



**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**

May 2023

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 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter English grade.

**Students should submit the final product to their English teacher by Monday, September 18, 2023.** If you or your son has any questions about the Summer Reading Assignment, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jcurry@romancatholichs.com](mailto:jcurry@romancatholichs.com) or our Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, Mr. Buck at [academics@romancatholichs.com](mailto:academics@romancatholichs.com)

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

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

Mr. John Curry  
Principal

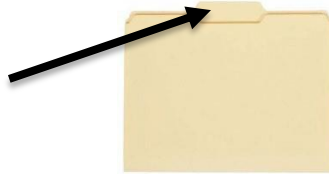
**Step #1: Select one of the following books to read. Please note that descriptions of each book can be found following the instructions.**

- *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang
- *City of Thieves* by David Benioff
- *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer
- *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer
- *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline
- *Slow Getting Up* by Nate Jackson
- *Sunrise over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers
- *SLAY* by Brittney Morris
- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

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

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

*Student Name*

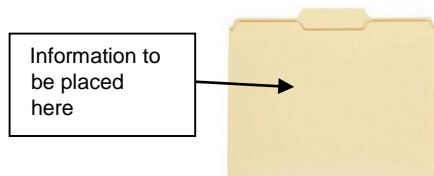


- Your **name** should clearly appear in the **tab** of the folder.
- **IMPORTANT FORMATTING REQUIREMENT:**
  - ☐ All written text should be typed, using **12 point font**, **printed out** and **pasted** onto your folder in the designated locations.

**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



## **Part 2:**

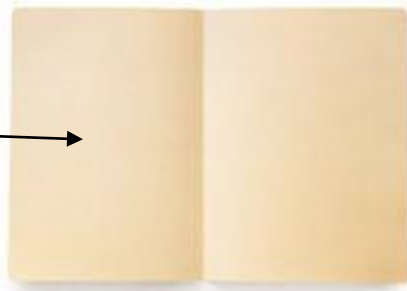
On the **left** side of the **inside** of the folder you are going to fill the page with book reviews/commentaries.

- 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)

Information to be placed here

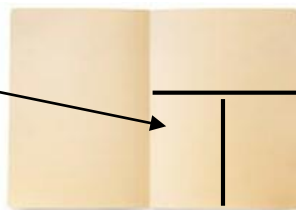


## **Part 3:**

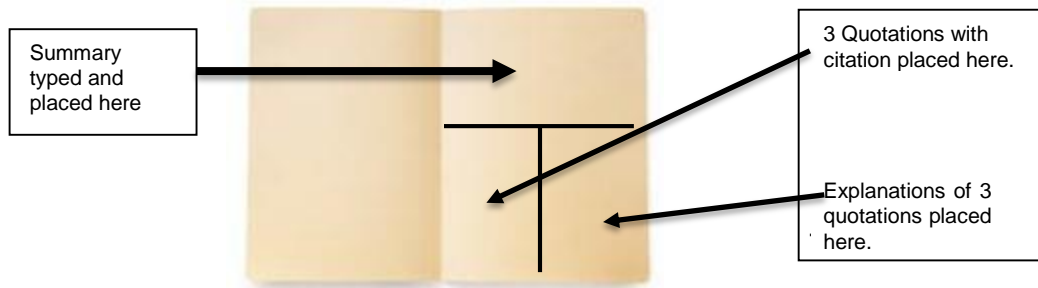
On the **right side** of the **inside** of the folder you are going to have three sections.

- **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.

Example of Inside Right Setup

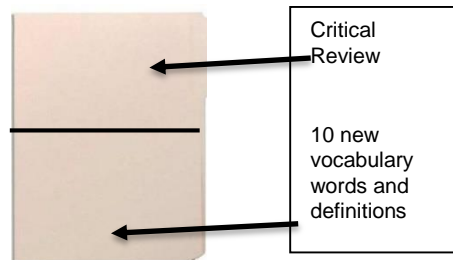


- On the **top** half of the page you are going to write a summary of the book. Your summary must be a **minimum** of 7-10 well constructed sentences. Your summary should include information about the setting, characters, and plot of your novel. Print out your summary and attach it to the designated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

## **2023 Summer Reading Choice Descriptions**

### ***American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang**

A tour-de-force by *New York Times* bestselling graphic novelist Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. *American Born Chinese* is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax.

