

Freshmen Summer Reading

Brought to you by the Religion Department

The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child by Francisco Jimenez

Welcome to La Salle. Your first high school assignment will be to read The Circuit and keep a reader's journal. You will need to bring the journal to your religion class on the first day of school.

Background Information on the Book - *This is a collection of short stories based on the life of the author. He grew up in the 1940s as the son of migrant farm workers in California.*

The stories are written in first person and in chronological order. Although the chapters don't cover all events, they follow the childhood of the main character as he goes from suffering the boredom of sitting in the family car watching his younger siblings to the physical pain of working in the fields picking a variety of crops.

Throughout the book the author's school experiences are emphasized and his limitations with the English language are painfully real. Many of his teachers become important role models in his life. His despair at having to leave school as the family moves from job to job pushes him to continue his education and eventually write his life story.

The family lives in the sparsest of conditions, with a minimum amount of food to eat and barely enough clothing, yet they are a close and caring family. Although life is hard, complaints are not in their vocabulary, and a strong work ethic and perseverance are emphasized.

The importance of the family and its community are evident in this story of self-discovery.

Themes - *There are many different themes in this book. The most obvious are the theme of self-discovery, family and community.*

Reader's Journal- *While you are reading this book keep track of what happens to the main characters and how those events change them. After every chapter write a response in your double-entry journal.*

In the Fall -

- Bring your journal to your religion class on the first day of school*
- You will be expected to write about your responses to this book in class.*

