



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

May 2022

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 Roman's annual 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 1st Quarter English grade.

Students should submit the final product to their English teacher by Monday, September 19th. If you or your son have any questions about the Summer Reading Assignment, please do not hesitate to contact me at jcurry@romancatholichs.com or our Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, Mr. Buck at cbuck@romancatholichs.com

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John L. Curry Jr.".

Mr. John Curry
Principal

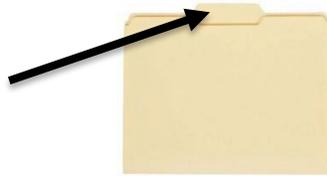
Step #1: Select one of the following books to read. Please note that descriptions of each book can be found following the instructions.

- *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys
- *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld
- *You've Reached Sam* by Amanda Nojadera
- *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer
- *The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
- *Golden Arm* by Carl Deuker
- *Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang
- *A Time of Fear* by Albert Marrin
- *LikeWar: The Weaponization of Social Media* by P.W. Singer and Emerson T. Brooking
- *Flowers in the Gutter* by K.R. Gaddy
- *Soldiers, Space, and Stories of Life* by Chris Gibbons

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

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

Student Name



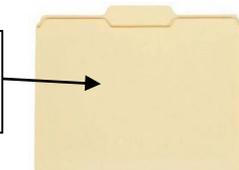
- Your **name** should clearly appear in the **tab** of the folder.
- **IMPORTANT FORMATTING REQUIREMENT:**
 - ☐ All written text should be typed, using **12 point font**, **printed out** and **pasted** onto your folder in the designated locations.

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



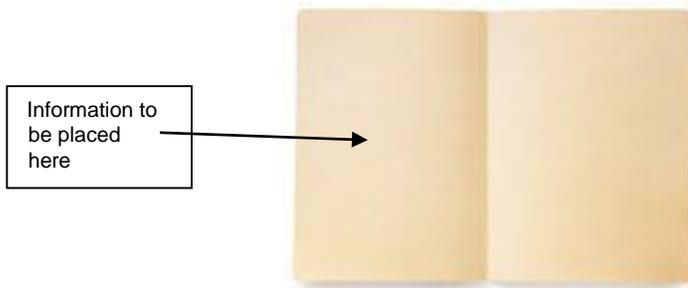
Part 2:

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 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 about the book *Fahrenheit 451*. Examples of highlighted sections that connected with the reader are also included.

The Barnes & Noble Review

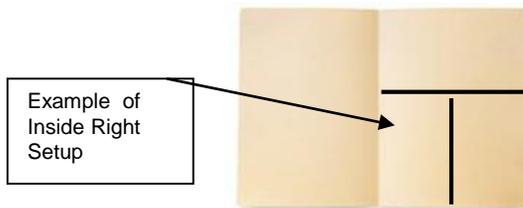
Fahrenheit 451 is set in a grim alternate-future setting ruled by a tyrannical government in which firemen as we understand them no longer exist: Here, firemen don't douse fires, they ignite them. And they do this specifically in homes that house the most evil of evils: books. Books are illegal in Bradbury's 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)



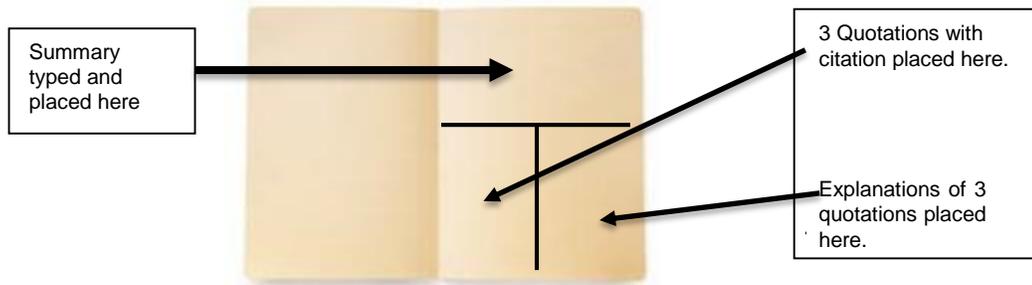
Part 3:

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.

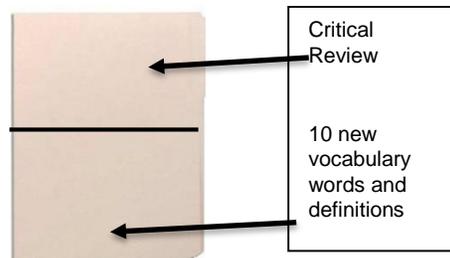


- On the **top** half of the page you are going to write a summary of the book. Your summary must be a **minimum** of 7-10 well constructed sentences. Your summary should include information about the setting, characters, and plot of your novel. Print out your summary and attach it to the designated 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.

