

Arborbrook Christian High School  
Summer Reading 2012

Dear students,

One of the reasons why we assign summer reading is to help you discover, if you have not already, that reading can be incredibly enjoyable. It really is fun to get to know interesting characters and explore unknown worlds through a book. Reading imparts knowledge to our minds, but it also delights our souls in ways that movies and video games cannot. So, we have chosen books for you this summer that are well-written and worth your time, but they also tell fascinating stories and are often hard to put down.



**The assignment**

Choose **one** of the following books to read completely before school begins on August 27.

*Julie* by Catherine Marshall

*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok

*Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand

*The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Emmuska Orczy

**Once you have read the book, consider one way in which the book is similar to another book you have read in the recent past** (it does not have to be a book you read for school, but it could be). **Complete the Venn Diagram (attached) listing all the ways the two books are similar in this one particular area.** The similarity you choose to compare could be any number of things: plot, setting, symbol, theme, antagonist/protagonist, mood/tone, etc. Please focus on one area to compare. For example, the “differences” between the two stories may be in the plot, setting, or symbols while the “similarities” may all revolve around the “theme.” So the similarities are where you need to focus your attention.

You will write a short essay about the book you choose to read this summer **during the first week of school.** The Venn Diagram will help you with this essay. Therefore, the *more details and information you include on the diagram*, the easier it will be to write the essay. The Venn Diagram will be turned in for a grade on the first day of school.

**Description of the books:**

*Julie* by Catherine Marshall

Julie is 18 and a senior in high school when she must move with her family to a small town in Western Pennsylvania. While working part-time for her father’s struggling newspaper, Julie uncovers a dangerous secret that brings adventure and love into her life.

Catherine Marshall is a Christian author whose stories are well-written and not overly didactic.

*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok

“In 1940s Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences (Reuven is a Modern Orthodox Jew with an intellectual, Zionist father; Danny is the brilliant son and rightful heir to a Hasidic rebbe), the young men form a deep, if unlikely, friendship. Together they negotiate adolescence, family conflicts, the crisis of faith engendered when Holocaust stories begin to emerge in the U.S., loss, love, and the journey to adulthood.” - *from Amazon.com*

*Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand

“On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane’s bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.” - *from Amazon.com*. This is a true story told in Hillenbrand’s best-selling 2010 book.

*The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Emmuska Orczy

This is such a fun book! As one reviewer states on Amazon, this book is “part romance, part adventure [story], and part spy thriller.” It is set during the French Revolution where a mysterious man, the Scarlet Pimpernel, rescues French aristocrats from the guillotine in seemingly miraculous ways. Who is this man and can he continue his dangerous escapades? You will not want this story to end.

If you have any questions about this assignment or the list of books, please let me know at [jamie.emrich@arborbrookhigh.org](mailto:jamie.emrich@arborbrookhigh.org).

*Enjoy your time reading this summer. I know I will.*

Mrs. Emrich