

**Frederica Academy Upper School**  
**Summer Reading 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grades**  
**Common Read\***

Summer reading is an important part of the curriculum in the Frederica Academy Upper School. Not only does it provide us with a common ground on which to stand at the beginning of the school year, it also keeps young minds active and engaged during the summer. This year, students and faculty will learn what it means to be “stubbornly positive” through Craig Grossi’s inspirational story, *Craig and Fred: A Marine, a Stray Dog, and How They Saved Each Other*. We hope to invite Mr. Grossi to speak to the Upper School this fall. Click [here](#) for a video introducing Craig and Fred’s story.

**\*Rising Seniors and AP Instructors will have additional reading requirements and assignments.**

*Craig and Fred: A Marine, a Stray Dog, and How They Saved Each Other*  
by Craig Grossi

**ISBN-13: 978-0062693396**

From the Back Cover

**The uplifting and unforgettable true story of a U.S. marine, the stray dog he met on an Afghan battlefield, and how they saved each other. . . .**

In 2010, Sergeant Craig Grossi was doing intelligence work for marine RECON—the most elite fighters in the Corps—in a remote part of Afghanistan. While on patrol, he spotted a young dog “with a big goofy head and little legs” who didn’t run in a pack like most strays they’d encountered. They shared a piece of beef jerky, and then the dog began to follow him. “Looks like you made a friend,” another marine yelled. Grossi heard, “Looks like a ‘Fred.’” The name stuck.

Fred not only stole Craig’s heart; he also won over the RECON fighters, who helped Craig smuggle the dog into heavily fortified Camp Leatherneck in a duffel bag—risking jail and Fred’s life. With the help of a crew of DHL workers, a sympathetic vet, and a military dog handler, Fred eventually made it home to Craig’s family in Virginia.

Months later, when Craig returned to the U.S., it was Fred’s turn to save the wounded marine from post-traumatic stress. Today, Craig and Fred are touching lives nationwide, from a swampy campground in Louisiana to the streets of Portland, Oregon, and everywhere in between.

An inspiring tale of resilience and what Craig calls “stubborn optimism,” *Craig & Fred* reminds us how love and perseverance can transform our lives.



**Graded Assignments:** The following outlines the assignments and requirements for the summer reading. These assessments will be your first major grade of the semester.

**Reading Assessment:** You will take a reading assessment that will cover major plot details as well as information about the characterization, conflict, and themes of the memoir. The assessment date and format will be determined by the instructor.

**Essay:** You will write your first essay on *Craig and Fred* after we finish discussing the memoir. The due date and format will be determined by the instructor.