2022 Summer Reading Choice Descriptions

I Must Betray You (Fiction)

Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force. Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe. Cristian risks everything to unmask the truth behind the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country. He eagerly joins the revolution to fight for change when the time arrives. But what is the cost of freedom? A gut-wrenching, startling window into communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation, from the number one New York Times best-selling, award-winning author of *Salt to the Sea* and *Between Shades of Gray*.

Leviathan (Fiction--Book 1 in a Series)

It is the cusp of World War I. The Austro-Hungarians and Germans have their Clankers, steam-driven iron machines loaded with guns and ammunition. The British Darwinists employ genetically fabricated animals as their weaponry. Their Leviathan is a whale airship, and the most masterful beast in the British fleet. Aleksandar Ferdinand, a Clanker, and Deryn Sharp, a Darwinist, are on opposite sides of the war. But their paths cross in the most unexpected way, taking them both aboard the Leviathan on a fantastical, around-the-world adventure....One that will change both their lives forever.

You've Reached Sam (Fiction)

Seventeen-year-old Julie has her future all planned out—move out of her small town with her boyfriend Sam, attend college in the city, spend a summer in Japan. But then Sam dies. And everything changes. Heartbroken, Julie skips his funeral, throws out his things, and tries everything to forget him and the tragic way he died. But a message Sam left behind in her yearbook forces back memories. Desperate to hear his voice one more time, Julie calls Sam's cellphone just to listen to his voicemail. And Sam picks up the phone. In a miraculous turn of events, Julie's been given a second chance at goodbye. The connection is temporary. But hearing Sam's voice makes her fall for him all over again, and with each call it becomes harder to let him go. However, keeping her otherworldly calls with Sam a secret isn't easy, especially when Julie witnesses the suffering Sam's family is going through. Unable to stand by the sidelines and watch their shared loved ones in pain, Julie is torn between spilling the truth about her calls with Sam and risking their connection and losing him forever.

The House of the Scorpion (Fiction)

Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested. His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium—a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once called Mexico. Matt's first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster—except for El Patrón. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself, because Matt is himself. As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters, including El Patrón's power-hungry family, and he is surrounded by a dangerous army of bodyguards. Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive. But escape from the Alacrán Estate is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked by his difference in ways he doesn't even suspect.

The Inheritance Game (Fiction—First Book in a Series)

Avery Grambs has a plan for a better future: survive high school, win a scholarship, and get out. But her fortunes change in an instant when billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves Avery virtually his entire fortune. The catch? Avery has no idea why -- or even who Tobias Hawthorne is. To receive her inheritance, Avery must move into sprawling, secret passage-filled Hawthorne House, where every room bears the old man's touch -- and his love of puzzles, riddles, and codes. Unfortunately for Avery, Hawthorne House is also occupied by the family that Tobias Hawthorne just dispossessed. This includes the four Hawthorne grandsons: dangerous, magnetic, brilliant boys who grew up with every expectation that one day, they would inherit billions. Their apparent Grayson Hawthorne is convinced that Avery must be a conwoman, and he's determined to take her down. His brother, Jameson, views her as their grandfather's last hurrah: a twisted riddle, a puzzle to be solved. Caught in a world of wealth and privilege, with danger around every turn, Avery will have to play the game herself just to survive.

Golden Arm (Fiction)

In this riveting story about baseball and brotherhood, a boy from the wrong side of the tracks finds himself pitching his way out of poverty—one strike at a time. By “a premier author of provocative YA sports novels” (The Bulletin). Lazarus “Laz” Weathers has always been shy, and his issue with stuttering when he speaks hasn’t helped. Stuck in a Seattle trailer park, Laz finds baseball helps him escape from the world of poverty and drugs. When he gets an opportunity to pitch for the rich kids across town, he has a chance to get drafted by the major leagues. But playing for the other team means leaving behind his family, including Antonio, Laz’s younger brother, who more and more, seems to be drawn to the dark world of the Jet City’s drug ring. Now Laz will have to choose between being the star pitcher he always dreamed of becoming and the team player his family needs.

Dragon Hoops (Fiction—Graphic Novel)

In his latest graphic novel, *Dragon Hoops*, New York Times bestselling author Gene Luen Yang turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches. Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn’t get sports. As a kid, his friends called him “Stick” and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men’s varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that’s been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he’s seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn’t know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons’s lives, but his own life as well.

