

St. John's Episcopal School

5th Grade Summer Reading 2020

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.

Parents: Please be aware that this book includes some raw language uttered by one of the characters. This character is a middle school adolescent who is searching for his “cool identity.” The language fits the context of the story and helps stimulate discussion of appropriate behavior as our 5th graders near this age. The character’s 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.

This novel will be discussed at the beginning of the school year, so I suggest you read it in August so it is fresh in your mind. **Please answer the Required Reading Questions on the attached form and bring it on the first day of school.**

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. **In addition to the Required Reading Questions form, 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
5th grade Language Arts
eherrin@stjohnsschool.org

SUGGESTED READING (you must choose one of these):

Auxier, Jonathan. ***Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster***. 2018.

In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem.

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.

Chokshi, Roshani. ***Aru Shah and the End of Time***. 2018.

Best-selling author Rick Riordan introduces this adventure about twelve-year-old Aru Shah, who stretches the truth to fit in at her private school. But when Aru is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon.

Gibbs, Stuart. ***Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation***. 2019.

The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte "Charlie" Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.

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.

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. ***We Dream of Space***. 2020.

Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas are three siblings in seventh grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger, they each struggle with their own personal anxieties. Cash, who loves basketball but has a newly broken wrist, is in danger of failing seventh grade for the second time. Fitch spends every afternoon playing Major Havoc at the arcade on Main and wrestles with an explosive temper that he doesn't understand. And Bird, his twelve-year-old twin, dreams of being NASA's first female shuttle commander, but feels like she's disappearing.

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.

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.

Lowry, Lois. ***On the Horizon***. 2020.

Lois Lowry looks back at history through a personal lens as she draws from her own memories as a child in Hawaii and Japan, as well as from historical research, in this stunning work in verse that tells the story of people whose lives were lost or forever altered by the twin tragedies of Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima.

O'Shaughnessy, Kate. ***The Lonely Heart of Maybelle Lane***. 2020.

Eleven-year-old Maybelle Lane collects sounds. She records the Louisiana crickets chirping, Momma strumming her guitar, their broken trailer door squeaking. But the crown jewel of her collection is a sound she didn't collect herself: an old recording of her daddy's warm-sunshine laugh, saved on an old phone's voicemail. It's the only thing she has of his, and the only thing she knows about him. Until the day she hears that laugh--his laugh--pouring out of the car radio. Going against Momma's wishes, Maybelle starts listening to her radio DJ daddy's new show . . . When he announces he'll be the judge of a singing contest in Nashville, she signs up... But the road to Nashville is bumpy. Her starch-stiff neighbor Mrs. Boggs offers to drive her in her RV. And a bully of a boy from the trailer park hitches a ride, too. These are not the people May would have chosen to help her, but it turns out they're searching for things as well. And the journey will mold them into the best kind of family--the kind you choose for yourself.

Reynolds, Jason. ***Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks***. 2019.

This story was going to begin like all the best stories. With a school bus falling from the sky. But no one saw it happen. They were all too busy... Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.

Snyder, Laurel. ***My Jasper June***. 2019.

The school year is over, and it is summer in Atlanta. The sky is blue, the sun is blazing, and the days brim with possibility. But Leah feels. . . lost. She has been this way since one terrible afternoon a year ago, when everything changed. Since that day, her parents have become distant, her friends have fallen away, and Leah's been adrift and alone. Then she meets Jasper, a girl unlike anyone she has ever known.

Venkatraman, Padma. ***The Bridge Home***. 2019.

Life is harsh in Chennai's teeming streets, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. Very quickly, eleven-year-old Viji discovers how vulnerable they are in this

uncaring, dangerous world. Fortunately, the girls find shelter--and friendship--on an abandoned bridge. With two homeless boys, Muthi and Arul, the group forms a family of sorts. And while making a living scavenging the city's trash heaps is the pits, the kids find plenty to laugh about and take pride in too. But when illness strikes, Viji must decide whether to risk seeking help from strangers or to keep holding on to their fragile, hard-fought freedom.

Warga, Jasmine. ***Other Words for Home***. 2019.

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. But the American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US --and her new label of 'Middle Eastern,' an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.

St. John's Summer Reading **Required Book** Questions

Name: _____

Novel: _____

Please provide as much detailed information as possible about the **required novel** using complete sentences. Return this sheet (along with your signed reading log) to your English teacher on the first day of school.

Describe the **setting**.

Briefly summarize the **plot**.

Identify and describe the **main characters**.

Describe the main **conflict** or **problem** in the novel as well as the **resolution** or **solution**.

Would you recommend this book? **Using specific examples from the book explain, why or why not.**

Middle School Summer Reading Log

Take to school on the first day!

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