



**Roman Catholic High School  
Summer Reading Assignment  
9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades**

June 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As your son prepares for the upcoming school year, we are providing all students with an opportunity to complete a Summer Reading Assignment that promotes **student choice** and **creativity**.

Research has backed up the belief that student choice of reading can be a powerful influence on the outcome: "Stephen Krashen's *The Power of Reading* (Libraries Unlimited, 1993) affirmed that free, voluntary reading yielded benefits including better spelling, writing style, and grammatical development." In addition, cognitive research has stressed that having students construct personally meaningful connections to the text enhances comprehension skills.

The goal of this year's Summer Reading Assignment is to encourage life-long reading and to prevent the "summer slide" from impacting achievement gains that have occurred during the last school year.

Although this Summer Reading Assignment is optional, please encourage your son not only to read a book from the list provided, but also to complete the accompanying assignment as it would allow him to earn up to 2 extra credit report card points for his 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter English grade.

**Students should submit the final product to their English teacher by Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.** If you or your son have any questions about the Summer Reading Assignment, please do not hesitate to contact me at [vtarducci@romancatholichs.com](mailto:vtarducci@romancatholichs.com) or our Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, Mr. Buck at [cbuck@romancatholichs.com](mailto:cbuck@romancatholichs.com)

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vince Tarducci".

Mr. Vince Tarducci  
Principal

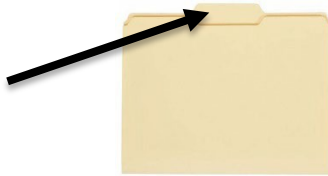
**Step #1: Select one of the following books to read. Please note that descriptions of each book can be found following the instructions.**

- *Frankly in Love* by David Yoon
- *Gut Check* by Eric Kester
- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi
- *Let Me Hear a Rhyme* by Tiffany D. Jackson
- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
- *Lovely War* by Julie Berry
- *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline
- *Restart* by Gordon Korman
- *Skeleton Man* by Joseph Bruchac
- *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei; Justin Eisinger; Steven Scott; Harmony Becker (Illustrator)
- *You Call This Democracy?: How to Fix Our Government and Deliver Power to the People* by Elizabeth Rusch

**Step #2: Create a Book Jacket that is representative of your summer reading**

- Please use a standard sized file folder, any color.

Student Name



- Your **name** should clearly appear in the **tab** of the folder.
- **IMPORTANT FORMATTING REQUIREMENT:**
  - ☐ All written text should be typed, using **12 point font**, **printed out** and **pasted** onto your folder in the designated locations.

**Part 1:**

On the **front cover** of your folder, please type and include the following information:

- Title of selected book
- Author(s) of selected book
- Printed image of the book's cover

Information to  
be placed  
here



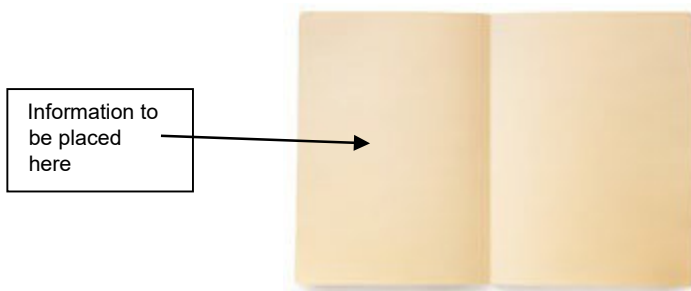
## **Part 2:**

On the **left** side of the **inside** of the folder you are going to fill the page with book reviews/commentaries.

- You are required to have a **minimum of 4 reviews/commentaries** with real commentary from a reputable source OR customer reviews (i.e. School Library Journal, Amazon).
- For example Barnes & Noble's website, [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com) is an excellent source to gain the quotations for this page. If you cannot find any on this website you will need to do a further search.
- You will print these commentaries out and attach them to the left side of the folder. Try to find commentary with which you agree. You must also **highlight** the lines that you feel most accurately represent the book.
- Here is an example from [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com) about the book *Fahrenheit 451*. Examples of highlighted sections that connected with the reader are also included.

