

**Evangelical Christian Academy**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading**  
**2011 Annotated Reading List**

**Required Readings:** *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parent's death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society in which they find themselves "outsiders."

**Supplemental Reading List (18):**

Barrett, William: *Lilies of the Field*. An unemployed construction worker (Homer Smith) heading out west, stops at a remote farm in the desert to get water when his car overheats. The farm is being worked by a group of East European Catholic nuns, headed by the strict mother superior (Mother Maria), who believes that Homer has been sent by God to build a much needed church in the desert.

Carson, Ben: *Gifted Hands*. Tells Carson's story from his childhood in inner-city Detroit to his position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University.

\*Crane, Stephen: *The Red Badge of Courage*. During his service in the Civil War a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.

Hemingway, Earnest: *The Old Man and the Sea*. The story of Santiago, the old fisherman whose luck seems to have run out, but who risks it all to bring home the catch of his life.

Hobbs, Will: *Bearstone*. A troubled Indian boy goes to live with an elderly rancher whose caring ways help the boy become a man.

\*Hunt, Irene: *Across Five Aprils*. Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in the south during the difficult years of the Civil War.

Lipsyte, Robert: *The Contender*. Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym, where he learns that being a contender is hard and often discouraging work, but that you don't know anything until you try.

Oppel, Kenneth: *Airborn*. Matt Cruse has the life he has always dreamed of as a cabin boy on the Aurora, a luxury passenger airship that sails hundreds of feet above the ocean. Then one night he meets a dying balloonist who speaks of beautiful creatures drifting through the skies who are completely real and utterly mysterious.

Patterson, Katherine: *Lyddie*. Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.

Peck, Richard: *The River between Us*. During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois.

Rawlings, Marjori: *The Yearling*. A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.

Richter, Conrad: *Light in the Forest*. This book is about a boy (John Butler) who is captured by the Lenni Lenape tribe of Indians. He is a white boy, who grows up Indian and learns to think, act, and worship like those in the tribe. The Indians make a peace agreement with the white people and agree to return all of their white captives, including John, (who is called True Son by his adoptive father Cuyloga). The book is about family ties versus racial ties. Richter writes with passion and a certain pattern of violence, in which he intertwines the pure issues of betrayal and loyalty, all the while in a setting of a fierce struggle over the ownership of the forest.

Smith, Roland: *Thunder Cave*. Determined, after his mother's accidental death, to foil his stepfather's plans for his future, fourteen-year-old Jacob travels alone to Africa in search of his father, a biologist studying elephants in a remote area of Kenya.

Steinbeck, John: *The Pearl*. Reworking an ancient legend, Steinbeck created a powerful parable of modern man's preoccupation with materialism, money, and power. The story is of Keno, a poor fisherman who finds a great, luminous pearl. Although he is sure the fortune it represents will solve all his problems, Keno eventually realizes that the pearl has marked his life forever.

Stevenson, Robert Louis: *Kidnapped*. After being kidnapped and taken to sea by his villainous uncle, sixteen-year-old David Balfour escapes and becomes involved in the struggle of the Scottish highlanders against English rule.

Twain, Mark: *Tom Sawyer*. The adventures of a mischievous young boy and his friends growing up in a Mississippi River town in the nineteenth century.

Verne, Jules: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Tells the adventures of a French professor and his two companions as they sail above and below the world's oceans as prisoners on the fabulous electric submarine of the deranged Captain Nemo.

Wilder, Thornton: *Bridge of San Luis Rey*. Five people are killed in a freak accident when a lofty rope bridge collapses. The film details a priest's journey to discover if there was a divine reason for the bloody disaster. Set in Lima, Peru, during the 18th century.