

# St. John's Episcopal School

## Summer Reading 2017

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

During the summer, each 5<sup>th</sup> grade student will read three (3) novels: *The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis, a novel from the attached suggested reading lists, and a novel of your own choice. The attached list of suggested reading includes titles, with descriptions, organized by historical period. Also included are some contemporary titles to consider.

Students will complete a reading log of the three books read this summer which parents will initial. The list should include titles, authors, and dates when reading began and ended for each book. Titles enjoyed that are beyond the summer reading requirements should be added to the log as well. **You will turn this log in on the first day of school.**

**REQUIRED READING:** *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963*, by Christopher Paul Curtis. **Please bring *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* to school in the fall. It is advised that you read this novel near the end of the summer as it will be used in discussions and activities when school begins.**

*Parents: We would like you to be aware that this book has some raw language uttered by one of the characters. This character is a middle school adolescent who is going through that typical search for his “cool identity.” We think that the language is very appropriate for the context and lends itself beautifully to stimulating discussion of appropriate behavior as our 5<sup>th</sup> graders near this age. The behavior is clearly considered inappropriate by the rest of the family, even forcing the extreme reaction of relocating the family to extract the young person from negative environmental influences. The children will really enjoy this book.*

Make sure you read, read, read and enjoy your summer! I look forward to meeting you when school begins.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Herrin  
5<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts  
eherrin@stjohnsschool.org

# Suggested Historical Fiction

## Colonial Times

Levitin, Sonia. **Roanoke: A Novel of the Lost Colony**. 1973. 213 p.

An English youth and an Indian girl are caught up in the event leading to the mysterious disappearance of the colony at Roanoke Island.

Lasky, Kathryn. **A Journey to the New World: The Diary of Remember Patience Whipple: Mayflower/Plymouth Colony, 1620**. Reprint 2010. 192 p.

Twelve-year-old Mem presents a diary account of the trip she and her family made on the Mayflower in 1620 and their first year in the New World.

Hermes, Patricia. **Salem Witch (My Side of the Story)**. 2006. 192 p.

Elizabeth and George live in 1692 Salem. When teen girls suddenly start claiming that they have been possessed by townspeople who are witches, the two friends are not sure what to believe, and their opinions diverge as the community puts the women on trial. Elizabeth and her family believe that the women are innocent, whereas George's father is vehement in his condemnation of the accused, and his son begins to be persuaded as well. The ultimate test of their friendship comes when Elizabeth herself is targeted. --*School Library Journal*, 2006.

Lawson, Robert. **Ben and Me**. 1988. 114 p.

The remarkable life of old Ben Franklin is related with wit, warmth and wisdom by Amos, a mouse who has a way with words.

Cooney, Caroline B. **The Ransom of Mercy Carter**. 2002. 256 p.

In 1704, in the English settlement of Deerfield, Massachusetts, eleven-year-old Mercy and her family and neighbors are captured by Mohawk Indians and their French allies, and forced to march through bitter cold to French Canada, where some adapt to new lives and some still hope to be ransomed.

Keehn, Sally M. **I Am Regina**. 2001. 240 p.

In 1755, as the French and Indian War begins, ten-year-old Regina is kidnapped by Indians in western Pennsylvania, and she must struggle to hold onto memories of her earlier life as she grows up under the name of Tskinnak and starts to become Indian herself.

Avi. **Night Journeys**. 2000. 160 p.

The year is 1768. In eight years, the American Revolution will begin. Newly orphaned, Peter York has been adopted by a deeply religious Quaker family. Peter chafes under his new guardian's strict and unyielding views and vows to break away. He sees his chance when two runaway indentured servants are reported to be fleeing through his community. If he catches one, there will be a reward -- and freedom. But capturing the runaways leads to consequences -- and choices -- Peter cannot foresee.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Fever, 1793**. 2002. 272 p.

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

## Revolutionary War

Avi. **The Fighting Ground**. 1994. 160 p.

Thirteen-year-old Jonathan goes off to fight in the Revolutionary War and discovers the real war is being fought within himself.

Avi. **Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution**. 2012. 302 p.