### ***City of Thieves* by David Benioff**

During the Nazis' brutal siege of Leningrad, Lev Beniov is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a handsome deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their own lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel to use in his daughter's wedding cake. In a city cut off from all supplies and suffering unbelievable deprivation, Lev and Kolya embark on a hunt through the dire lawlessness of Leningrad and behind enemy lines to find the impossible. By turns insightful and funny, thrilling and terrifying, the *New York Times* bestseller *City of Thieves* is a gripping, cinematic World War II adventure and an intimate coming-of-age story with an utterly contemporary feel for how boys become men.

### ***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer**

Nine-year-old Oskar Schell embarks on an urgent, secret mission that will take him through the five boroughs of New York. His goal is to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11. This seemingly impossible task will bring Oskar into contact with survivors of all sorts on an exhilarating, affecting, often hilarious, and ultimately healing journey. With humor, tenderness, and awe, Jonathan Safran Foer confronts the traumas of our country's difficult history.

### ***Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer**

McCandless 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. Not long after, he was dead. *Into the Wild* is the mesmerizing, heartbreaking tale of an enigmatic young man who goes missing in the wild and whose story captured the world's attention. Jon Krakauer constructs a clarifying prism through which he reassembles the disquieting facts of McCandless's short life. Admitting an interest that borders on obsession, he searches for the clues to the drives and desires that propelled McCandless.

### ***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline**

A world at stake. A quest for the ultimate prize. Are you ready? In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the OASIS, a vast virtual world where most of humanity spends their days. When the eccentric creator of the OASIS dies, he leaves behind a series of fiendish puzzles, based on his obsession with the pop culture of decades past. Whoever is first to solve them will inherit his vast fortune—and control of the OASIS itself. Then Wade cracks the first clue. Suddenly he's beset by rivals who'll kill to take this prize. The race is on—and the only way to survive is to win.

### ***Slow Getting Up* by Nate Jackson**

Nate Jackson's *Slow Getting Up* is an unvarnished and uncensored memoir of everyday life in the most popular sports league in America - and the most damaging to its players - the National Football League. After playing college ball at a tiny Division III school, Jackson, a receiver, signed as a free agent with the San Francisco 49ers, before moving to the Denver Broncos. For six seasons in the NFL as a Bronco, he alternated between the practice squad and the active roster, eventually winning a starting spot - a short, tenuous career emblematic of the average pro player. Drawing from his own experience, Jackson tells the little-known story of the hundreds of everyday, "expendable" players whose lives are far different from their superstar colleagues. From scouting combines to training camps, off-season parties to game-day routines, debilitating physical injuries - including degenerative brain conditions - to poor pensions and financial distress, he offers a funny, and shocking look at life in the NFL, and the young men who risk their health and even their lives to play the game.

### ***Sunrise over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers**

From Walter Dean Myers comes a powerful and timely novel about the heroics and horror of war. Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: War.

### ***SLAY* by Brittney Morris**

By day, seventeen-year-old Kiera Johnson is an honors student, a math tutor, and one of the only Black kids at Jefferson Academy. But at home, she joins hundreds of thousands of Black gamers who duel worldwide as Nubian personas in the secret multiplayer online role-playing card game, SLAY. No one knows Kiera is the game developer, not her friends, her family, not even her boyfriend, Malcolm, who believes video games are partially responsible for the "downfall of the Black man." But when a teen in Kansas City is murdered over a dispute in the SLAY world, news of the game reaches mainstream media, and SLAY is labeled a racist, exclusionist, violent hub for thugs and criminals. Even worse, an anonymous troll infiltrates the game, threatening to sue Kiera for "anti-white discrimination." Driven to save the only world in which she can be herself, Kiera must preserve her secret identity and harness what it means to be unapologetically Black in a world intimidated by Blackness. But can she protect her game without losing herself in the process?

### ***The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown**

Out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times - the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant. It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man's personal quest.

