and talked about Cudjo's past - memories from his childhood in Africa, the horrors of being captured and held in a barracoon for selection by American slavers, the harrowing experience of the Middle Passage packed with more than 100 other souls aboard the Clotilda, and the years he spent in slavery until the end of the Civil War.

***Between the World and Me* – Ta-Nehisi Coates**

*Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bracingly confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.

***The Boys in the Boat* - Daniel James Brown**

Out of the depths of the Great Depression comes the astonishing tale of nine working-class boys from the American West who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. With rowers who were the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler.

***Educated*** – Tara Westover

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

***The Glass Castle*** – Jeannette Walls

Jeannette Walls chronicles all the heartbreak, deprivation, humor, and love of her childhood in *The Glass Castle*, a memoir of growing up dirt-poor on a cross-country odyssey with her charismatic, but alcoholic, father and her codependent mother.

***I am Malala*** – Malala Yousafzai

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

***Into the Wild*** – Jon Krakauer

In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter...

***Once Upon a Quincenera* – Julia Alvarez**

The *quinceañera*, the 15th birthday celebration for a Latina girl, is quickly becoming an American event. This legendary party is a sight to behold: lavish ball gowns, extravagant catered meals, DJs, limousines, and multi-tiered cakes. The must haves for a "quince" are becoming as numerous and costly as a prom or wedding. And yet, this elaborate ritual also hearkens back to traditions from native countries and communities, offering young Latinas a chance to connect with their heritage. In *Once Upon a Quinceañera*, Julia Alvarez explores this celebration that brings a Latina girl into womanhood.

***Society of the Snow* – Pablo Vierci**

It was 13 October 1972. Uruguayan Air Force Flight 571, carrying a team of young rugby players, their families and friends, took off for the very last time. A deadly miscalculation saw F571 crash directly into the Andean mountains to devastating consequences: the body of the plane broke violently into two, its floor torn to smithereens; seats flew out of the air taking passengers with them. In the weeks that followed, the remaining people who were on board - the society of the snow - emerged to fight a dire, grueling battle for survival.

***The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness* - Syd Montgomery**

Scientists have only recently accepted the intelligence of dogs, birds, and chimpanzees but now are watching octopuses solve problems and are trying to decipher the meaning of the animal's color-changing techniques. With her "joyful passion for these intelligent and fascinating creatures" (*Library Journal* Editors' Spring Pick), Montgomery chronicles the growing appreciation of this mollusk as she tells a unique love story. By turns funny, entertaining, touching, and profound, *The Soul of an Octopus* reveals what octopuses can teach us about the meeting of two very different minds.