

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

**Required Reading:** *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. Set in a small, rural Minnesota community in the early 1960's, asthmatic 11 year-old Reuben observes exceptional events taking place in his family while under the care of his nurturing and other worldly father.

**Supplemental Reading List (18):**

Achebe, Chinua: *Things Fall Apart*. When white men arrive in a Nigerian village, order is disrupted and one of foremost village men is destroyed by his inability to adapt to the new order.

Alcorn, Randy: *The Ishbane Conspiracy*. Bestselling novelist Randy Alcorn teams up with his two daughters to pen a fast-paced modern Screwtape Letters about four students targeted by demon forces in a life-or-death battle for their souls.

Austen, Jane: *Persuasion*. Anne Elliot is a young woman of perfect breeding and unwavering integrity. Austen wrote of her, "She is almost too good for me." *Persuasion* is the story of Anne and Captain Wentworth and their long awaited union. The world of country gentry in Regency England serves as a setting while portraying the many aspects of proper society - its failings and humor.

Dana, Richard: *Two Years before the Mast*. The story of a young man's adventure sailing from Boston, around Cape Horn, to the California coast is a riveting, insightful account of life at sea (and the best surviving account of what it was like in 1834), replete with fascinating historical detail on California before the gold rush.

Dekker, Ted: *Blessed Child*. Abandoned and raised in an Ethiopian monastery, a young orphan discovers he has strange supernatural powers that lead him on a journey filled with intrigue and peril. Can the simple faith of a child and the power of the Holy Spirit convince people who've lost the ability to believe that God loves them?

Elliot, Elisabeth: *Through Gates of Splendor*. This is the true story of five young missionaries who were savagely killed while trying to establish communication with the Auca Indians of Ecuador. The story is told through the eyes of Elisabeth Elliot, the wife of one of the young men who was killed.

Hilton, James: *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*. Arthur Chipping is the new Latin master at an English boy's boarding school. The eccentric schoolmaster lives a full, rich life within the cloistered school, defined by his role as the intellectual shepherd of generations of young students. Then, while traveling through the countryside on summer holiday, he unexpected falls in love. His new wife ignites his passion and brings him out of his shell. It spans over 50 years in the life of Mr. Chipping.

Hinton, S.E.: *Rumble Fish*. A junior high school boy idolizes his older brother, the coolest, toughest guy in the neighborhood, and wants to be just like him.

Houston, Jeanne: *Farewell to Manzanar*. This is the true story of one spirited Japanese American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention...and of a native-born American child who discovered what it was like to grow up behind barbed wire in the United States.

Hurnard, Hannah: *Hind's Feet on High Places*. Designed as a Christian book to help new Christians understand their "daily walk with the Lord" it is the story of the central character "Much Afraid" who decides to go into the service of the "Chief Shepherd" (very reminiscent of the Lion in "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" by CS Lewis) who sends her on a journey that will help her develop "hind's feet" (hind: an antiquated word for deer or antelope) thru the help of her very powerful female guides "Sorrow" and her sister "Suffering".

Keyes, Daniel: *Flowers for Algernon*. Mentally retarded Charlie Gordon participates in an experiment which turns him into a genius but only temporarily.

Orczy, Baroness: *Scarlet Pimpernel*. "France, 1792. It is the height of the French Revolution. The country is gripped by revolutionary fever and the evil Head of Secret Police, Chauvelin, keeps the guillotines busy executing innocent peasants, aristocrats and priests. Only the mysterious stranger known as the Scarlet Pimpernel constantly foils Chauvelin's plans with his heroic missions to save innocent lives."

Potok, Chaim: *The Chosen*. Though they've lived their entire lives less than five blocks from each other, 15-year olds Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders exist in different worlds. Reuven blends into both his secular Jewish faith and his typical American teen life, while Danny's conservative Hasidic clothes and appearance make him stick out. When Danny almost blinds Reuven with a vicious line drive in a tumultuous softball game, the two boys are brought together and develop an improbable friendship.

Stearns, Richard E. This is a story of how a corporate CEO faced his own struggle to obey God whatever the cost, and his passionate call for Christians to change the world by actively living out their faith.

Steinbeck, John: *The Red Pony*. In the coast-range mountains on the western edge of the Salinas Valley is a ranch where Tom, a lad of about ten, longs for a pony. He lives with his mom, who was born there, her dad, a talkative pioneer who misses the old West, Tom's dad Fred Tiflin, who comes from the city and after years on the ranch doesn't feel at home there, and Billy, their trusted hand, a real cowboy. While Fred has to sort out whether he wants to stay a rancher and come to terms with his son being closer to Billy than to himself, Tom gets a pony and learns directly about responsibility and loss. What lessons can each learn, and are tragedy and hard choices all that life offers? Are laughter and joy anywhere?

Verne, Jules: *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. Professor Hardwigg, his nephew Harry, and their guide Hans explore a volcanic crater in Iceland that leads them to the center of the Earth and to incredible and horrifying discoveries.

Wells, H.G.: *Island of Dr. Moreau*. On a lonely island in the Pacific, the victims of a shipwreck wash ashore. They find a land like no other--a private empire populated by grotesque human-like creatures and ruled by a sinister scientist. A classic tale of horror--even more relevant in an era of genetic manipulation.

Wister, Owen: *The Virginian*. Arriving at Medicine Bow, eastern schoolteacher Molly Woods meets two cowboys, irresponsible Steve and the "Virginian," who gets off on the wrong foot with her. To add to his troubles, the Virginian finds that his old pal Steve is mixed up with black-hatted Trampas and his rustlers...then finds himself at the head of a posse after said rustlers; and Molly hates the violent side of frontier life.