Friends Academy

2016 Middle School Summer Reading List

for students entering

8th Grade

### Challenge One

*Students entering eighth grade are required to read:*

Staples, Suzanne. *Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind*.

Life is both sweet and cruel to strong-willed young Shabanu, whose home is the windswept Cholistan Desert of Pakistan. The second daughter in a family with no sons, she's been allowed freedoms forbidden to most Muslim girls. But when a tragic encounter with a wealthy and powerful landowner ruins the marriage plans of her older sister, Shabanu is called upon to sacrifice everything she's dreamed of. Should she do what is necessary to uphold her family's honor—or listen to the stirrings of her own heart?

### Challenge Two

*Middle School students are required to read the following:*

Boyne, John. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.

When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance.  
But Bruno longs to be an explorer, and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

### Challenge Three

*One book from this list will be required summer reading for eighth grade in addition to the Challenge One and Challenge Two requirements:*

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*.

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight . . . for freedom.

Butler, Octavia. *Kindred*.

Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and brought back in time to the SOuth shortly before the Civil War.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge*.

Luther T. Farrell tries to break out of his life in FLint, MI in order to go to Harvard. Luther tries to tackle all the problems of other fifteen-year-olds, as well as put up with his tough mother, the Sarge.

Crutcher, Chris. *Ironman*.

Bo has been at war with his father for as long as he can remember. The rage he feels gives him the energy as a triathlete to press his body to the limit, but it also translates into angry outbursts toward his teachers.  
Now dangerously close to expulsion from school, Bo has been assigned to Anger Management sessions with the school "truants." With an eclectic mix of hard-edged students, Bo may finally have to deal with his long-brewing hatred for his father -- before it eats away at him completely.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The House of Dies Drear*.

An African-American family moves into a house that once hid runaway slaves, and soon comes to believe that their new home is possessed by the spirit of a murdered abolitionist, Dies Drear.

Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*.

This classic novel deals with the worlds of the greasers and socs (socialites) in 1960s America. Ponyboy is conflicted about right and wrong when his fellow greaser Johnny kills a soc.

Johnson, Angela. *First Part Last*.

Bobby is a 16-year-old father struggling to raise a child. In flashbacks, we see how Bobby gets to where he is today and how he deals with the stress and joy of being a father.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*.

2005 Newbery Medal winner. A Japanese family moves from Iowa to Georgia and must learn how to deal with the illness of a loved one as well as the curious stares from the community.

Murphy, Jim. *The Great Fire*.

1996 Newbery Honor Book. This nonfiction book tells the story behind Chicago’s Great Fire in 1871. It is told with a strong narrative and period illustrations.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Slam!*

1997 Coretta Scott King Award winner. Greg “Slam” Harris is an excellent basketball player but will his off-the-court troubles catch up with him?

Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn*.

2005 Printz Honor Book. In an alternate world, Matt Cruse is a cabin boy aboard a huge airship. Reminiscent of the adventure stories of Verne and Stevenson, Matt must investigate an old man’s claims of seeing mysterious flying creatures.

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*.

In George Orwell’s classic book, a farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals.

Paulsen, Gary. *The Transall Saga*.

Thirteen-year-old Mark crosses into another world on a camping trip. He must learn how to survive in this new alien world.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Notes from the Midnight Driver*.

Alex Gregory has made some bad decisions. After a drunk driving incident, he is sentenced to spend time in a retirement home with an old man with a mystery.

White, Robb. *Deathwatch.*

An exciting novel of suspense, based on a fight to the finish between an honest and courageous young man and a cynical business tycoon who believes that anything can be had for a price.

Yolen, Jane. *The Devil’s Arithmetic*.

1989 National Jewish Book Award Winner. Hannah is transported back to 1942 Poland during her modern-day Passover Seder. As she tries to figure out what has happened, Nazi soldiers begin to take everyone away. Hannah is the only one that knows what horrors are in store.

*Students may also choose these titles from the following series:*

Dasher, James. The *Maze Runner* series.

Follow Mark, Trina, and Thomas as they struggle to solve the Maze and cross the Scorch, while having to rely on Gladers and fight off Cranks. If only they were so sure that they could trust Wicked as they mark their way through these trails.

Prequel: *Kill Order*

Book 1: *Maze Runner*

Book 2: *Scorch Trials*

Book 3: *Death Cure*

Feinstein, John. Sports mysteries series.

In John Feinstein’s series, sports and mystery are intertwined. Follow reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson as they go behind the scenes and cover stories about baseball, football, basketball, tennis and swimming.

*Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*

*A Season on the Brink*

Patterson, James. *Maximum Ride* series.

In James Patterson's blockbuster series, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock"--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel--are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time…

Book 1: *The Angel Experiment*

Book 2: *School’s Out*

Riordan, Rick. *The Heroes of Olympus* series.

In the brand-new series *The Heroes of Olympus* from the blockbuster best-selling author Rick RIordan, fans return to the world of Camp Half-Blood, where a new group of heroes will inherit a quest. But to survive the journey, they’ll need the help of some familiar demigods.

Book 1: *The Lost Hero*

Book 2: *The Son of Neptune*

Book 3: *The Mark of Athena*