

Saint Francis High School
Honors Great Books
Summer Reading 2017

Honors Great Books students are required to read Ray Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles*. Check the ISBN when you purchase your copy so that you bring the correct edition to class: 1451678193. 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 (i.e., 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.

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.

Rebecca, Daphne Du Maurier -- The narrator is swept off her feet by a marriage proposal from the attractive widower Maxim de Winter. When he brings her back to live at his estate, she begins to piece together his dark past and the secret surrounding his late wife.

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.

Emma, Jane Austen—Emma Woodhouse is determined to remain single even though she delights in interfering in the romantic lives of others. However, her meddling has consequences she couldn't have anticipated.

Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë—This is the gothic romance of brooding orphan Heathcliff and fiery Catherine Earnshaw, whose stubborn personalities keep them from being honest with one another.

Great Expectations, Charles Dickens—The story of an orphan boy's sudden, mysterious inheritance and rise into the upper class in 19th century London, his lifelong desire to court the beautiful Estella, and the dangerous lessons he learns about grudges and obsession.

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 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 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.

The Ox-Bow Incident, Walter Van Tilburg -- This novel, set in 1885 in the region between Reno and Truckee, helps readers understand what it was like to settle the American West. We learn about the hardships of frontier life. Mob violence was commonplace since law enforcement officers were too widely scattered. The novel is about good vs. evil, individual vs. community, justice vs. human nature.