### **The Barnes & Noble Review**

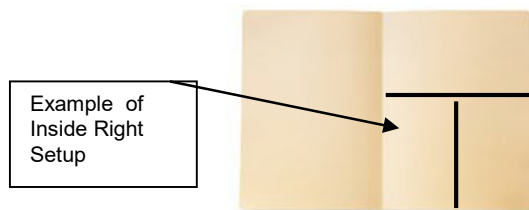
*Fahrenheit 451* is set in a grim alternate-future setting ruled by a tyrannical government in which firemen as we understand them no longer exist: Here, firemen don't douse fires, they ignite them. And they do this specifically in homes that house the most evil of evils: books. Books are illegal in Bradbury's world, but books are not what his fictional -- yet extremely plausible -- government fears: **They fear the knowledge one pulls from books.** Through the government's incessant preaching, the inhabitants of this place have come to loathe books and fear those who keep and attempt to read them. They see such people as eccentric, dangerous, and threatening to the tranquility of their state. But one day a fireman named Montag meets a young girl who demonstrates to him the **beauty of books, of knowledge, of conceiving and sharing ideas; she wakes him up, changing his life forever.** When Montag's previously held ideology comes crashing down around him, he is forced to reconsider the meaning of his existence and the part he plays. **After Montag discovers that "all isn't well with the world," he sets out to make things right.** A brilliant and frightening novel, *Fahrenheit 451* is the classic narrative about censorship; utterly chilling in its implications, Ray Bradbury's masterwork captivates thousands of new readers each year. (Andrew LeCount)



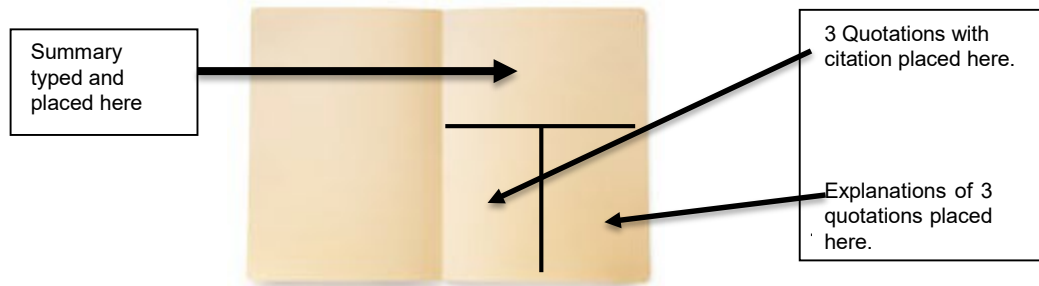
## **Part 3:**

On the **right side** of the **inside** of the folder you are going to have three sections.

- **First**, draw a line horizontally across the middle of the page
- **Second**, underneath that horizontal line draw a vertical line that separates the lower half of the folder into two sections.

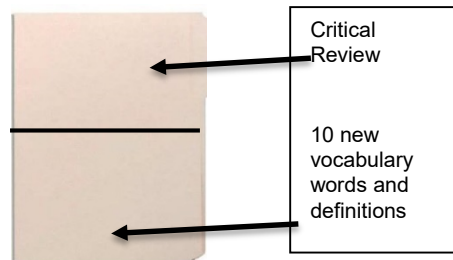


- On the **top** half of the page you are going to write a summary of the book. Your summary must be a **minimum** of 7-10 well constructed sentences. Your summary should include information about the setting, characters, and plot of your novel. Print out your summary and attach it to the designated area.
- The **bottom** half of your page is divided into **two parts**.
  - On the **left half** you will identify 3 quotes from the book that you felt were important. Be sure to include parenthetical citation next to quotation (Author's Last Name, Page # quote was found)
    - Example: "We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed. As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop which makes it run over; so in a series of kindnesses there is at last one which makes the heart run over." (Bradbury, 178).
  - On the **right half** you will explain why you felt the quote was significant. Each quote explanation should be 3 well-developed sentences.
  - Remember that each section needs to be types, printed, and pasted onto the folder.



#### Part 4:

On the **back** of the folder you are going to have two sections. Draw a line horizontally across the middle of the page.



