

**St. John's Episcopal School**  
**Summer Reading 2018**  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

This summer you will read three (3) novels: the required reading novel, a novel from the suggested reading list, and a novel of your own choosing.

**REQUIRED READING:**

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*** by Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

**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.*

You must complete a reading log of the three books read this summer, which your 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.**

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 READING (you must choose one of these):**

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

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.

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.

Gibbs, Stuart. *Space Case*. 2014.

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.

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.

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.

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*. 2017.

Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

Hautman, Pete. *Slider*. 2017.

Hoping to win a cash prize in a pizza eating contest after racking up a tab on his mother's credit card, David must juggle his competitive eating training with the responsibility of looking after his autistic younger brother.

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

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.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. ***Hello, Universe***. 2017.

Lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.

Korman, Gordon. ***Ungifted***. 2012.

When Donovan Curtis pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students.

Johnson, Varian. ***The Parker Inheritance***. 2018.

When Candice finds a letter in an old attic in Lambert, South Carolina, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left the town in shame. But the letter describes a young woman. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery enfolding its writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle.

So with the help of Brandon, the quiet boy across the street, she begins to decipher the clues. The challenge will lead them deep into Lambert's history, full of ugly deeds, forgotten heroes, and one great love; and deeper into their own families, with their own unspoken secrets. Can they find the fortune and fulfill the letter's promise before the answers slip into the past yet again?

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

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.

Cheng, Jack. ***See You in the Cosmos***. 2017.

11-year-old Alex Petroski loves space and rockets, his mom, his brother, and his dog Carl Sagan—named for his hero, the real-life astronomer. All he wants is to launch his golden iPod into space the way Carl Sagan (the man, not the dog) launched his Golden Record on the Voyager spacecraft in 1977. From Colorado to New Mexico, Las Vegas to L.A., Alex records a journey on his iPod to show other lifeforms what life on earth, his earth, is like. But his destination keeps changing. And the funny, lost, remarkable people he meets along the way can only partially prepare him for the secrets he'll uncover—from the truth about his long-dead dad to the fact that, for a kid with a troubled mom and a mostly not-around brother, he has way more family than he ever knew.

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

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.