In 1776, after witnessing the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, newly occupied by the British army, young Sophia Calderwood resolves to do all she can to help the American cause, including becoming a spy.

O'Dell, Scott. **Sarah Bishop**. 1991. 240 p.

Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who take opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah Bishop struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.

Lawson, Robert. **Mr. Revere and I**. 1988. 152 p.

This is the story of Paul Revere's famous nighttime ride in 1775, as told by his horse Scheherazade.

Myers, Anna. **The Keeping Room**. 1997. 135 p.

Left in charge of the family when his father leaves their South Carolina home to fight in the Revolutionary War, thirteen-year-old Joey Kershaw finds all his resources tested when General Cornwallis comes to town and chooses the Kershaw house as his headquarters.

Carlson, Drew. **Attack of the Turtle**. 2008. 149 p.

It's 1776, and the Revolutionary War is raging. Fourteen-year-old Nathan Wade is a patriot, but he's too young to join the fight. Then his cousin David Bushnell comes to town with a secret. David has designed a water machine that can explode bombs underwater. And his mission is to launch it against the British warships in New York harbor.

Freedman, Russell. **Washington at Valley Forge**. 2008. 100 p.

Newbery Award-winning author Russell Freedman offers up this powerful account of the survival of American soldiers while camped at Valley Forge during a crucial period in the American Revolution.

Hale, Nathan. **One Dead Spy : The Life, Times, and Last Words of Nathan Hale, America's Most Famous Spy**. 2012. 127 p.

Retells, in graphic novel format, the history of the author's namesake, an officer and spy

for the American rebels during the Revolutionary War, revealing facts about Nathan Hale's earlier days at Yale and his unlucky experiences as a military officer.

## Westward Expansion/Pre-Civil War

DeFelice, Cynthia. **The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker**. 2007. 160 p.

In 1849, after the death of his mother, the last member of his family to be stricken with consumption, 12-year-old Lucas Whitaker leaves the countryside for the town of Southwick, Connecticut. There he apprentices himself to the local doctor and experiments with an unorthodox "cure" for the killer disease that took his family.

Cushman, Karen. **The Ballad of Lucy Whipple**. 1998. 218 p.

When California Morning Whipple's widowed mother uproots her family from their comfortable Massachusetts home and moves them to a rough gold mining camp called Lucky Diggins in the Sierras, California Morning resents the upheaval. Desperately wanting to control something in her own life, she decides to be called Lucy, and as Lucy she grows and changes in her strange and challenging new environment.

Avi. **The Barn**. 1996. 128 p.

After their father suffers a "fit of palsy," three motherless children try to keep their struggling farm going in 1855 Oregon.

Clark, Margaret Goff. **Freedom Crossing**. 1991. 160 p.

When Laura Eastman comes home from a vacation with relatives in the South, her loyalties are challenged by abolitionist ideals. Her own father and brother are helping runaway slaves escape. Will Laura help them?

Blos, Joan W. **Letters from the Corrugated Castle: A Novel of Gold Rush California, 1850-1852**. 2007. 310 p.

A novel in letters set in the 1850s, in which thirteen-year-old Eldora, who was raised in Massachusetts as an orphan, moves with her guardians to San Francisco, where she begins teaching two "Mexicano" children English, befriends a boy searching for gold, and finds herself face-to-face with her influential mother.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. **Bound for Oregon**. 1996. 176 p.

This is a fact-based story of 10-year-old Mary Ellen Todd and her family and their dramatic trip along the Oregon Trail in 1852.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Riding Freedom**. 1998. 144 p.

A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance.

Smith, Roland. **The Captain's Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe**. 1999. 304 p.

Captain Meriwether Lewis's dog Seaman describes his experiences as he accompanies his master on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the uncharted western wilderness.

Gregory, Kristiana. **Seeds of Hope: The Gold Rush Diary of Susanna Fairchild, California Territory 1849**. 2001. 184 p.

A diary account of fourteen-year-old Susanna Fairchild's life in 1849. Her father succumbs to gold fever on the way to establish his medical practice in Oregon after losing his wife and money on their steamship journey from New York.