- On the **top** half of the page you are going to write your **critical review** of the novel. You are providing your opinion of the book by discussing what you liked or disliked in **7-10 sentences**. Print & attach the review to the designated area.
  - Ideas for this section include: commenting on plot, character development, and pace (slow vs. page-turner). Other considerations could be length, comprehension, vocabulary (too hard/high or too easy), or anything else you find important to share with a future reader.
- **Vocabulary:** At the **bottom** of the page you must find 10 new vocabulary words from the book that you needed to look up when reading. Type the word and definition for this section of the assignment and paste it to the designated area.

## **2021 Summer Reading Choice Descriptions**

### ***Frankly in Love* by David Yoon**

Frank Li has two names. There's Frank Li, his American name. Then there's Sung-Min Li, his Korean name. No one uses his Korean name, not even his parents. Frank barely speaks any Korean. He was born and raised in Southern California. Even so, his parents still expect him to end up with a nice Korean girl—which is a problem, since Frank is finally dating the girl of his dreams: Brit Means. Brit, who is funny and nerdy just like him. Brit, who makes him laugh like no one else. Brit . . . who is white. As Frank falls in love for the very first time, he's forced to confront the fact that while his parents sacrificed everything to raise him in the land of opportunity, their traditional expectations don't leave a lot of room for him to be a regular American teen. Desperate to be with Brit without his parents finding out, Frank turns to family friend Joy Song, who is in a similar bind. Together, they come up with a plan to help each other and keep their parents off their backs. Frank thinks he's found the solution to all his problems, but when life throws him a curveball, he's left wondering whether he ever really knew anything about love—or himself—at all. In this moving debut novel—featuring striking blue stained edges and beautiful original endpaper art by the author—David Yoon takes on the question of who am I? with a result that is humorous, heartfelt, and ultimately unforgettable.

### ***Gut Check* by Eric Kester**

Wyatt has wanted nothing more than to play football on Grayport's championship-winning team. But not for the fame, glory, or girls. It's his last chance to build a relationship with his older brother Brett, the star quarterback, before he leaves for college. Now that their team has gained national attention, a big win could be just what the small town needs in order to rebound from a fishing season that has been devastated by Red Tide. But when Brett suffers a terrible concussion, Wyatt must decide if keeping his brother's secret is worth risking his scholarship future. Told with irreverent humor reminiscent of Carl Hiaasen, and a stark honesty about brotherhood and masculinity for fans of Andrew Smith, *Gut Check* explores the struggle of grappling with uncomfortable truths.

### ***Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi**

Ghana, eighteenth century: two half sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery. One of Oprah's Best Books of the Year and a PEN/Hemingway award winner, *Homegoing* follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem. Yaa Gyasi's extraordinary novel illuminates slavery's troubled legacy both for those who were taken and those who stayed—and shows how the memory of captivity has been inscribed on the soul of our nation.

### ***Let Me Hear a Rhyme* by Tiffany D. Jackson**

In this striking new novel by the critically acclaimed author of *Allegedly* and *Monday's Not Coming*, Tiffany D. Jackson tells the story of three Brooklyn teens who plot to turn their murdered friend into a major rap star by pretending he's still alive. Brooklyn, 1998. Biggie Smalls was right: Things done changed. But that doesn't mean that Quadir and Jarrell are cool letting their best friend Steph's music lie forgotten under his bed after he's murdered—not when his rhymes could turn any Bed Stuy corner into a party. With the help of Steph's younger sister Jasmine, they come up with a plan to promote Steph's music under a new rap name: the Architect. Soon, everyone wants a piece of him. When his demo catches the attention of a hotheaded music label rep, the trio must prove Steph's talent from beyond the grave. As the pressure of keeping their secret grows, Quadir, Jarrell, and Jasmine are forced to confront the truth about what happened to Steph. Only, each has something to hide. And with everything riding on Steph's fame, they need to decide what they stand for or lose all that they've worked so hard to hold on to—including each other.

