

FENWICK



To: The Class of 2022
From: The O'Rourke Library & Learning Center
RE: Summer One Read
Date: June, 2018

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Bishop Fenwick High School. As your children are relaxing and enjoying the warmth of the summer sun, we hope they do so with a book in their hands! The following are instructions for our **required** One Read program.

The goal of our summer One Read is to encourage our students to read and provide them with a positive experience that extends beyond the book. We believe in the One Read concept as a whole school community; and as such, require everyone, faculty and students alike, to read one book that we will share together in a number of ways. Parents are also invited to read the book as part of a shared experience with your child.

According to reading experts, when students read widely and often, they develop higher-order thinking skills and a love for reading and learning. Reading helps them to feel more optimistic, and to see a world in which they can reach higher and achieve their dreams. Students who want to read drive their own learning, which can be many times more powerful than simply following along in a class assignment.

This year's One Read is ***The Good Thief*** by **Hannah Tinti**. This is the 13th Anniversary of our One Read Program and we've selected a novel by a bestselling author, we have several, who is one of our own. After graduating from Fenwick Tinti went on to publish a book of short stories, two novels and is the co-founder and executive editor of One Story & One Teen Story magazines, recognized by the AWP Small Press Publisher Award, and the PEN/Magid Award for Excellence in Editing.

Tinti's novel, ***The Good Thief***, is a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year 2009, recipient of the American Library Association's Alex Award, winner of The Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, and winner of the Quality Paperback Book Club's New Voices Award. Set in 19th century New England and written in the Gothic tradition, readers start to care about a one-handed orphan and a band of characters reminiscent of those created by Charles Dickens before they know it.

Requirements: All students are required to read ***The Good Thief***, & another book (s) from their 2018 summer reading list. Refer to the Bishop Fenwick website, www.fenwick.org and select the **Academics Tab** and then click on **Library** to locate the O'Rourke Library & Learning Center for Summer Reading Program details.

Those freshmen who are attending the *All Aboard 2022 Program* will be using ***The Good Thief*** as a backdrop to the study skills they will be learning.

All students will have a choice of ways to respond to ***The Good Thief***. Freshmen are encouraged to write and mail a letter to the author. Some, however, may decide to do a different project from the other options designed for Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. Student One Read projects will be assessed in time to be included with the first quarter scores for report cards and **count as the students' first quiz grade in Religion. Projects due in Homeroom September 5, 2018.**

Availability of Books: Students are required to get a copy of the book. The print or eBook copy of ***The Good Thief*** may be obtained at your public library, local bookstores or through online sources like Amazon.com. A paperback copy of ***the One Read Book*** will be available for purchase at the orientation (6/06/18) for \$10.00 while supplies last.

Reflection Activity & Assessment of Summer Reading: Using the book ***The Good Thief*** by Hannah Tinti respond in one of the following ways:

Turn Over Please

Letter to the Author: Freshmen Only. Students are asked to write a letter to the author. This is more than an academic exercise and the finished product needs to be more than a fan letter. Two things you need to know, Hannah Tinti is an accomplished author who will visit the Fenwick Campus at the end of September and the letters you write to her will be considered for entry in a contest later in the year. Student letters will be about how reading *The Good Thief* changed the reader or the reader's view of the world.

NOTE: The Letter to the Author option is designed for **Freshmen Only**. Freshmen are welcome to choose one of the other project options instead of writing the letter if they prefer. The Letter to the Author project is **NOT** a summer option for 2018-19 Soph., Jr. and Sr. students.

Skit Project: Your goal will be to put on an original skit in which you and your small cast dress as characters from the period depicted in *The Good Thief*. You need to pick a theme from novel (redemption, compassion, disability, or what it truly means to be a family) and create a storyboard that outlines the highpoints of the action in your skit. Attach to your project a rough outline of costumes, a simple stage design and anything else that helps you pull it together in September in an actual performance for our visiting author. For example, your cast needs lines of dialogue to convey the message of your skit. You will pass in your storyboard and production design pieces for grading and make yourself available to work with Ms. Tropeano to rehearse your skit for presentation in front of the school as part of the author's assembly in late September. See directions, the FAQs and the rubric for details.

Photography Project: This project option is for those who want to create an art exhibit that focuses on how *The Good Thief* inspired appreciation of what life was like for a young teenage orphan, eager to find how he fits in to post-colonial New England. Create an art exhibit that retells the novel using photos and captions. This is storytelling through the lens of your camera. Select a series of passages from the book that are representative of the original story. Beneath each passage, paste a photo that helps your reader see what the original author conveyed in the text of the book. The emphasis of this project is interpretation and creativity! See the description, the FAQs and the rubric for details. The emphasis of this project is interpretation of Ren's story and your own creativity!

Service to Blog Project: Students opting to do this project will blog on the Fenwick Library Website based on a service experience or personal connection made over summer '18. The service experience needs to be something new for you that was inspired by reading *The Good Thief*. For this project, you need to read the book and then step out of your comfort zone to meet someone whose story you will discover and then share on the blog (privacy is important so site names are okay but not people's names. *The Good Thief* is a book about relationship, disability, family and redemption. Pick a theme, find a related service project, get involved, and start blogging. See the description, the FAQs and the rubric for details.

One Teen Story Creative Writing Project: This is an opportunity to experience what it feels like to write a short story and submit it for publication. This is a reading reflection project so you are being asked to use a specific theme (redemption, compassion, disability, or what it truly means to be a family that was brought out in *The Good Thief*) setting and time period (colonial Massachusetts between February 1692 and May 1693 when the witch hysteria overtook Salem.) Stories should have teens as their main characters and be about the teen experience. One Teen Story is open to all genres of well-written young adult fiction between 2,000 and 4,500 words. If your story is selected for submission to One Teen Story after grading, publishers guidelines will apply. See the description, the FAQs and the rubric for details.

If you have any questions about the projects or about the choice of reading, please contact Ms. Smith at dms@fenwick.org. I will be happy to discuss any questions or comments.

Happy Reading!



Ms. Diane M. Smith, dms@fenwick.org 978-587-8350
Director, O'Rourke Library & Learning Center