

## **Buist Academy Summer Reading 2020: The Best of the Buist Symposium**

Greetings, rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders! As you will recall from last year, Buist Academy traditionally celebrates our summer reading with the annual Book Symposium. However, with the uncertainty surrounding next year's school practices, planning a traditional Symposium will not be practical. Instead, we plan to use this summer's reading and our activities at the beginning of next school year to celebrate and reflect on our previous Symposia. So for your summer reading, you will select one of the many works of literature, both fiction and non-fiction, that we have studied in previous years. Each book is listed below with a brief description.

*The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak (Alfred A. Knopf, 2005).

Zusak's young adult classic traces the story of the orphaned Liesel Meminger and her foster family living in World War II Germany. Young Liesel learns the beauty and power of words in combatting the hardships of her war-torn life.

*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Algonquin, 2003).

The story of 15-year-old Kambili, who seeks to break free of her father's strict repression even as Nigeria disintegrates around her in a military coup.

*Climbing the Stairs* by Padma Venkatraman (Penguin, 2008).

Young Vidra loses her father during political unrest in India and is forced to live with her traditional grandparents, who seek to arrange a marriage for her, crushing her college dreams.

*Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford (Ballantine, 2009).

The story of a Chinese-American man in the 1980s for whom an accidental discovery leads to memories of his experiences during World War II and his love for a girl in a Japanese internment camp.

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith (Harper, 1943).

Coming-of-age story of a poor girl at the turn of the century who finds a way out of her impoverished neighborhood through her love of writing.

*Diamonds in the Shadows* by Caroline B. Cooney (WaterBrook, 2007).

An American family gets more than they bargained for when they sponsor African refugees who are mixed up in the blood diamond trade.

*This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman (Holt, 2007).

A selection of essays in which both well-known and everyday people summarize their philosophies of life.

*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card (Tor, 1985).

Science-fiction classic about a gifted boy recruited to be Earth's secret weapon in a war against aliens.

*Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* by Laura Hildebrand (Delacorte, 2014).

True story of former Olympic runner turned World War II hero Louis Zamperini, who survived for more than a month on a raft in the Pacific before he was captured by the Japanese.

For your summer reading assignment, select and read one of these books, then compose the following reflection (300-500 words) to bring to school on a date TBA.

**KNOWLEDGEABLE:** What did you learn from the book you selected about people who are different from you: from a different culture or a different time period, or who just have a different philosophy or way of seeing the world?

**INQUIRER:** What sort of questions did this book raise in your mind? What else would you like to read about or learn about that is suggested by this book?

**OPEN-MINDED:** How did this book change your perspective or point of view? What new way of looking at any of the subjects of the book are you now entertaining?

You will be using this reflection at the beginning of the school year for a fun and exciting activity to share your perspective on what you read. Enjoy a great book and we'll see you in August!

*Climbing the Stairs*, Padma Venkatraman, Penguin, 2008.

*Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Algonquin, 2003.

*Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, Jamie Ford, Ballantine, 2009.

*Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive*, Laura Hildebrand, Delacorte, 2014.

*Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card, Tor, 1985.

*This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*, Ed. Jay Allison and Dan Gediman, Holt, 2007.

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith, Harper, 1943.

*Diamonds in the Shadows*, Caroline B. Cooney, WaterBrook, 2007.

*The Breadwinner*, Deborah Ellis, Oxford, 2000.