

St. John's Episcopal School 5th Grade Summer Reading 2019

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):

Applegate, Katherine. ***Wishtree***. 2017.

An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

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.

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

Best-selling author Rick Riordan introduces this adventure by Roshani Chokshi 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. ***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.

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.

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.

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?

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.

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.

McAnulty, Stacy. ***The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl***. 2018.

A lightning strike gave Lucy genius-level intelligence, but she still needs to work on her friendship skills. Going to middle school for the first time is hard, no matter how smart you are, but facing her fears leads Lucy to unexpected joy and exciting new discoveries.

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.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Harbor Me***. 2018.

It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

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.**

