

## St. Stephen's School Summer Reading for Grades 6, 7, and 8

Dear parents and students,

This year for summer reading, students entering grades 6 and 7 will be required to read **two** books. Students entering grade 8 will be required to read **three** books. In addition to the mandatory book with essay and vocabulary assignment for each grade, students should choose another book (two books for students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade) from the list for his/her specific grade and an assignment to complete. The lists for each grade and assignment choices are attached. By the end of the summer, each student entering grades 6 and 7 should have read two books and completed an assignment for each one, and students entering grade 8 should have read three books with an assignment for each one.

Students should read carefully and put a good effort into the assignments. Only a student's best work will be accepted! The assignments for all grades will be **due Friday, September 15, 2017.**

Reading is essential for learning and growing. Newspapers and magazines can also make for great reading material. Remember to read in a quiet, comfortable setting: by the pool, in the hammock, in the lazy-boy, or wherever your summer takes you! I look forward to discussing these books with all of you in the fall. I hope everyone has a fun, safe summer!

Sincerely,

Ms. Snyder ☺

St. Stephen School  
**SUMMER READING**  
2017 - 2018

**GRADE 8**

## Summer Reading Book List for Students Entering Grade 6

Mandatory book for 6<sup>th</sup> grade:

*Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis

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Choose **one** in addition to the mandatory book:

*The Story of My Life: Helen Keller* by Helen Keller

*The River* by Gary Paulsen

*Running Out of Time* By Margaret Peterson Haddix

*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin

*Close to Famous* by Joan Bauer

*The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis

*The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

*The Lost Garden* by Laurence Yep

*My Friend the Enemy* by J.B. Cheaney

*Heartbeat* by Sharon Creech

*The Girl Who Threw Butterflies* by Mick Cochrane

*My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

*Weird Weather: Everything You Didn't Want to Know About Climate Change, But Probably Should Find Out* By Kate Evans

*Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion* By Loree Griffin Burns

*Power: Ethical Debates About Resources and the Environment* By Kate Ravillious

## **Summer Reading Book List for Students Entering Grade 7**

Mandatory book for 7<sup>th</sup> grade:

*I Am Malala* (Young Readers Edition) By Malala Yousafzai

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Choose **one** in addition to the mandatory book:

*The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Schmidt

*Weedflower* by Cynthia Kadohata

*Double Identity* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

*Someone Named Eva* by Joan M. Wolf

*Shooting the Moon* by Francis O’Roarke Dowell

*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

*Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth* by James Gribble

*The Voice That Changed a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights* by Russell Freedman

*So B. It* by Sarah Weeks

*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick

*The Skin I’m In* by Sharon G. Flake

*Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass : the story behind an American friendship* by Russell Freedman

*Million-Dollar Throw* by Mike Lupica

*Savvy* by Ingrid Law

*Crash* by Jerry Spinelli

*Laika* by Nick Abadzis

## Summer Reading Book List for Students Entering Grade 8

Mandatory book for 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

*Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation)* by Laura Hillenbrand

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Choose **two** in addition to the mandatory book:

*The Wave* by Todd Strasser

*Call of the Wild* by Jack London

*Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis

*Time of the Witches* by Anna Myers

*Do the Math: Secrets, Lies, and Algebra* by Wendy Lichtman

*Children of the Great Depression* by Russell Freedman

*Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II* by Joseph Bruchac

*Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery* by Peter Abrahams

*Niner* by Theresa Martin Golding

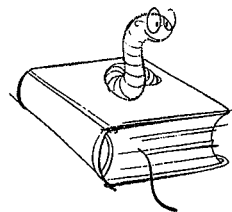
*Woods Runner* by Gary Paulsen

*Behind Enemy Lines: A Young Pilot's Story* by H. R. DeMallie

*Eleanor's Story: An American Girl in Hitler's Germany* by Eleanor Ramrath Garner

*Moonbird : A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95* by Phillip Hoose

*Disasters: Natural and Man-Made Catastrophes Through the Centuries* by Brenda Z. Guiberson



