

PREP PROGRAM SUMMER READING

2010

Theme for Summer Reading: Survival/Overcoming Adversity

When teachers think of summer reading, images of a quiet afternoon on the beach with a great book come to mind. There are many reasons we assign summer reading. It is important for you to continue to read in order to maintain your skills, to keep your mind active, and to build your vocabulary. The most important reason is that we would like to help you develop a love of reading. The joy of reading is something that will last a lifetime. It is a gift we want to give to our students. We hope you enjoy your reading and find a book that you don't want to put down and one that you will want to share with friends and family!

Each student will read *two* books over the summer. The first book to be read by **all students** attending Prep in Fall 2010:

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Fiction

by **Sherman Alexie**

Alexie's first young adult novel is a semi autobiographical chronicle of Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, WA. The bright 14-year-old was born with water on the brain, is regularly the target of bullies, and loves to draw. He expects disaster when he transfers from the reservation school to the rich, white school in Reardan, but soon finds himself making friends with both geeky and popular students and starting on the basketball team. The teen's determination to both improve himself and overcome poverty, despite the handicaps of birth, circumstances, and race, delivers a positive and entertaining message.

Choose at least one of the following as the second book.

Captains Courageous

Fiction

by **Rudyard Kipling**

This is the classic of a spoiled son of a millionaire, Harvey Cheyne, who is used to living a life of luxury. When an accident at sea brings him to the deck of a Massachusetts fishing boat he is suddenly thrown into a world he knows nothing about. Can he endure the back-breaking work of a fisherman? Will he survive in a world where money does not matter, and laziness can lead to death on the high seas?

Crazy for the Storm: A Memoir of Survival

Non-Fiction

by **Norman Ollestad**

Ollestad tells the tragic story of the pivotal event of his life, an airplane crash into the side of a mountain that cost three lives, including his father's, in 1979. Only 11 years old at the time, he alone survived, using the athletic skills he learned in competitive downhill skiing, amid the twisted wreckage, the bodies and the bone-chilling cold of the blizzard atop the 8,600-foot mountain.

In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors

Non-Fiction

by **Doug Stanton**

Given the precision of the U.S. Navy and military during wartime, how could a WWII battleship carrying over 1,000 men be torpedoed by a Japanese submarine and sink, leaving the survivors to bob in the Pacific Ocean at the mercy of elements and predators, without anyone realizing the

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loss for more than four days? Stanton not only offers a well-researched chronicle of what is widely regarded as the worst naval disaster in U.S. history, but also vividly details the combatants' hellish ordeal during the sinking, and the ensuing days at sea as well as attempts to cope with the traumatic aftermath.

Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster
by **Jon Krakauer**

Non-Fiction

A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more--including Krakauer's--in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

Montana, 1948

Fiction

by **Larry Watson**

It is Montana in 1948, and young David Hayden's father, Wesley, is sheriff of their small town--a position he inherited from his domineering father. Wesley is overshadowed by his older brother, Frank, a war hero who is now the town doctor. When Marie, the Sioux woman who works for the Haydens, fall ill, she adamantly resists being examined by Frank. Some probing reveals that Frank has been molesting the Indian women in his care. Wesley's dilemma--should he turn in his own brother?--is intensified when Marie is found dead and David confesses that he saw his uncle near the house before she died. This story tackles moral issues and the consequences of following one's conscience.

Shanghai Girls

Fiction

by **Lisa See**

Pearl and her younger sister, May, enjoy an upper-crust life in 1930s Shanghai, until their father reveals that his gambling habit has decimated the family's finances and to make good on his debts, he has sold both girls to a wealthy Chinese-American as wives for his sons. Pearl and May have no intention of leaving home, but after Japanese bombs and soldiers ravage their city and both their parents disappear, the sisters head for California. As they adjust to marriage with strangers and the challenges of living in a foreign land, Pearl and May learn that long-established customs can provide comfort in unbearable times.

Strength in What Remains

Non-Fiction

by **Tracy Kidder**

Deo was a young medical student who fled the genocidal civil war in Burundi in 1994 for the uncertainty of New York City. Against absurd odds--he arrived with little money and less English and slept in Central Park while delivering groceries for starvation wages--his own ambition and a few kind New Yorkers led him to Columbia University and, beyond that, to medical school and American citizenship. Tracy Kidder follows Deo back to Burundi, where he recalls the horrors of his narrow escape from the war and begins to build a medical clinic where none had been before.