Rising Eighth Grade Summer 2017 Reading List

Required Book:

*The Lord of the Flies* by *William Golding*. This is a story about a group of English schoolboys marooned on a tropical island after their plane is shot down during a war. Free from the rules and structures of civilization and society, the boys on the island descend into savagery. As the boys splinter into factions, some behave peacefully and work together to maintain order and achieve common goals, while others rebel and seek only anarchy and violence. It is a classic story about the “struggle between order and reason, and anarchy and wildness in human hearts. This exploration of what most Christians call total depravity seems heightened because children, in contrast to adults, are supposed to be ‘innocent’” (Gladys Hunt, *Honey for a Teen’s Heart—Using Books to Communicate with Teens*). This theme has been explored in the literature in seventh grade, and reading *The Lord of the Flies* is a fitting ending for the year.

At least one of the following books should be read over the summer in addition to *The Lord of the Flies*:

*Mythology* by *Edith Hamilton*. Reading the following stories will equip students with knowledge of the background stories of the Trojan War before beginning to read *The Iliad* in eighth grade literature class:

- The heroes of the Trojan War, including the Judgment of Paris
- The Trojan War
- The House of Atreus

*Peace Child* by *Don Richardson*. This is an adventure bristling with cannibals, jungles, and heart-chilling events. It is a true story of missionaries sent to minister among cannibals in New Guinea who venerate treachery. How can the truth of the gospel penetrate such hardened hearts? Read how God provides Don Richardson with an incredible opportunity to speak to the souls of these savages, and how the “peace child” is used to bring salvation to a large number of people.

*Joni: An Unforgettable Story* by *Joni Eareckson Tada* and *Billy Graham*. The amazing story of how one young woman overcame her disability through courage and faith.

*Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to end Slavery* by *Eric Metaxas*. This story displays how one man fundamentally changed humanity’s attitude towards human suffering.

*Through Gates of Splendor* by *Elisabeth Elliot* OR *Jim Elliot: One Great Purpose* by *Janet and Geoff Benge*. 