

**Saint Francis High School**  
**Great Books**  
**Summer Reading 2016**

**Great Books students are required to read *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier. Check the ISBN when you purchase your copy and bring the correct edition to class: 0380730405. In the first week of school, you will be tested on your understanding of the novel.**

**For the 2nd book**—choose a book from the list below. You will *not* be given an objective/multiple-choice test in August on the choice novel assignment; however, you *may* be required to make an oral presentation and/or write an essay and/or complete some other sort of graded assignment based on your choice novel.

**Disclaimer:** Some books have mature content and themes. Please be sure to consult a parent or guardian when making your selection.

*Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury—A masterwork of twentieth-century literature set in a bleak, dystopian future. Guy Montag is a fireman who starts fires rather than put them out in order to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book. Montag never questions the destruction until he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear.

*The Good Earth*, Pearl S Buck—This novel dramatizes family life in a Chinese village before World War I.

*My Ántonia*, Willa Cather—Set in Nebraska, the novel has five sections that correspond roughly to stages of Ántonia's life through marriage, motherhood, and an affair.

*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson—This classic story of good and evil tells the tale of Dr. Jekyll, an upstanding citizen, his discovery of a potion that unleashes evil, and his struggle with good, evil and temptation.

*The Time Machine*, H. G. Wells—Wells is known as the “father of science fiction” because of this story. The Time Traveller gives his account of a journey into the future where he discovers more than the bizarre creatures there—he learns about the terrifying fate of man.

*The Hobbit*, JRR Tolkien – Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest...

*Bless, Me Ultima*, Rudolfo Anaya – Antonio Marez is six years old when Ultima comes to stay with his family in New Mexico. She is a curandera, one who cures with herbs and magic. Under her wise wing, Tony will probe the family ties that bind and rend him, and he will discover himself in the magical secrets of the pagan past—a mythic legacy as palpable as the Catholicism of Latin America.

*The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*, Alan Bradley—Eleven year old Flavia de Luce is an aspiring detective and chemist who attempts to solve a murder that literally lands in her backyard.

*The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak—It is 1939 in Nazi Germany. Death is personified in this novel focusing on a foster girl whose foster family hides a Jewish man in their basement. She searches for a type of escape through the books she steals.

*Night*, Elie Weisel -- Weisel's gripping account of his life in a Nazi death camp teaches the reader many important lessons about survival and hope.

*All But My Life*, Gerda Weissman Klein -- Klein writes of her journey to survival as a teenage girl during the Holocaust.

*The Friends*, Rosa Guy -- A teenage girl struggles to define herself while dealing with family issues.

*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Douglas Adams -- This science fiction/fantasy book is also very funny. Follow a quirky main character on his many adventures.

*And Then There Were None*, Agatha Christie -- A mystery that will keep you on the edge of your seat, this tale is set on an abandoned island. Will any character return to the mainland?

*The Shining*, Stephen King -- This horror story is set in an old hotel. It's not for the faint of heart!

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Mark Haddon -- The narrator's unique abilities and perspective on life make this an interesting read.

*I Am Malala*, Malala Yousafzai -- Anyone interested in current events will enjoy this non-fiction book by a young woman who stood up to the Taliban.