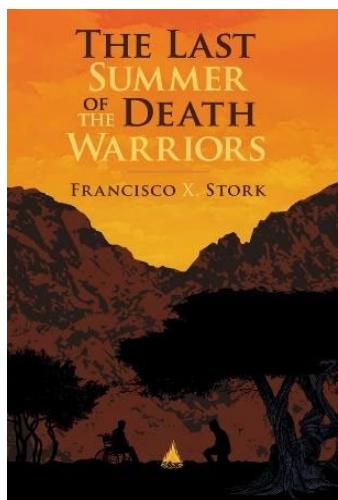


Welcome to Summer School, Class of 2024!

We look forward to meeting you in the first week of August, but before we do, we want to introduce ourselves, and give you some work to do in preparation for our week together.

First and foremost, all incoming freshmen at MUHS are asked to complete a summer reading assignment. Why? Glad you asked.

- For one, research tells us that in as few as 10 days without reading, verbal skills begin to diminish and neural pathways connected to language are weakened. We want your brains strong for your first year at Marquette High!
- Two, this gives our incoming freshmen a common experience to ground our work and discussions together from day one.
- Finally, stories help us to better understand others *and* ourselves, which lays the foundation to becoming the “men for others” we desire you to be.



So what's the book? *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors*, by Francisco Stork, follows two teenage boys as they develop an uncommon bond: Pancho, who is bent on avenging the murder of his sister, and D.Q., who is facing his own mortality as a result of brain cancer.

Please secure a copy of *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors* from your public library, local or online bookseller, or arrange to borrow a school copy by contacting Mr. Kowalewski (kowalewski@muhs.edu). **You'll need to read the book before you begin summer school on August 3rd.**

Just below, you'll find some helpful suggestions for ways to keep track of the details while you're reading. It is strongly recommended that you read actively and keep notes of important details as you read. We'll be referring to those key details throughout our week together in August!

Suggestions for Active Reading

- 1. Take notes!** Active readers keep track of important details as they are reading. In a novel, this means keeping track of several dimensions of the text, including...
 - a. Plot - What is happening in the story (organized by chapter)
 - b. Character - Who are they? What do we know about them? How do we know?
 - c. Setting - Where and when does the story take place? How does setting influence plot and characters?
 - d. Point of View - Who is telling the story? What does the narrator reveal and NOT reveal?
 - e. Theme - What does this story tell us about the human experience? What greater truths is the author trying to convey?
- 2. Annotate!** Active readers stay engaged by “having a conversation” with the text. If you don’t like writing in books (or you’re borrowing a copy), use post-it notes. Here are some ways to interact with the text in your annotations:
 - a. Formulate Opinions (right or wrong? good or evil?)
 - b. Make Connections (between texts or with your own experiences - thing that help you make inferences)
 - c. Ask Open-Ended Questions (How...? Why...?)
 - d. Write Reflections & Reactions (relate your own thinking to the text)
- 3. Reflect!** Active readers know that finishing a book is only the beginning. Take some time to reflect upon the following before we meet in August:
 - a. What is revealed about friendship through the uncommon bond shared between Pancho and D.Q.?
 - b. What is a Death Warrior? Which character most embodies this ideal?
 - c. What does this novel reveal about the relationship between faith and hope? How do the characters learn different versions of faith from one another?