## Civil War

Fleischman, Paul. **Bull Run**. 1995. 128 p.

Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys, and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Elijah of Buxton**. 2008. 368 p.

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Wisler, G. Clifton. **Red Cap**. 1994. 176 p.

Thirteen-year-old Ransom J. Powell lies about his age and joins the Union army, winning the soldiers' respect with his courage, especially when they all end up in the infamous Confederate Prison at Andersonville.

Beatty, Patricia. **Turn Homeward, Hannalee**. 1999. 208 p.

During the closing days of the Civil War, plucky 12-year-old Hannalee Reed, sent north to work in a Yankee mill, struggles to return to the family she left behind in war-torn Georgia.

Gutman, Dan. **Abner and Me**. 2007. 176 p.

With his ability to travel through time using baseball cards and photographs, thirteen-year-old Joe and his mother go back to 1863 to ask Abner Doubleday whether he invented baseball, but instead find themselves in the middle of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Fritz, Jean. **Brady**. 1960. 224 p.

Brady has never been trusted with secrets, until now. When he discovers an Underground Railroad station near his family's farm, he is forced to make his own decision about the slavery controversy. Whatever his decision may be, he knows that this is one secret that must be kept.

Donahue, John. **An Island Far from Home**. 1997. 179 p.

The twelve-year-old son of a Union army doctor killed during the fighting in Fredericksburg comes to understand the meaning of war and the fine line between friends and enemies when he begins corresponding with a young Confederate prisoner of war.

## Contemporary Fiction

Acampora, Paul. **I Kill the Mockingbird**. 2014. 166 p.

When best friends Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see 'To Kill a Mockingbird' included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. So they hatch a plot to get the entire town talking about the well-known Harper Lee classic.

Barnhill, Kelly. **The Girl Who Drank the Moon**. 2016. 388 p.

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. **The War that Saved My Life**. 2015. 316 p.

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

Draper, Sharon M. **Out of My Mind**. 2010. 295 p.

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Draper, Sharon M. **Stella By Starlight**. 2015. 320 p.

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

Gibbs, Stuart. **Space Case**. 2014. 352 p.

Dashiell Gibson, who lives on Moon Base Alpha, has to solve a murder of one of the moon's most prominent doctors.

Gibbs, Stuart. **Spy School**. 2012. 290 p.

Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

Graff, Lisa. **A Clatter of Jars**. 2017. 217 p.

It's summertime and everyone is heading off to camp. For Talented kids, the place to be is Camp Atropos, where they can sing songs by the campfire, practice for the Talent show, and take some nice long dips in the lake. But what the kids don't know is that they've been gathered for a reason--one that the camp's director wants to keep hidden at all costs.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Found (The Missing)**. 2008. 314 p.

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Hiaasen, Carl. **Chomp**. 2012. 290 p.

When the difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears

while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades using animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him while avoiding Tuna's gun-happy father.

Holyoke, Polly. **The Neptune Project**. 2013. 341 p.

A group of kids who have been genetically altered to survive in the ocean must embark on a dangerous underwater journey to find refuge--and maybe even a way to save the world.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. **Fish in a Tree**. 2015.

Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read.

Korman, Gordon. **Masterminds**. 2015. 323 p.

A group of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history for a sociological experiment.

Levine, Kristin. **The Lions of Little Rock**. 2012. 298 p.

Twelve-year-old Marlee develops a strong friendship with Liz, the new girl in school, but when Liz suddenly stops attending school and Marlee hears a rumor that her friend is actually an African American girl passing herself off as white, the two young girls must decide whether their friendship is worth taking on integration and the dangers it could bring to their families.

Palacio, R. J. **Wonder**. 2012. 315 p.

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. **Counting by 7s**. 2013. 380 p.

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Turnage, Sheila. **Three Times Lucky**. 2012. 312 p.

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

Watson, Jude. **Loot: How to Steal a Fortune**. 2014. 266 p.

When Alfie McQuinn, the notorious jewel thief, is killed on a job, his last words to his son, March, are to "find jewels" and this instruction leads the boy to Jules, the twin sister he never knew he had--and the perfect partner to carry on the family business.