All Laguna Blanca students entering grades 5-12 next fall are expected to read at least two books this summer. These works will form the basis for class discussion and writing assignments in English classes during the opening weeks of school. The required book can be purchased at Chaucer’s Bookstore, 3321 State Street, Loreto Plaza, Santa Barbara, CA.

REQUIRED READING:

**BOY IN THE PAINTED CAVE** Justin Denzel (Historical Fiction)
Tao is an outcast. Unlike the great hunters of his clan, Tao does not want to kill the wild bears or woolly mammoths of the hunt. Instead he wants only to paint them. But only Chosen Ones can be cave painters. What's more, Volt, the clan leader, violently despises Tao. And when the other clan members discover Tao's secret talent, they cast him out into the wilderness alone. There, he befriends a wild wolf dog named Ram, and the mysterious Graybeard, who teaches him the true secret of the hunt.

**IN ADDITION, STUDENTS MUST READ ONE BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:**

**GROSSE ADVENTURES: STINKY AND STAN BLAST OFF!** Annie Auerbach (Science Fiction) If you know a boy who just won't read, try this half-comic, half-text chapter book. *Stinky & Stan Blast Off!* is funny and clever, more than you would expect, given its super-boy-friendly premise: two brothers with near-superhero farting abilities (one silent but violent, the other loud and proud) end up on another planet (Uranus, of course).

**CRISPIN: THE CROSS OF LEAD** Avi (Historical Fiction) Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. (Newbery Medal 2003)  (*Crispin* Series; Book 1)

**PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS** Dave Barry (Fantasy) The young orphan Peter and his friend Molly have many adventures on the high seas while carrying a precious cargo of magical dust. (Starcatchers Series; Book 1)

**THE RAFT** S. A. Bodeen (Adventure, Survival) Robie is an experienced traveler. She's taken the flight many times from Honolulu to the Midway Atoll, a group of Pacific islands where her parents live. This time all systems are go until a storm hits during the flight. And then . . . she's in the water, fighting for her life! Co-pilot Max pulls her onto the raft, and that's when the real terror begins. They have no water. Their only food is a bag of Skittles. There are sharks. There is an island. But there's no sign of help on the way.

**HOW THEY CROAKED (THE AWFUL ENDS OF THE AWFULLY FAMOUS)** Amy Bragg (Non-fiction) Over the course of history, men and women have lived and died. In fact, getting sick and dying can be a big, ugly mess—especially before the modern medical care that we all
enjoy today. *How They Croaked* relays all the gory details of how nineteen world figures gave up the ghost. Readers will be fascinated well past the final curtain -- and feel lucky to live in a world with painkillers, X-rays, soap, and 911.

**ARTEMIS FOWL** Eoin Colfer (Fantasy) A genius. A criminal mastermind. A millionaire. And he is only twelve years old. (*Artemis Fowl* Series; Book 1)

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: GROOVY GREEKS** Terry Deary (Ancient Historical Fiction/Humor) The Ancient Greeks formed a civilization which has changed the course of history, including major developments in philosophy, mathematics, and even the Olympics… but did you know that the Greeks invented the first flushing toilet? This book covers some of the most important (and wacky!) aspects of life in Ancient Greece and is guaranteed to teach you things you would not learn anywhere else.

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES: ROTTEN ROMANS** Terry Deary (Ancient Historical Fiction/Humor) The Ancient Romans are credited with creating one of the greatest empires in the history of the world. They were very, very strange! This book covers everything from cobweb collections to emperors who loved their horses so much they built palaces for them and named them as government officials. Take a hilarious and cringe-worthy ride through the world of Ancient Rome and its most bizarre leaders!

**MAGICIAN’S ELEPHANT** Kate DiCamillo (Adventure) When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day and she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her. (Notable Children’s Book 2010)

**THE KIN: SUTH’S STORY** Peter Dickenson (Ancient Historical Fiction) Separated from the rest of his clan, Suth must lead four other children to safety and carry on his people’s ways the best he can, causing all four children to grow up quickly. Because this book is out of print, please contact the sixth grade teacher for a copy if you choose to read this text.

**LAST SHOT** John Feinstein (Realistic, Modern Day) After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game. (California Young Reader Medal 2001; Edgar Allan Poe Award 2006)

**THE GRAVEYARD BOOK** Neil Gaiman (Fantasy/Historical) Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

**PRINCESS ACADEMY** Shannon Hale (Fantasy) While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland. (Newbery Honor Book 2006)
SCAT Carl Hiaasen (Realistic/Modern Day)
Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

THE ODYSSEY Gareth Hinds (Fantasy)
At the end of the infamous Trojan War, King Odysseus is eager to return home to his family in peace. On the way, however, he angers the god Poseidon and is doomed to spend years at sea battling massive storms and mythical monsters. Odysseus must battle through these obstacles in order to find his way home and stop his enemies from taking his throne and marrying his queen.

STORMBREAKER Anthony Horowitz (Adventure)
After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced into continuing his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. (Alex Rider Series; Book 1) (California Young Reader Medal 2005)

INSIDE THE WALLS OF TROY Clemence McLaren (Ancient Historical fiction)
The events surrounding the famous battle between the Greeks and the Trojans are told from the points of view of two women, the beautiful Helen and the prophetic Cassandra.

THE ELEPHANT SCIENTIST Caitlin O'Connell (Non-fiction) In this beautifully designed addition to the Scientists in the Field series, journey to the Namibian desert and witness one of nature’s largest, most complex, and most intelligent mammals through the eyes of an exacting and innovative scientist.

VIRALS Kathy Reichs (Science Fiction)
Always up for a challenge, Tory and her science-geek friends spend their time exploring the marshlands of Loggerhead Island, home to the very off-limits Loggerhead Island Research Institute, where something strange is going on. After rescuing a stray wolfdog pup from a top-secret lab, Tory and her friends are exposed to a rare strain of canine parvovirus, changing them—and their DNA—forever. Now they are more than friends. They are a pack. They are Virals. And they’re dangerous to the core. But are they unstoppable enough to catch a cold-blooded murderer?

THE EGYPT GAME Zilpha Keatley Snyder (Mystery)
Fascinated with Ancient Egyptian civilization, a diverse group of children form a club, creating "The Egypt Game" to entertain themselves. Strange things begin occurring, and the children start to wonder if the game has gone too far. It is a story in which the protagonist, April, learns to avoid prejudice and care for her ailing grandmother while joining her friends on an adventure that explores their wild imaginations and leads them into real danger.

SAMMY KEYES AND THE SISTERS OF MERCY Wendelin Van Draanen (Mystery)
Sammy continues to make life with her grandmother interesting as she tries to discover who is stealing from St. Mary’s Church, befriends a homeless girl, and plays in a softball tournament against a bitter rival. (Sammy Keyes Series; Book 1)
**FLIPPED**  Wendelin Van Draanen (Realistic)
The first time she saw him, she flipped. The first time he saw her, he ran. That was the second grade, but not much had changed by the seventh. She says: “My Bryce. Still walking around with my first kiss.” He says: “It’s been six years of strategic avoidance and social discomfort.” But in the eighth grade, everything gets turned upside down. And just as he’s thinking there’s more to her than meets the eye, she’s thinking that he’s not quite all he seems.

**SWEAR TO HOWDY**  Wendelin Van Draanen (Realistic)
Two thirteen-year-old boys share neighborhood adventures, complaints about their older sisters, family secrets, and even guilt that bind them together in a special friendship.

**THE DEVIL’S ARITHMETIC**  Jane Yolen (Historical Fiction)
Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.