A Time of Fear (Nonfiction)

In twentieth century America, no power--and no threat--loomed larger than the communist superpower of the Soviet Union. America saw in the dreams of the Soviet Union the overthrow of the US government, and the end of democracy and freedom. Meanwhile, the Communist Party of the United States attempted to use deep economic and racial disparities in American culture to win over members and sympathizers. From the miscarriage of justice in the Scotsboro Boys case, to the tragedy of the Rosenbergs to the theatrics of the Hollywood Ten to the menace of the Joseph McCarthy and his war hearings, Albert Marrin examines a unique time in American history...and explores both how some Americans were lured by the ideals of communism without understanding its reality and how fear of communist infiltration at times caused us to undermine our most deeply held values. The questions he raises ask: What is worth fighting for? And what are you willing to sacrifice to keep it? Filled with black and white photographs throughout, this timely book from an award-author brings to life an important and dramatic era in American history with lessons that are deeply relevant today.

LikeWar: The Weaponization of Social Media (Nonfiction)

Two defense experts explore the collision of war, politics, and social media, where the most important battles are now only a click away. Through the weaponization of social media, the Internet is changing war and politics, just as war and politics are changing the Internet. Terrorists livestream their attacks, "Twitter wars" produce real world casualties, and viral misinformation alters not just the result of battles, but the very fate of nations. The result is that war, tech, and politics have blurred into a new kind of battlespace that plays out on our smartphones. P. W. Singer and Emerson Brooking tackle the mind bending questions that arise when war goes online and the online world goes to war. They explore how ISIS copies the Instagram tactics of Taylor Swift, a former World of Warcraft addict foils war crimes thousands of miles away, Internet trolls shape elections, and China uses a smartphone app to police the thoughts of 1.4 billion citizens. What can be kept secret in a world of networks? Does social media expose the truth or bury it? And what role do ordinary people now play in international conflicts? Delving into the web's darkest corners, we meet the unexpected warriors of social media, such as the rapper turned jihadist PR czar and the Russian hipsters who wage unceasing infowars against the West. Finally, looking to the crucial years ahead, LikeWar outlines a radical new paradigm for understanding and defending against the unprecedented threats of our networked world.

Flowers in the Gutter (Nonfiction)

The true story of the Edelweiss Pirates, working-class teenagers who fought the Nazis by whatever means they could. Fritz, Gertrud, and Jean were classic outsiders: their clothes were different, their music was rebellious, and they weren't afraid to fight. But they were also Germans living under Hitler, and any nonconformity could get them arrested or worse. As children in 1933, they saw their world change. Their earliest memories were of the Nazi rise to power and of their parents fighting Brownshirts in the streets, being sent to prison, or just disappearing. As Hitler's grip tightened, these three found themselves trapped in a nation whose government contradicted everything they believed in. And by the time they were teenagers, the Nazis expected them to be part of the war machine. Fritz, Gertrud, and Jean and hundreds like them said no. They grew bolder, painting anti-Nazi graffiti, distributing anti-war leaflets, and helping those persecuted by the Nazis. Their actions were always dangerous. The Gestapo pursued and arrested hundreds of Edelweiss Pirates. In World War II's desperate final year, some Pirates joined in sabotage and armed resistance, risking the Third Reich's ultimate punishment. This is their story.

Soldiers, Space, and Stories of Life (Nonfiction)

The stories of Philadelphia writer, and Roman Catholic graduate, Chris Gibbons often convey the harrowing experiences of America's war veterans, the thrilling wonders of space exploration, and his poignant memories of growing up during the turbulent decades of the 1960's and 1970's. In this collection of 78 of his published essays across a broad range of topics, Gibbons reveals the meaning behind his search for "American Pie" singer and songwriter Don McLean, the hidden "scars of war" that haunted his father and his neighbors, the tragedy that would forever change his family, and the terrible toll that World War I inflicted upon the alumni of a legendary Philadelphia high school. Uplifting stories abound as well, as Gibbons conveys the excitement of the Apollo moon missions, Buddy Holly's and Rod Serling's continuing influence across the generations, the far-reaching impact of a skilled teacher, the thrilling robotic exploration of the solar system, and his vivid memories of the sports heroes of his youth. A new Afterword for each essay provides interesting context, subsequent updates, or noteworthy e-mails that Gibbons received in response to them. As you read the stories within this compilation, be prepared to traverse the battlefields of America's wars, rocket across the solar system, and travel back in time to experience the heartache, joy, and triumph often encountered on the journey of life.