## **Assignment for Mandatory Book**

Students should complete **BOTH** parts of the following assignment for the **mandatory** book for his/her specific grade:

**PART 1--ESSAY QUESTION:** Character traits are the personal qualities, attitudes, and values that make a character unique. Writers sometimes state character traits directly, but more often they reveal them through details such as the character's actions, thoughts, feelings, appearances, words, and the reactions of other characters. In a well-developed essay containing multiple paragraphs, describe how the main character reveals his/her character traits throughout the novel. Use at least **two** traits in your answer, and give specific details from the book to support your answer. Write or type your answer on a separate sheet of paper. Please use a full school heading. Assignment name should be: Summer Reading Mandatory Essay.

**PART 2--VOCABULARY ASSIGNMENT:** As you read the book, find as many new and unfamiliar words as you can. Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade know how to do this, so students in those grades should find twenty (20) words and create a word chart. Type or write the word, context clues, your definition, and a dictionary definition. Students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade should find ten (10) new words and write or type them on a separate sheet, and then look up the word in the dictionary and record the definition. Please use a full school heading. Assignment name should be: Summer Reading Vocabulary.

**PROJECT CHOICES FOR "CHOSEN" BOOKS ARE ON THE NEXT PAGE→→→**

## Project Choices for All Grades

Students in grade 6 and 7 should choose **one** of the following assignments to complete for the book he/she has chosen from his/her grade specific list. Students in grade 8 should choose **two** of the following assignments to complete for the books he/she has chosen from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading list.

Students, please complete each assignment to the best of your ability. The assignments should be typed or neatly hand-written on a separate sheet of paper with a full school heading, including the title and choice number of the assignment.

1. Write a free verse poem of at least 20-30 lines for the book you have chosen. For example, you could choose to focus on the main character, the conflict, the climax, etc. On the back of your poem, write a paragraph explaining your poem.
2. Draw a picture of a scene from the book that had an impact on you. On another sheet of paper, type or write the title and author of the book and give an explanation of the scene by writing several paragraphs. Include why you decided to draw this particular scene and why it was important to the story. The picture can be drawn on sketch paper or 8 ½ x 11 paper with no lines.
3. Write a newspaper article about your book. It should be long enough that it gives a good description of the major event in the novel. Remember to include the *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *how*. Look at a newspaper article to see an example format.
4. Tell from what point of view the book is told. Is it first person (main character is the narrator)? Is it third person (outside narrator)? Write several paragraphs telling how the story would be different if it were written in a different point of view. For example, if it is written in the third person, what would it be like to read the story from the main character's point of view?
5. Rewrite the ending of your book. How would you change the ending? Write a minimum of one page detailing your new ending. Be sure to give specific details and tell why you would change it.
6. Create/draw your own medal or award for your book. Type or write on a separate sheet a detailed description of the award you created for your book, and why the book and author deserve this honor. Use specific examples from the book to argue your case.

7. Mood is the overall feeling created for a reader. One way authors create mood is through word choice. Find fifteen (15) examples of words or phrases from your book that show the mood of the story. Write or type them on paper, and then next to the word or phrase, write a sentence or two describing the type of mood you think the author was trying to create.
  
8. Create a timeline comic strip for your book. I have attached a blank template for you to use or you may create your own on the computer or paper. You must have eight (8) boxes total. In each box, draw a scene from your book and on the lines directly under that scene, explain what is taking place in your scene. The pictures need to include the beginning, middle, and end of the book.
  
9. Write a journal entry from the point of view of one of the major characters in your book. Focus on a specific event from the book to focus on for the entry. Include details and get into the character's thoughts, feelings, and ideas. Write at least one full page.
  
10. Create a movie poster for a film version of your book. Look at examples online or in the newspaper. Be creative and include pictures, quotes, stars, etc. Be sure the title and author of the book are included on the poster. On the back of the poster, write a paragraph about which actors you would choose to play the major characters and why.

\*\*\*Please make sure all parts of your summer reading assignments are clearly labeled. Before handing them in, everything should be stapled together.\*\*\*