### ***Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds**

An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. A cannon. A strap. A piece. A biscuit. A burner. A heater. A chopper. A gat. A hammer. A tool for RULE. Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. Buck tells Will to check that the gun is even loaded. And that's when Will sees that one bullet is missing. And the only one who could have fired Shawn's gun was Shawn. Huh. Will didn't know that Shawn had ever actually USED his gun. Bigger huh. BUCK IS DEAD. But Buck's in the elevator? Just as Will's trying to think this through, the door to the next floor opens. A teenage girl gets on, waves away the smoke from Dead Buck's cigarette. Will doesn't know her, but she knew him. Knew. When they were eight. And stray bullets had cut through the playground, and Will had tried to cover her, but she was hit anyway, and so what she wants to know, on that fifth floor elevator stop, is, what if Will, Will with the gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, MISSES. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if Will gets off that elevator. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

### ***Lovely War* by Julie Berry**

A sweeping, multi-layered romance set in the perilous days of World Wars I and II, where gods hold the fates--and the hearts--of four mortals in their hands. They are Hazel, James, Aubrey, and Colette. A classical pianist from London, a British would-be architect turned soldier, a Harlem-born ragtime genius in the U.S. Army, and a Belgian orphan with a gorgeous voice and a devastating past. Their story, as told by the goddess Aphrodite, who must spin the tale or face judgment on Mount Olympus, is filled with hope and heartbreak, prejudice and passion, and reveals that, though War is a formidable force, it's no match for the transcendent power of Love. Author Julie Berry's critically acclaimed writing has been called "haunting and unforgettable" by New York Times bestselling author of *Salt to the Sea* Ruta Sepetys and "utterly original and instantly engrossing" by Publishers Weekly.

### ***Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline**

*Orphan Train* is a gripping story of friendship and second chances from Christina Baker Kline, author of *Bird in Hand* and *The Way Life Should Be*. Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to "aging out" out of the foster care system. A community-service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse.... As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance. Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life - answers that will ultimately free them both. Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

### ***Restart* by Gordon Korman**

The amazing New York Times bestseller about what you can do when life gives you a second chance. Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again... starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular

is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is -- it's a question of who he was... and who he's going to be. From the #1 bestselling author of *Swindle and Slacker*, *Restart* is the spectacular story of a kid with a messy past who has to figure out what it means to get a clean start.

### ***Skeleton Man* by Joseph Bruchac**

A chilling novel featuring a brave young girl, missing parents, and a terrifying stranger, based on a Native American legend. R.L. Stine, New York Times bestselling author of the *Goosebumps* series, raved, "This book gave ME nightmares!" Molly's father, who grew up on the Mohawk Reserve of Akwesasne, always had the best scary stories. One of her favorites was the legend of Skeleton Man, a gruesome tale about a man with such insatiable hunger he ate his own flesh before devouring those around him. But ever since her parents mysteriously vanished, those spooky tales have started to feel all too real. Don't miss *The Legend of Skeleton Man*: a spine-tingling collection of *Skeleton Man* and its sequel, *The Return of Skeleton Man*!

### ***They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei; Justin Eisinger; Steven Scott; Harmony Becker (Illustrator)**

A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon -- and America itself -- in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love. George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in *Star Trek*, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's -- and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future. In 1942, at the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was rounded up and shipped to one of ten "relocation centers," hundreds or thousands of miles from home, where they would be held for years under armed guard. *They Called Us Enemy* is Takei's firsthand account of those years behind barbed wire, the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism, his mother's hard choices, his father's faith in democracy, and the way those experiences planted the seeds for his astonishing future. What does it mean to be American? Who gets to decide? When the world is against you, what can one person do? To answer these questions, George Takei joins co-writers Justin Eisinger & Steven Scott and artist Harmony Becker for the journey of a lifetime.

### ***You Call This Democracy?: How to Fix Our Government and Deliver Power to the People* by Elizabeth Rusch**

America is the greatest democracy in the world . . . isn't it? Author Elizabeth Rusch examines some of the more problematic aspects of our government but, more importantly, offers ways for young people to fix them. The political landscape has never been so tumultuous: issues with the electoral college, gerrymandering, voter suppression, and a lack of representation in the polls and in our leadership have led to Americans of all ages asking, How did we get here? The power to change lies with the citizens of this great country—especially teens! Rather than pointing fingers at people and political parties, *You Call This Democracy?* looks at flaws in the system—and offers a real way out of the mess we are in. Each chapter breaks down a different problem plaguing American democracy, exploring how it's undemocratic, offering possible solutions (with examples of real-life teens who have already started working toward them), and suggesting ways to effect change—starting NOW!

***Book descriptions courtesy of Good Reads & Amazon.***

*Titles were selected from the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award List*

Key:

- **NF** = Nonfiction
- **\*\*\*** = First novel in a series